

## Bible 101

This lesson breaks out 6 major Christian doctrines with details of why we believe them. Each doctrine is supported through reasoning and quotes directly from the bible.

- I. We believe the bible is the word of God. How can you prove God authored it?
- II. We believe that Jesus is the Son of God and the only provision for man's sin. John 14:6
- III. We believe that a man is saved by grace through faith in redemption that came through the blood of Jesus. Eph 2:8-9, Rom Chapters 1-4.
- IV. You are Sons and Daughters of God, Adopted into His Family, Kingdom Identity.
- V. We are New Creations through Jesus Christ, 2 Cor 5:17. Hallelujah, God lives with and in man again.
- VI. We live in a physical and spiritual world. The spirit realm is real.

## Topic I

### We believe the bible is the word of God. How can you prove God authored it?

Why is this important? All we need to do is take a brief look at history and we can see why God wants everything rooted and grounded in His word. From 300AD to about 1500 AD the leadership in the church decided to make their own rules and strayed from the truth. Martin Luther's 95 theses was not 95 truths of the bible, it was 95 man-made philosophies that did not line up with God's word. God wants to establish us on a rock solid foundation of truth. Our culture is filled with lies which could easily lead us astray.

<b>Society Says</b>	<b>Bible Says</b>
The Earth is millions of years old.	The Earth was created about 6,000 years ago.
Plants, animals, and people evolved for simple forms of life.	God created each animal after their own kind, male and female he created them.
It's OK to have sex outside the boundaries of marriage.	Sex outside of marriage is a sin that leads to death and heartache.
So as a man thinks, so he is. Your identity is based on your actions.	Renew your mind through the reading of the word. Your identity is in Christ.
The bible is just a book of stories and cannot be taken literally.	God cannot tell a lie. All of the events written happened just as they were written.
As long as your belief in God is sincere it doesn't matter which God you believe in.	Jesus said, I am the way the truth and the light, no one comes to the Father except through me.
God helps those who help themselves.	The Lord has given the Earth to man to rule over it. God does not intervene unless asked to do so.

## How do we know that the God of the bible is God?

*Isaiah 41:22-23 Bring in your idols to tell us what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or declare to us the things to come, tell us what the future holds, so we may know that you are gods. Do something, whether good or bad, so that we will be dismayed and filled with fear.*

This is God explaining to us how to discern who the real God is. He's saying if you really are God, (1) you'll tell me the former things so I can ponder them, (2) you'll tell me the future so I'll be awe struck, or (3) you may do something really awesome so I'm filled with the fear of the Lord.

## Tell me the Former Things

The story of Genesis contains information nobody could have known except God.

- Details of Creation
- How long our fathers lived.
- Secret sins. (Cain and Abel)

How would anyone know how this world was created? The Lord knew it was important to communicate this information, but who wrote it down?

- Adam and Eve were not keeping records of how long everyone lived and who begot who, the book of Genesis provides a detailed list of family lines leading up to Abraham and continuing all the way through to Joseph. It includes how long the main players lived. Noah was not keeping records either; he was a bit busy building the ark.
- Think about the story of how Cain killed Abel. The Lord approached Cain and asked where his brother was. He denied knowing and said, "Am I my brother's keeper". Cain was not going to tell anyone he killed his brother. How could this information be included in the bible? The bible is unique in that it contains many secret sins from many people. How could any of this could be documented unless it was exposed by the Lord.
- So how did all this get documented? It is believed that Moses wrote the first five books of the bible. It is also written that God spoke to Moses as we would speak to one another. We believe, when the time was right, God said to Moses, "Moses grab a pen, I have something to say, write all this down for you and my people".

## Tell me the Future

The bible is a very interesting history book. The unique aspect about this book is that many events were written about before they actually happened.

Many future events were predicted multiple generations even thousands of years before they happened. Now if someone wanted to predict a future event and try to fulfill that event in his own time there would be nothing spectacular about the prediction. If the event was fulfilled by his or her sons or daughters there would not be anything special about the prediction because they basically could of tried to fulfill it themselves. Now when God predicts an event the fulfillment normally comes three generations later, some of the predictions were written 500 years before the fulfillment and other are still waiting to be fulfilled. Apparently, God's the one with the plan and He's the one fulfilling the promises He gave us.

