

WONDERFUL NEWS – Part 3

AN ENGLISH BIBLE STUDY
DISTRIBUTED BY THE EMMANUEL TRACT FELLOWSHIP

The Bible verses in these studies are taken from the Good News Bible

OUR WONDERFUL LIFE

Jesus Christ said, “I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness” (John 10:10).

Your life on this earth is like a walk. It begins at birth and ends at death. Jesus said there are two roads that people can choose to walk on. One is wide, but it leads to destruction, to God's judgement and everlasting darkness. The other is narrow, but it is the heavenly road of abundant life in Jesus Christ. When you received Christ as your Saviour and Lord you chose the narrow road. You have started to walk in the way of this WONDERFUL LIFE that leads through death right into the presence of God Himself. (See Matthew 7:13-14).

TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS.

“You shall love THE LORD YOUR GOD with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it, love your NEIGHBOUR as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-38).

These commandments are a reminder that you do not walk alone on the path of life. You walk with GOD and with your NEIGHBOUR. In this study we will think about how we can walk in fellowship with our God and Saviour.

“What we have seen and heard we announce to you so that you may join with us in the fellowship that we have with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3).

Make this your desire: “As a deer longs for a stream of cool water, so I long for you, O God” (Psalm 42:1).

A Prayer:

This study is taken from the Bible which contains the history of how God has communicated with his people. We need God's wisdom to understand it so PRAY before you begin your lesson and ask God to teach you by His Holy Spirit.

Do not hurry through the lessons - give God time to speak to you as you read. Make this your prayer: ‘**Open my eyes, so that I may see the wonderful truths in your law**’ (Psalm 119:18).

LESSON ONE

DEDICATION

DEDICATION IS A LIVING SACRIFICE

“So, then, my brothers, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him. This is the true worship that you should offer. Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God- what is good and pleasing to Him and is perfect” (Romans 12:1-2).

Dedication means putting your life and all the things that belong to you *into the hands of God*. By doing this you are saying to God with all your heart: “I don't want to live for myself, I want to live for you”.

A dedicated Christian is a living sacrifice. You are dead to yourself and alive to God. There is only ONE sacrifice to take away sin, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. But if you want to serve God and live for God, then you must first offer yourself to Him. God gives everything to those who give everything to Him. (See Matthew 16:24-25, Galatians 2:20 and Philippians 3:7-10).

Question: What is the first thing a Christian must do if he wants to live for God?
Your Answer:

DEDICATION IS A COMPLETE SACRIFICE.

In Proverbs 23:26 God says, "Pay close attention, son, and let my life be your example".

Has the love and mercy of God touched your heart? True dedication means obeying God from the heart.

Again in Proverbs 3:5-6, we read, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and He will show you the right way".

True dedication is complete faith in God. It means that you commit everything in your life everyday into the hands of God in the name of Jesus Christ. You are trusting in His power and wisdom. A dedicated Christian says, "I will commit every crossroad in my life to God and I will accept the way He chooses" (Romans 8:28).

Question: How many things in your life should you give to God?
Your Answer:

DEDICATION IS A LOVING SACRIFICE.

"We are ruled by the love of Christ, now that we recognize that one man died for everyone, which means that all share in His death" (2 Corinthians 5:14).

The apostle Paul gave his life to God so that he could preach the Gospel to all men. The cross revealed the love of Jesus to Paul and he was overcome by that love. A Hebrew slave served his master for six years and then he was free. However, if he loved him, he could give himself to serve his master until he died. Your king loved you and gave himself to die for you. That wonderful love is calling you to give yourself to serve Jesus Christ as his slave forever! (Exodus 21:1-6).

Question: What has bound us to Jesus: rules, love or fear?
Your Answer:

MAKE THIS THE RULE OF YOUR LIFE:

"Whatever you do... do it all for God's glory" (1Corinthians 10:31, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

MAKE THIS YOUR TESTIMONY:

"It is no longer I who lives, but it is Christ who lives in me" (1Corinthians 2:20).