Let's start by looking at the book of Kings. This book was written by many different scribes as it covers a 500 year time span. King Jeroboam leads the people of Israel astray by creating two golden calves and caused them to worship other Idols. 1 Kings 12:28-33. God was so angry with King Jeroboam that he sent a prophet to inform him about a King named Josiah who would restore things.

God also said that He would cut off every last male from King Jeroboam blood line and that the dogs would eat those belonging to him. 1 Kings 14:10-11. This word was fulfilled about 23 years later as Baasha, son of Ahijah killed Jeroboam's son. He took the kingdom and proceeded in killing everyone in Jeroboams family. 1 Kings 15:27-30

330 Years later King Josiah takes the throne. He renews the covenant of the Lord and abolishes all the Baal and Asherah poles. He destroyed the alter at Bethel that King Jeroboam set up by burning it and grinding it to powder. 2 Kings 23:1-17

## Do something really awesome

There are so many things in the bible that are really awesome. Some of the things that God did which would classify as really awesome include: Creation, The Flood, and the 10 plagues sent to deliver Israel from Egypt.

Some other things that don't come out until you think about it include: The time the Lord turned the Earth backwards. 2 Kings 20: 1-11 King Hezekiah develops a sickness and God tells him to prepare his house because he's going to die. The king turns to the Lord for favor and before

Isaiah gets home the Lord tells him to go back and tell him that the Lord is adding 15 years to his life. Hezekiah asks Isaiah for a sign so he knows it's true and God decides to move the shadow on the steps of Ahaz back 10 steps. We all know how our solar system works and to move the shadow back 10 steps would require the Earth to change direction and rotate backwards. Is anything too hard for our God?

There was also another time that God delivered his people in Jerusalem when the Assyrian army led by King Sennacherib surrounded the city with 185,000 men (2 Kings 18 19). King Hezekiah called on Isaiah the Prophet and prayed before the Lord. God answered him and sent an angel who killed 185,000 men in one night. King Sennacherib departed without his army.

How about the time that the sun and moon stood still for a whole day.

*Joshua 10:12-14 On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel: "O sun, stand still over Gibeon, O moon, over the valley of Aijalon". So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the book of Jashar. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a man. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel.*

Just the fact that this book still exists today is the proof that there was divine intervention to watch over and protect this series of books. The first five books of the bible were written over 3,500 years ago. These books were protected generation after generation. Many of these generations included a time where the Israelites were not following the Lord and didn't care about his word. Remember Israel was also defeated by the Babylonians and taken into captivity. Also note that many people have tried to destroy this book, but it still exists today.

For all those that say, "I sure wish God was doing things now" We invite you to visit our Evidence section and watch some of the **Miracle Stories** god is doing now.

## Topic II

### We believe that Jesus is the Son of God and the only provision for man's sin.

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

*John 8:24 I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins.*

Jesus was the Son of God and the only man to be born spiritually alive since the creation of Adam and Eve. When God first created Adam, God filled him with the Spirit of God and thus created him in the image of God.

*Genesis 2:7 the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.*

*Genesis 1: 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female.*

In Genesis 2:7 the term breath of life translates into the Spirit of God, so therefore Gen 1:27 states that man was created in the image of God, or spirit filled.

When Adam and Eve sinned they died spiritually. The Spirit of God was taken away from them. So when they started having kids, they could not reproduce or pass on something they no longer had (Spirit of God). Ever since the fall, every person brought into this world was made in the image and likeness of Adam and Eve.

*Gen. 5:2-3 When God created man he made him in the likeness of god. He created them male and female and blessed them..... When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.*

Notice that Adam and Eve had kids after their own image.

Jesus was born of a virgin but His father was God, therefore he could be born spiritually alive. Paul calls him the second Adam. 1 Cor. 15:22, Rom 5:12-19.

Jesus was God Endorsed. No one could have done the things he did unless God was with him. The Jews knew that when the Messiah showed up that he would heal the sick, the blind would see, and the lame would walk.

*Isaiah 35:3-6 Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.*

God also confirmed Jesus as his Son through an audible voice saying, "This is my son, listen to him".

There are about 61 major prophecies that were written about the coming Messiah. Many of these were written over 400 years before he arrived. Now if someone knew the prophecies written about the messiah they might try to fulfill them by themselves, but some of the prophecies were beyond human control.

- Born in Bethlehem, Micah 5:2
- Born of a virgin, Isaiah 7:14
- Preceded by a messenger, Isaiah 40:3
- He would come to open the eyes of the blind. Isaiah 35:2-6, Isaiah 42:7, Matt 4:23-24
- He would set the captives free. Isaiah 42:7
- Betrayed by a friend
- Sold for 30 pieces of silver, Zech 11:12
- Crucified with thieves
- Hands and Feet pierced, Psalms 22:16
- Bones not broken, Psalms 34:20
- His side was pierced by a spear, Zech 12:10
- Buried in a rich man's tomb, Isaiah 53:9
- He would rise 3 days later. Mat 12:39-40
- The odds of one man fulfilling just 8 of these prophecies is staggering, one to 10<sup>17</sup>th power. To get an idea of how big this number is; if you took a piece of land the size of Texas and filled it with silver dollars three feet high, and then took one silver dollar and put a mark on it, fly over the state of Texas in an airplane and drop it out the window. Have someone placed in the middle of the state and have him walk in any direction and far as he wants and then pick up one of the silver dollars. That would be the odds of one man fulfilling just 8 of these prophetic words. Jesus fulfilled them all. As you can see this was not fulfilled through human effort, but God the Father fulfilling His promises to us.

**The Resurrection.** Jesus was the Son of God because death could not hold him. He rose from the dead and appeared to his disciples and many other people. Check out the end of each gospel story, Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John. No one can raise yourself from the dead, except if you're God and have the power over death. Jesus has also appeared to Peter, the 12, to over 500 people, James, All Apostles, and to Paul (1 Cor 15:1-10) Jesus has also appeared to many people who are living right now so we have evidence from the Word and evidence from personal testimonies should you care to believe it. Some of these encounters are fully documented, here's a few to lookup.

- Mahesh Chavda, book "Only Love can make a Miracle"
- Rick Joyner, books "The Final Quest" and "The Torch and the Sword"
- Jesse Duplantis, Video "Close Encounters of the God Kind"
- **Bob Jones, Video Testimony, Died prematurely and was sent back by Jesus**

**The internal witness of the Holy Spirit.** God has never intended us to believe on blind faith. For this reason he gave us the Holy Spirit so the Spirit of God can be within us. He (the Spirit) will testify that Jesus is the Christ. If you are looking for this evidence before you commit to the Lord you will not have it. It only comes to those after you decide to follow Christ, and then God shows you what you did. We have been created to walk by faith, so God asks us to obey him first, and then he shows us what we did.

## Topic III

We believe that man is saved by grace through faith in redemption that came through the blood of Jesus.

### Eph 2:8-9, Rom Chapters 1-4

*Eph 2:8-9 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.*

*Rom 1:17, For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith”.*

#### **The Law brings and awareness if sin**

- The Christians living in Rome were righteous in their own eyes. They had the Law and followed it as best they could. They were trusting that their good deeds would out weight the bad, and hoping to be good enough for God. Rom 2:17 through 3:20.
- The problem is, we will never be good enough to be with God on our own merits. Our goodness cannot earn Righteousness. Rom 3:20 states that “no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law.”
- God is a good Judge. Sin will be accounted for and disobedience punished. So many people think God will just accept me because he’s a God of Love. Well He is, but he’s also a God of Judgment. Think about how he punished those living in the days of Noah by bringing the flood. He also destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah with fire. If he did this to those disobedient long ago he will do it again in our day.

#### **Imputed Righteousness, through Faith**

- Rom 3:21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from the law, has been made known,. There is a righteousness imputed (credited) to us that is not our own. It’s the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The sinless Lamb of God. This righteousness is credited to us through faith. Faith that the blood of Jesus is sufficient payment for all our sins.
- Impute: To credit to a person’s account
- Our redemption came through the blood of Jesus Christ.
- Redeem: 1. To buy back or repurchase, to get or win back. 2. To free from captivity by payment of ransom. 3. To release from blame or debt. (the wages of sin is death)

- Jesus was a sacrifice of atonement. The reconciliation of God and man was achieved as God saw the blood of Jesus as an atonement, paying the penalty of sin for us. The blood of Jesus had to meet all the righteous requirements of the law. Heb 8:22
- Faith: To trust in, believe in, to cling to. Faith requires a person or object to believe upon.