LESSON TWO

WALKING WITH JESUS CHRIST

Here is the testimony of the Apostle Paul: "I have been put to death with Christ on His cross, so that it is no longer I who lives, but it is Christ who lives in me" (Galatians 2:19-20).

Jesus Christ is LIFE. He is your life, you are living a new, wonderful life because the Spirit of Christ is in you. God does not want you to trust in your own self any longer. Believe that Christ is in you. You believed that His blood had power to cleanse you from sin and so God forgave you. Now believe that the Spirit of Christ who is in you can bless you and change you, and He will!

Question: Whose Spirit lives in a Christian?

Your Answer:

ABIDE IN CHRIST.

Jesus Christ says to you, "I am the vine, and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit, for you can do nothing without me" (John 15:5).

It is only when you are abiding in Christ that you can bear the fruit of this wonderful life. Never forget these words, "YOU CAN DO NOTHING WITHOUT ME". Learn to trust in the power, love and wisdom of Christ. You cannot change yourself or other people or your circumstances, but He who lives in you can! When the storm arose, Jesus was asleep in the boat. The disciples cried out with fear because they were not really abiding in Christ. They were not trusting in His power. But Paul and Silas, after they had been beaten and thrown into prison, sang praises to God in the middle of the night! They were abiding in Christ. (See Ephesians 2:10 and 3:16-20; Mark 4:35-41 and Acts 16: 23-24).

Question: Jesus said, 'I am the vine'. What are we?

Your Answer:

WALK IN CHRIST

"Since you have accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, learn to live in union with Him. Keep your roots deep in Him, build your lives on Him, and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught, and be filled with thanksgiving" (Colossians 2:6-7).

The people of Israel came to the river Jordan and there was neither a bridge nor a boat to cross by. But God said, 'Walk!' So they walked! As their feet touched the water, God opened a way and they crossed on dry ground. God is asking you to walk even as his Son walked, to live like He lived. That is impossible in your own strength - but Christ is in you. Do not doubt or be afraid, do not look at yourself or other Christians, keep your eyes on Jesus and praise God for what He is going to do in you. (See Joshua 3:14-17, John 8:12, and 1 John 2:6).

Question: Whose life ought our lives to be like?

Your Answer:

WAIT FOR CHRIST.

"We, however, are citizens of heaven, and we eagerly wait for our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come from heaven. He will change our weak mortal bodies and make them like His own glorious body, using that power by which He is able to bring all things under His rule" (Philippians 3:20-21).

This wonderful life in Christ that we are living does not end at the grave. Jesus, who is the Resurrection and the life, has overcome death and the grave. In Christ you have everlasting life. Heaven is our home.

Even as Christ rose from the dead with a new body of glory, so every Christian will one day be changed to be like Him. Jesus will return suddenly like a thief in the night, those who are dead shall be raised and those who are alive shall be changed. How will you be when He comes? Watch and pray, keep awake, and don't stray from the narrow road of this wonderful life. (See Colossians 3:4; 1Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1Corinthians 15:20-23 and 1 John 3:2-3).

Question: If a Christian is still alive when Jesus returns from heaven, what will happen to his body? Your Answer:

Learn this verse and ask God to help you live by it.

“I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me” (Philippians 4:13).

LESSON THREE

FAITH

Then Peter spoke up: “Lord, if it is really you, order me to come out on the water to you. ‘Come!’ answered Jesus. So Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water. But when he noticed the strong wind, he was afraid and started to sink. ‘Save me, Lord!’ he cried. At once Jesus reached out and grabbed hold of him and said, ‘How little faith you have! Why did you doubt?’” (Matthew 14:28-31).

KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS.

Only through faith in Jesus will you find life and power. While Peter looked at Jesus his faith was strong, but when he looked at the waves and the wind his faith failed and he began to sink. You have chosen to walk on God's road that leads to heaven. People, demons, troubles, sickness, riches and many other things will tempt you to take your eyes off Jesus. You will overcome all those things by paying attention to the Bible. Let us keep our eyes on Jesus. On whom our faith depends from beginning to end. (See Hebrews 12:2, Colossians 3:1-4 and Hebrew 12:1-3 & 13:5-8).