*Rom 4:21 Abraham was saved by faith because he was fully persuaded that God had the power to do what He had promised. He believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness. (Paraphrased)*

- Faith is the key. Faith that somehow Jesus can get us there if we follow Him day by day.
- The Lord wants to change us from the inside out. He shows us how we fall short, not because He wants to burden us, but because He loves us and wants to free us from the captivity of sin. As he shows us our sin the proper response is normally to confess and repent of our sins so God can clear the slate and release us from our captivity. He has promised us in 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins". He also said "He will remember our sins no more" ( Heb. 8:12).
- Believe that Jesus is who he said he was, the Christ. He died for our sins but he rose again that we might have Life. Jesus is alive. He sent the Holy Spirit to be our counselor, teacher, and comforter.
- Lord: Complete owner, absolute master, He who has claim to unrestricted obedience.
- The bible mentions Jesus as "savior" 37 times, as "Lord" 7,736 times.
- He said I desire obedience not sacrifice.
- Jesus said "Pickup your cross and follow me".
- Imagine building a relationship with the God of this universe. Walking into the Holy of Holies and bowing before Him. What a great honor. He said "If you believe in Me you will have life and life more abundantly".

So what's the key that will get us to heaven? **Faith** It goes like this, God I realize I am a retched man, is there any chance you could come into my life and change my heart, make me more like you as a follow you to the best I know how.

## Topic IV

# You are Sons and Daughters of God, Adopted into His Family, Kingdom Identity

The Lord gave **Daniel a vision of a statue**, this statue stood for coming governments. The last government was that of the Rock (Jesus). God the Father has chosen to install Jesus as the King of the Earth.

*Psalm 2:7-8 He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your father. Ask of me and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the Earth your possession".*

*1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness.*

When everything is all said and done, Jesus will be reigning as King of this Earth. He's coming back and bringing us along. The people following him will be placed in positions to rule with him.

The question becomes, who is your King? God has given each one of us an opportunity to have Jesus as our Bridegroom King and the Heavenly Father as your Dad. Adopted into his family. Imagine having the God of this Universe being your Dad. It sounds too good to be true, that's why God has always made it difficult to follow Christ. Only those with a true desire to follow Jesus will find the way. God is asking the people of this World, "Who wants me?" He's given us one life time to make that decision.

God has always wanted a people he could call his own. He wants to be our God, but we have to want Him as well. It goes both ways. History is filled with examples of people accepting or rejecting God. He's created us with the capacity to love and with that comes a choice, to love or hate. There's no other way to learn how to love. God's plan has always been to adopt those who want him into his family, into his Kingdom. You can see his plan to have a people of his own in the following verses.

### **Through Abraham He chosen a nation for himself.**

*Gen 12:1-3 The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those that bless you and whoever curses you I will curse; all the people of the Earth shall be blessed through you.*

**God establishes a Covenant with his people Israel (The marriage ceremony).**

*Ex 19:5-6 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all the nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole Earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.*

**God promises to dwell with his people if you will make a sanctuary for me.** The Temple becomes a blueprint for how to approach God.

*Ex 25:8 Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.*

**The Nation of Israel rejects the Lord and worships other God's thereby forcing God's hand to discipline her.**

*Jer 11:1-14 The Lord said to me, "Proclaim all these words in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem: Listen to the terms of this covenant and follow them. From the time I brought your forefathers out of Egypt until today, I warned them again and again saying Obey me". But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubbornness of their evil hearts. So I brought on them all the curses of the covenant I had commanded them to follow but that they did not keep.*

So God decides to make a new covenant with us and announces it through Jeremiah 31:31-34

*31 The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.....33 I will put my laws in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying Know the Lord, because they will all know me...*

**Jesus comes to establish a new covenant, becoming the new blueprint**

*Heb 7:18-21 The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God. And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without an oath, but he (Jesus) became a priest with an oath when God said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: You are a priest forever".*

*Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.*

Jesus paid the price and opened the way into the holy of holies. He is our high priest. *Heb 9:1-10*

### **Jesus makes the way for God's Spirit to live in us again, satisfying God's righteous judgment**

This was all covered in Topic III, The redemption that came through the Blood of Jesus.

#### **When Jesus died, the Blood become available,**

Many people wonder why everyone isn't saved. It's automatic, Jesus died on the Cross, Right? They say, "I believe Jesus died on the cross". The devil knows that Jesus died on the cross and he's not saved. So what's the key? The Bible teaches that the blood of Jesus became available; it's not automatically applied to anyone. It must be applied with a decision to have faith in God and make Jesus your King and Lord. This is the kind of faith that allows God to save us from ourselves. Being fully persuaded that God has the power to do what he promised. Somehow get us to heaven as we follow him the best we can.

#### **When Jesus is our King we have a new Identity**

- Sons and Daughters of God
- A Holy Nation
- Royal Priesthood
- Christ Ambassadors

*Eph 1:5 In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ.*

*Rom 8:13-17 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received a Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, Abba Father. The Spirit himself testifies to our spirit that we are God's children.*

*1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness.*

God has one major goal, to live with the people he created and be their God. God is even going to create a new heaven and new Earth so he can live with his people.

*Rev 21:3 Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes; there will be no more death or mourning, or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.*

When you follow Christ you are now a citizen of a heavenly kingdom. Our identity has changed as we are now sons and daughters of the King. He's going to take care of us and discipline us when we need it. Our actions change and our outlook on life changes as well. Rejoice as you are now a member of a new kingdom one that will live on forever.

## Topic V

### We are New Creations through Jesus Christ, 2 Cor 5:17

Hallelujah, God lives with and in man again.

*2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.*

So what does it mean, New Creations? Jesus made the way for us to be forgiven of our sins. This allows the Holy Spirit of God to fill us and be our counselor. We are now body, soul, and spirit with God's Spirit living in us. He does a supernatural thing by giving us a new nature that wants to please God and do what's right. The Holy Spirit becomes our friend and counselor showing us the way to God. We become a people with unique personalities walking around on planet Earth with God's Spirit in us.

*John 14:15-17 Jesus said, If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever - the Spirit of Truth, The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

*1 Cor 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you.*

If the Holy Spirit is living in us, then why can't we sense it half the time? First of all, we still have an old nature that needs to be renewed. This requires a new thought pattern and new way of living and that just doesn't happen overnight. We need to renew ourselves in God's word so we know the way. If God showed up in his fullness, we would be responsible to fully obey him, something that we're not ready for as new believer. So God hides his presence and gives us little glimpses of his nature as we follow him. To the hungry, he gives more of this presence because he can trust us that we will not turn away. Remember God's plan is to get as many people with Him as possible, so he sets us up for victory not failure. Part of that is not being able to sense God's presence all the time. He actually uses His presence as a drawing card. When we can sense it, we want more. He gives us more when we're ready for it.

*Col 1:26-27 The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen*

*to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in us, the hope of glory.*

Here Paul is talking about the mystery of the Gospel that was kept hidden for centuries. Christ in us, the hope of glory. No one knew that God was going to place his spirit in us. The Spirit of the Living God living in us, working with us in a soft gentle way to redeem us. The hope that the Spirit of Christ can make the changes necessary in us that we cannot make on our own. He's our only hope. We can't do it on our own. He is our only hope of bringing us into glory.

We need the re-generative power of the Holy Spirit. Our hearts have followed after our own selfish desires, but as we repent and surrender to God, He can do a supernatural work in our hearts and give us a new desire to please Him and become more like Him.

*Mat. 15:18-20 Jesus said, But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man unclean. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man unclean....*

The heart is the center of our being. We are creatures of desire and that desire will lead us and guide us. If those desires are to follow our old nature it leads to death and separation from God. If those desires are to please God we receive joy and life when we draw near to God. This change is something we can't even take credit for. It's a supernatural change that only God can do. We are all in need of this new nature, God knows who we are and what we're made of and amazingly he's committed himself to us to bring us into freedom. Our old nature comes as no surprise to God. We may be surprised as we find out what's in us but God isn't. It's his plan to restore that relationship that was lost in the garden.