Question: What happened when Peter stopped looking at Jesus? Your Answer:
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BELIEVE WITH ALL YOUR HEART

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do. And He will show you the right way” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Peter neither kept one foot in the boat nor held on with one hand. Do not believe with your mouth only, but with all your heart. Don't walk with God one day a week, but every day and in every part of your life. (See Isaiah 26:2-4 and Psalm 91).

Question: Is God satisfied if a Christian only obeys Him on Sundays? Your Answer:
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HERE ARE THREE WAYS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH.

Feed your faith:

“I am writing this to you so that you may know that you have eternal life - you that believe in the Son of God” (1John 5:13).

Your faith will grow stronger as you read the Bible and listen to men preaching from it. You do not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Do not feed your faith with your own feelings or the thoughts of men, but upon the living, eternal word of God. (See Psalm 119:89-90 and Romans 10:17).

Question: What does the Bible say we need to live by apart from food?
Your Answer:

Release your faith by your words:

“We also speak because we believe” (2 Corinthians 4:13).

The things that you believe in your heart will live if you confess them with your mouth. Testify to others about your salvation. Let your mouth become a well of life for others and it will also refresh your own heart and life. (See Romans 10:8-10 and Proverbs 10:11).

Question: Do Christians need to tell others about their salvation?
Your Answer:

Release your faith by your actions:

“As the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without actions is dead” (James 2:26).

All the disciples sitting in the boat believed in Jesus, but only Peter made his faith live. Faith is doing what you believe. Is your faith dead or alive? See James 1:22:24.

Question: What is faith?
Your Answer:

WALKING BY FAITH

“For our life is a matter of faith, not of sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7).

To walk by sight means to trust in the things of this world – human riches, power, wisdom, praise and security or in our own cleverness and strength. The disciples who stayed in the boat walked by sight. To walk by faith means trusting in God - His power, wisdom and love. Peter listened to the voice of Jesus and walked by faith. Jesus is saying to us: ‘Follow me!’ (See Psalm 118:8-9, 2 Corinthians 4:18 and Hebrews 11:1-6).

Question: Who do we trust in when we walk by faith?
Your Answer:

LESSON FOUR

THE BIBLE

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S BOOK

“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living” (2 Timothy 3:16).

The men who wrote the Bible were God's chosen servants inspired by His Holy Spirit. The Bible is not the book of any church, nor is it the book of one race of people. **It is God's book for the whole world.**

Only the Bible gives a true and complete revelation of God. Only the Bible speaks the truth about man. The Bible is a living and powerful book because it was created by the Spirit of God. God uses it in many ways: It is food for your soul, light for your path, instruction for your life, a weapon against the powers of darkness, a rod of correction and a word of comfort and strength.

RESPECT God's Word. BELIEVE God's Word. OBEY God's Word.

Question: Who inspired the writers of the Bible?

Your Answer:

THE BIBLE IS FOOD

“Man can not live on bread alone, but needs every word that God speaks” (Matthew 4:4).

Your body needs earthly food and your soul needs heavenly food. Your new life began when you fed on the LIVING BREAD, the Lord Jesus Christ. But you will only grow strong in God if you continue to feed on the Him. Feed yourself everyday by reading the Bible. Do not be surprised if some things are hard to understand, a young baby can not eat meat. Share your heavenly food with other Christians who have eaten the Bread of Life. “You spoke to me, and I listened to every word. I belong to you, Lord God Almighty, and so your words filled my heart with joy and happiness” (Jeremiah 15:16 and John 6:33-35; 47-51).

Question: Who is the Bread of life?

Your Answer:

THE BIBLE IS LIGHT

“Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105).

When the people of Israel began their walk through the desert from Egypt to the land of Canaan, God led them because they did not know the way. You are walking on a new path and living a new life. It is a walk of faith and not of sight. It is not the path of men, so the customs and wisdom of this world can not guide you. The Holy Spirit will guide you. Often he will use the Bible as a lamp to show you the way. Walk in the light of God's word. (See Psalm 43:3 and Isaiah 55:8-11).