Let the Lord circumcise your heart, Die to the flesh. *Rom 6:11-14 In the same way, count yourself dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under a law, but under grace.*

So where does this power come from? We need to get a revelation of God's love for us. We are dark and yet lovely to Him. He knows our

weakness but still loves us with the full knowledge of who we are. He desires to set us free from our bondage to sin and enter into freedom. In SS 1:1-8 the Shulamite sees the King and is overwhelmed by his awesomeness, she's in awe of the king, who is like him. Then the king comes walking up to her and calls her beautiful. Right away she melts then looks at herself and sees that she's dark (sinful) but that doesn't change the king's mind to pursue her. He covers her in his love as she finds out who the king is. This love transforms her as she wants to be with the king.

Ask the Lord for heart strings to heaven. We need to renew our minds by meditating on the awesomeness of God.

*Rom 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of Gods mercy to offer yourself as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. This is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what Gods will is, his good pleasing and perfect will.*

As we set our minds on who God is we find ourselves living in a new world with answers and a covering over our lives. We have a purpose and a destiny for our lives. To live for the King.

## Topic VI

### We live in a physical and spiritual world. The spirit realm is real.

If you accept what the bible says and believe in God, you have to accept the whole package. This means that angels are real, demons are real, Satan is real, Heaven and Hell are real places. We live in a world full of spiritual warfare and humans are the prize.

*Rev 12:1-17 Then the dragon, (Satan) was enraged at the woman (Church) and went off to make war against the rest of her off-spring - (Christians) those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.*

The number of times the bibles talks about our battle against Satan or the devil is too numerous to list here. It started with Adam and Eve, continued all through the time of Jesus, continued through the books of Acts, Corinthians, Ephesians, Peter, 1 John, and continued through the book of Revelation. The verse from Revelation above was chosen because this chapter covers the greatest amount of time. It starts with Satan taking a third of the angels with him and his attempt to stop the Christ in verse 4 and continues with his war against us (Christians) in verse 17.

Both heaven and hell are fighting for our attention. Whatever we idolize and worship will determine our destiny. Our spirits will live forever and everyone will be judged for the things they did during their lifetime here on Earth.

*Matt 12:36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.*

There are a number of large Christian streams that do not believe the devil is real or active around us. On the contrary, as soon as you decide to make one move toward Christ, you have stepped into a spiritual warzone. The devil doesn't care how many people believe in God as long as they don't do anything about it. As soon as you activate your faith and start following Jesus you become dangerous to the forces of darkness and they will try to stop you from full-filling your purpose. If they cannot stop you they will try to delay or divert your attention to something else. This is why it's critical to understand the spiritual world around us.

*Eph 6:12 For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers and against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world*

*and against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms. Therefore put on the whole armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground.*

*Eph 6:14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God.*

Yes, Spirits can place thoughts in our heads. It's our responsibility to take every thought captive making it obedient to Christ. This is why God has given us the helmet of salvation. These thoughts can come from 3 different places, ourselves, God's realm or Satan's realm. This is where it's important to know God and know how God communicates with us as Satan likes to represent himself as God (the angel of light) and normally doesn't announce his arrival as he likes to operate in secret. Demons will normally say things that tear us down, God normally build us up with love and hope. So if you receive a thought that says, "you're nothing but a no good sinner" you know it didn't come from God because God doesn't bring condemnation; therefore it must be from the enemy. The proper response would be to use the word of God and say, Rom 8:1 says, There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus, Beside I have no righteousness of my own anyway, my righteousness is in Christ, so I think I'm going to rejoice in my Salvation, and get saved all over again today. Praise God.

God has provided a plan and has equipped us with a complete set of armor. It's our responsibility to use it.

If something bad happens, many people say, "Well, that must be God's will". On the contrary, most of the things that happen on Earth are not God's will. Earth was given to man to rule; therefore most of the things that happen on Earth are man's will, not God's will.

*Gen 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the Earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.*

Here God is giving man the responsibility to rule over everything on planet Earth. When God delegates rule and authority, he doesn't take it back. Yes, God will intervene if asked to do so, but we must ask. It's our responsibility to go to God and bring heaven back to Earth.

He also asked us to be fruitful. Fruitfulness in the bible is showing love, kindness, patience, and self-control. So if man is not following God but doing his own thing, the results are not God's fault. If we were following what God has intended for us, everyone would be following the 10 commandments, there would not be any killing, stealing, hunger, or poor among us because God asked us to give to the hungry and feed the poor. The government would not be taxing us at such a high rate and everyone would be living within their means, including the government. You would have a debt free society with a strong economy. The fact remains that 90% of the world's population is not following God or doing what God has asked us to do so that's why bad things happen to good people.

**Some of the areas that Satan likes to use include:**

- Promote idol worship like sex, drugs, money, fame, and power. If any of these become your God he's won.
- Promotes sin and condemnation. First he tries to get you to sin which isn't too hard, and then he condemns you for it.
- Promotes a twisted image of God. He'll present God as a hard taskmaster, never happy with us, never able to make God happy. These are distorted images of God.
- He brings sickness and disease. God doesn't make people sick or strike them with diseases. He died to set us free from that.
- He twists situations to bring in bitterness and unforgiveness, knowing full well that God commands us to forgive our brothers. God says that if we don't forgive our brothers, he won't forgive us. So ask for grace to forgive anyone and everyone.
- He brings strife and division. He tries to separate us from one another.

**God's plan is Redemptive:**

- Jesus did everything on the cross to make you righteous. The only thing he requires of us to believe and follow him.
- God says, You shall have no other gods before me so if you have any idols or gods in your life, bring them to the altar. God wants to work with us, he knows we're not changed overnight.
- We are all servants; the greatest among you is the servant of all. Actually God is the biggest servant of all. He knows everyone's prayers and is more concerned about our lives than we are.
- We are motivated and strengthened by love. It's OK to say, God I need to know how much you love me and wait for the answer. Remember

the answers are not normally instant so make it a continual prayer until it's answered.

- The only power in this universe strong enough to deliver us from sin is Love. Our love for Jesus has to be stronger than our desire to sin.
- God has given the believer all authority over the devil. Your authority is in Christ. A Christian following God the first day has just as much authority over the devil as someone following God for 30 years. God has done this so you can walk in freedom from the enemy.

So how do we hear from God? Man has been created with 6 senses not 5. We have all heard of our 5 senses, touch, hearing, sight, taste, and smell. Scientists have left out the 6th sense because there was nothing physical about it. It's a spiritual sense, the ability to sense the presence of spiritual forces. The bible's number for man is 6, how appropriate that we have 6 senses.

When Jesus died, he said he would send the helper, or comforter, the Holy Spirit. This spirit would live in us and allow us to communicate with God. The bible says, let the peace in your heart guide you and in another place it says, do not grieve the Holy Spirit. Since the Holy Spirit lives in us, and God knows every thought both good and bad, we can pray and get a sense from the Holy Spirit on which way to go. If we sense a grieving we know God doesn't want us to go that way, but if we sense a peace, we should continue with our plans.

God also speaks in many other ways; through his word, through prophecy, through dreams and visions, and through divine circumstances. All of these must be discerned properly so as not to miss the way. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus every day.

## **Recommended Reading List**

### **Purpose Driven Life, by Rick Warren**

### **Classic Christianity, by Bob George**

Bob captures the reality of being saved by grace and brings people into freedom of enjoying God's love. We are freed from error and bondage as we learn the truth of His word.

### **Good Morning Holy Spirit, By Benny Hinn**

Benny provides the story of his life and how he learned to live in the secret place of having the Holy Spirit be his best friend.

### **The Harvest, by Rick Joyner**

The Lord gives Rick a prophetic vision of the end times. This book will change your views of the end times as it will be a time of extremes. Whole cities will be brought to the valley of decision and decide either for God or against God.

### **There were Two Trees in the Garden, by Rick Joyner**

Rick brings us back to the original call to eat from the Tree of Life. He also opens our understanding to the Tree of Knowledge. This book may surprise you.

### **Only Love can Make a Miracle, by Mahesh Chavda**

Mahesh tells the story of his life. How a Hindu boy was saved and taken into a training ground of the spirit. How God's word is alive and everything in His word can be taken as reality. Mahesh also testifies of some miraculous things the Lord did in many people's lives.

### **The Final Quest, The Call, and The Torch and the Sword, By Rick Joyner**

This is a three book series that may change your perception of Christianity. The Lord opens the door of the spirit and gives us a look at end time strategies. You may look at them as creative stories from the Lord that provides insight to growth, battle techniques, and strategies.