Question: What gives us light on our walk?

Your Answer:

THE BIBLE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

“You are my God. Teach me to do your will. Be good to me, and guide me on a safe path” (Psalm 143:10).

You can hear God's word by listening to others or reading for yourself, but it is God's Spirit who will make it live in your heart. Ask God to lead you into His truth by His Spirit of truth. If you sincerely desire to walk on the road of life then follow the teaching of the Bible, and His Spirit will lead you on a level path. (See John 16:12-15 and 1Corinthians 2:12-13).

Question: What will make the scriptures (the Bible) live in you?
Your Answer:

THE BIBLE AND JESUS

“Then Jesus said to them, ‘These are the very things I told you about while I was still with you; every thing written about me in the law of Moses, the writings of the prophets, and the psalms had to come true’. Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, ‘This is what is written: the Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later’” (Luke 24:44-46).

Jesus is the living WORD of God. The written word points to the living WORD. The Old Testament prepares the way for Jesus, and the New Testament reveals Him. The aim of the Bible is to make you wise unto salvation, and salvation is in the Son of God. It is the Spirit of Christ in you that will open your understanding of the Bible. Look for Jesus as you read and the Bible will speak to you. (See Colossians 3:16, 2 Timothy 3:15 and 1John 1:1-2; 2John 1:9).

Question: Whom does the New Testament reveal?
Your Answer:

LESSON FIVE

THE HOLY SPIRIT

YOU LIVE BY THE SPIRIT

“If the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the death, lives in you, then He who raised Christ from death will also give life to your mortal bodies by the presence of His Spirit in you” (Romans 8:11).

You have received the Spirit of resurrection and life. You were dead through sin, but God has raised you up to live a new life by His Spirit. The people of Israel were God's chosen people. God sent His prophets to them and also gave them His commandments, but they failed to walk in His ways. But God has given you the Spirit of His Son, the Spirit of Love and Holiness and Power. You can live this wonderful life by the power of the Holy Spirit. Believe it! (See Romans 8:9-16).

Question: What enables us to live this wonderful life?
Your Answer:

YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER BY THE SPIRIT

“But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power” (Acts 1:8).

The promise of our heavenly Father is to every one of His sons and daughters. Every child of God may move in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ has baptised you in the Holy Spirit. He invites all thirsty Christians to come and drink. As you release the Holy Spirit from your inner most being, He will give you power to witness about the good News of the cross. He will give you His special gifts so that you shall receive, the promise is unto YOU. (See Matthew 3:11, Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-21 and 1Corinthians 12:1-13).

Question: What will give us power to speak about Jesus?
Your Answer:

YOU SHALL BE CHANGED BY THE SPIRIT

“All of us, then, reflect the glory of the Lord with uncovered faces; and that same glory, coming from the Lord, who is the Spirit, transforms us into His likeness in an ever greater degree of glory” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

In the beginning the earth was without form and void. Then the Spirit of God moved over the waters and God created the world that you see today. Because you are in Christ you are a new creation and God's Spirit is working in you to change you into the likeness of the Son of God. As you look into the Bible, as you draw near to God in prayer, so the Spirit is working and changing you. Remember, God does not want you to stay as you are. He is seeking to make you like His Son through the Holy Spirit. (See Genesis 1:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 5:16-17).

Question: If you are "in Christ" what kind of a creation are you?
Your Answer:

YOU SHALL BEAR FRUIT BY SPIRIT

“The Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self- control” (Galatians 5:22).

You are like a tree. Before you found Christ you bore the fruits of the flesh, your own works of sin. Now God wants you to bear the fruits of His Spirit. Look at a boy leading his blind friend by a stick. Because the blind man trusts his friend he will obey the leading of the stick in his hand. When the stick stops or moves to the left or right then he will do the same. God’s Spirit is like that stick - you will feel Him convicting you of sin. He is saying, ‘Stop! You will feel Him prompting you to do good, to love, to forgive, to humble yourself. As you learn to obey the will of the Spirit so you will begin to bear the fruit of the Spirit. In other words you will be ‘abiding in Christ’. (Read lesson 2 again and see Galatians 5:16-24 and 15:1-5).

Write down three kinds of Spiritual fruit.

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

Learn this verse and repeat it to a friend. Do not forget it!

“You will succeed, not by military might or by your own strength, but by my spirit” (Zechariah 4:6).

In this verse God is teaching us one of the great lessons of the Bible: **GOD’S WORK CAN ONLY BE DONE IN THE POWER OF HIS SPIRIT.** You are convicted of sin by the Spirit, born again by the Spirit, taught by the Spirit and changed by the Spirit. God gives you the **DESIRE** and the **POWER** to do His will by His Spirit. (See Ezekiel 11:19-20 and Romans 7:21-8:4).

LESSON SIX

PRAYER

All truly great people pray. The greatest of all was Jesus Christ. When He had decisions to make, when He was tired, when His time came to be crucified - Jesus prayed.

Here are some things Jesus said about prayer:

1. “When you pray, do not use a lot of meaningless words, as the pagans do, who think that God will hear them because their prayers are long” (Matthew 6:7).

Praying is not repeating certain words over and over again. Nor do you need to read special prayers out of a book. Your prayer must come from your heart, not just from your mouth. Speak to God as a child speaks to his father. (See 1 Kings 18:36-37, 2 Kings 19:14-19, John 11:41-42 and Ecclesiastes 5:1-2).

Question: Where must our prayers come from?

Your Answer:

2. “I am telling you the truth, the Father will give you whatever you ask Him for in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your happiness may be complete” (John 16:23-24).

Because the blood of Jesus has cleansed away your sin, we can speak to a Holy God. God hears us because we ask in the name of His beloved Son. We do not need to pray through anyone else, alive or dead. Only Jesus is risen from the dead and sits at God's right hand. He alone is our Great High Priest and mediator. (See Hebrews 4:14-16 and 1 Timothy 2:1-6).

Question: In whose name should we pray to God?

Your Answer:

3. “For this reason I tell you: When you pray and ask for something, believe that you have received, it and you will be given whatever you ask for” (Mark 11:24).

Have faith in God. Trust in His mighty power, His great love and His perfect wisdom. Two blind men came to Jesus and asked for healing. Jesus said to them, ‘Do you believe that I am ABLE to do this?’. They replied, ‘Yes, Lord’. Have faith in the power of Jesus. But God is able to do only those things that please Him. If you are asking for things just to please yourself or to hurt others, do not expect God to answer you. (See Matthew 9:27-29, James 1:5-7; 4:3 and 1 John 5:14-15).

Question: Will God answer selfish prayers?

Your Answer:

PRAY!

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 we read: “Pray at all times”..

Make prayer a daily habit of your life like Jesus did. When you rise in the morning, before you sleep at night, while walking along the road, when you are working - PRAY. Pray on your own, pray with other Christians. Prayer is the door to God for every Christian, keep it open!

“Elijah was the same kind of person as we are. He prayed earnestly that there would be no rain, and no rain fell on the land for three and half years” (James 5:17).

Elijah was a great prophet of God, yet he was an ordinary person like you. He had doubts and fears, weaknesses and failings but he knew the power of fervent prayer. God answers those who know how to keep on asking. (See Luke 11:5-10; 18:1-8 and James 5:13-18).

FINALLY

“If I had ignored my sins, the Lord would not have listened to me” (Psalm 66:18).

When you come near to God in prayer you must have clean hands and a pure heart. If you have sinned, put the matter right, and ask God to forgive you. God's holy ear can not listen to unclean lips. (See Psalm 24:4, Isaiah 59:1-2, Luke 18:9-4 and 1John 1:7-9)..

<p>Question: What may prevent God answering our prayers?</p> <p>Your Answer:</p>
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WRITE YOUR NAME AND POSTAL ADDRESS HERE

My Name is:

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FOLD THE BIBLE STUDY AND POST YOUR ANSWERS TO: