

# WONDERFUL NEWS – Part 4

AN ENGLISH BIBLE STUDY  
DISTRIBUTED BY THE EMMANUEL TRACT FELLOWSHIP

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

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## OUR WONDERFUL LIFE – continued

### LESSON ONE

#### PRAYER - continued

##### GOD SPEAKING TO YOU

“Then the lord passed by and sent a furious wind that split the hills and shattered the rocks - but the Lord was not in the wind. The wind stopped blowing, and then there was an earthquake - but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake, there was a fire - but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire, there was a soft whisper of a voice. When Elijah heard it, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. A voice said to him, ‘Elijah, what are you doing here?’” (1Kings 19:11-13).

Prayer is not only you speaking to God, it is God speaking to you! How great is the grace of God! He fills the heavens yet He has come to live in you. His glory is greater than any king in this world, yet He has time to listen and speak with you. (See Isaiah 57:15 and 1 Corinthians 6:19).

Question: Who is waiting to speak to you when you pray?

Your Answer:.....

##### WAIT FOR GOD'S VOICE.

“Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10).

When you are talking with someone else you use your ears as well as your tongue! Give yourself time to wait upon God. Listen for the still small voice of God's Spirit that speaks deep down in your heart. (See James 4:8 and 1 Kings 19:9-13).

**Complete this scripture verse:** “.....and know that I am God”

##### KNOW GOD'S VOICE

“Jesus said, ‘My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me’” (John 10:27).

God speaks to you with the voice of His Son, the Good Shepherd. How can you know his voice? It is the same voice that convicted you of sin, and the same voice that speaks to you when you read the scriptures, that teaches you to walk in righteousness and love, that warns you of God's judgement. It is the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to your spirit. (See John 15:26 and 16:7, 8).

Question: In what ways do we get to know the voice of God?

Your Answer: .....  
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**OBEY GOD’S VOICE**

“If you wander off the road to the right or to the left, you will hear His voice behind you saying, ‘Here is the road. Follow it’” (Isaiah 30:21).

While you are walking in God's way, His peace fills your heart and you will know His joy. But if you turn off the path of righteousness you will feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit in your heart. You will lose your joy and peace until you return to His path. That is God's way of speaking. Remember, however, that God has clearly spoken to all Christians through the Bible. You cannot escape the voice of God in the Bible by running to him in prayer. His truth does not change. (See Philippians 4:6-7 and Jeremiah 42:18-22).

Question: If we don’t like what God says to us in the Bible, may we pray and ask Him to say something different?  
Your Answer: .....

**A PROMISE FROM GOD**

“Call to me, and I will answer you. I will tell you wonderful and marvelous things you know nothing about” (Jeremiah 33:3).

Your answer: “Speak, Lord your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:9).

**LESSON TWO**

**HOLINESS - THE WORK OF GOD**

**GOD COMMANDS HOLINESS**

“Be obedient to God, and do not allow your lives to be shaped by those desires you had when you were still ignorant. Instead, be holy in all that you do, just as God who called you is holy. The Scripture says, ‘Be holy because I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:14-16).

God is a consuming fire! Uncleanness and sin cannot stand in His presence. He is pure and clean, righteous and just and full of love. Through your faith in Jesus you have become a child of God. Now God requires His children to be like Him. God never changes and His command never changes, “Be holy, for I am holy”.

Question: What is God's commandment that never changes?  
Your Answer: .....

**GOD MAKES YOU HOLY**

“Christ Himself carried our sins in His body to the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness” (1 Peter 2:24).

“God laid all your sins on His son when He died on the cross. He set you free from the weight and power of that filthy load that you were carrying. Now you are free to walk on the new road of righteousness” (Romans 6:16-23).

Question: Who carried away our load of sin?  
Your Answer: .....

“Surely you know that the wicked will not possess God’s kingdom. Do not fool yourselves, people who are immoral or who worship idols or are adulterers or homosexual perverts or who steal or are greedy or are drunkards or who slander others or are thieves, none of these will possess God’s kingdom. Some of you were like that. But you have been purified from sin, you have been dedicated to God, you have been put right with God by the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Because you have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, God has **CLEANSED** you from sin, **SEPARATED** you unto Himself and **COVERED** you with the righteousness of His son. The Holy Spirit, the finger of God, has touched you and made you holy. (See 1 Corinthians 1:27-31; Colossians 1:21-22 and Isaiah 6:1-7).

**HOLINESS IS THE GLORY OF GOD**

“But you are the chosen race, the king’s priests, the holy nation, God’s own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into His own marvelous light. At one time you were not God’s people, but now you are His people; at one time you did not know God’s mercy, but now you have received His mercy” (1 Peter 2:9-10).

When God calls you to be holy He is calling you to share His glory. Holiness is not just separation from sin, it is also sharing the glory and power and kingdom and service of the king of kings. You were a lost, unclean sinner, without hope and without GOD. But now you are a child of Almighty God and a priest of the heavenly temple. As you walk in holiness you are glorifying God who has glorified you!

Question: What is it God wants to share with the people He calls?  Your Answer: .....
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“There will be a highway there, called ‘The Road of Holiness’. No sinner will ever travel that road; no fools will mislead those who follow it” (Isaiah 35:8).

God has prepared a road to heaven for His people to walk on. When you chose to walk with Jesus Christ you began to walk on that road - it is the way of holiness. It leads from the cross to heaven. Only those who have been cleansed in the blood of God's lamb can walk on that road. (See Revelation 21:1-3 and Hebrews 12:14).

“There is no one like the Lord our God. He lives in the heights above, but he bends down to see the heavens and the earth. He raises the poor from dust; He lifts the needy from their misery and makes them companions of princes; the princes of His people” (Psalm 113:5-8).

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**LESSON THREE**

**HOLINESS - OUR WORK**

“Be holy in all that you do, just as God who called you is holy” (1 Peter 1:15). God is holy. He has made you holy. Now He commands you to live a holy life.

**HOLINESS IS SEPARATION**

“Do not try to work together as equals with unbelievers, for it cannot be done. How can right and wrong be partners? How can light and darkness live together? How can God’s temple come to terms with pagan idols? For we are the temple of the living God! As God Himself has said, ‘I will make my home with my people and live among them; I will be their God, and they shall be my people’. And so the Lord says, ‘You must leave them and separate yourselves from them. Have nothing to do with what is unclean, and I will accept you’” (2 Corinthians 6:14, 16, 17).

Holiness is separation from everything that does not walk with God. There are many things of this world, many customs and teachings of men, that you will be tempted to walk with. If you cannot walk with them and also be at peace with God, then, you must leave them and separate yourselves from them.

Question: Can we walk with God and walk with our sin?  
Your Answer: .....

**HOLINESS IS TAKING OFF THE DIRTY CLOTHES OF OUR OLD LIFE**

“So get rid of your old self that made you live as you used to, the old self that was being destroyed by its deceitful desires” (Ephesians 4:22).

“Your old life was ruled by your own desires and lusts. God wants you to put off that old way of living, like a man takes off an old, dirty coat and throws it away. Here are some of those old clothes: You must put to death, then, the earthly desires at work in you such as sexual immorality, indecency, lust, evil passions, and greed, (for greed is a form of idolatry). Because of such things God’s anger will come upon those who do not obey Him. At one time you yourselves used to live according to such desires, when your life was dominated by them. But now you must get rid of all these things: anger, passion, and hateful feelings. No insults or obscene talk must ever come from your lips. Do not lie to one another, for you have taken off the old self with its habits and have put on the new self” (Colossians 3:5-9).

Question: Must we change the way we live if we follow Jesus?  
Your Answer: .....

**HOLINESS IS WASHING AWAY THE DIRT**

“All these promises are made to us, my dear friends. So then, let us purify ourselves from everything that makes body and soul unclean, and let us be completely holy by living in awe of God” (2 Corinthians 7:1).

Water can cleanse your skin but not your heart. If you want to be holy you must cleanse your heart first. (See Matthew 23:26).

- 1. **WASH WITH THE TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE.** Before you were saved, you were like a pig rolling in the mud. All the unclean things that you saw and heard stuck to you. As you obey the teachings of the Bible you are washing yourself in God’s clean water.(See John 15:3, Ephesians 5:26, 1 Peter 1:22).
- 2. **WASH IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS.** You cannot hide your sins by covering them with nice words or good works. If you confess your faults to God He has promised to make you clean by the blood of Jesus Christ. (See 1 John 1:7-9).

Question: If we admit that we have sinned, what will cleanse us?  
Your Answer: .....

**PUTTING ON THE CLEAN CLOTHES OF YOUR NEW LIFE.**

“And you must put on the new self, which is created in God’s likeness and reveals itself in the true life that is upright and holy” (Ephesians 4:24).

“Put on the wonderful new life of the Holy Spirit. You do not become holy by wearing special clothes or keeping religious laws. Holiness is the clothing of the heart. Just look at them! But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self- control” (Galatians 5:22). See also Romans 13:12-14 and 1Peter 3:1-4.

Question: By faith a Christian puts on a new nature. Whom is it like?  
Your Answer: .....

**HOLINESS IS BEING LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

“What I say is this: Let the Spirit direct your lives, and you will not satisfy the desires of the human nature” (Galatians 5:16).

You can not change yourself in you own strength. “Trust in the power of the Holy Spirit within you. It is His work to change you to be like Jesus. Now, OBEY the command of God, ‘Be holy’! Stop lying and begin to speak with truth. Stop hating and begin to love. Don’t look at yourself, but look to Jesus, the Holy One of God. The Spirit has given us life, He must also control our lives today” (Galatians 5:24-25).

Question: Who can change us to be like Jesus?  
Your Answer: .....

**LESSON FOUR**

**LOVE**

“And we ourselves know and believe the love, which God has for us. God is love, and whoever lives in love lives in union with God and God lives in union with Him” (1John 4:16).

This is the most wonderful revelation in your new life with God. He loves you and you can love Him.

Question: Will God have fellowship with Christians who hate each other?  
Your Answer: .....

**GOD LOVES YOU**

“For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

How great is God's love?! It is too big to be measured! God loved you so much that He gave His only Son to die for your sins. God's love is a love that gives everything. What have you given to God? (See Ephesians 3:17-19 and 1 John 4:10)..

The Lord Jesus Christ said, “The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them” (John 15:13).

Jesus so loved you that He gave His life for you. He did not know sin yet He willingly took our sins upon Himself. His love moved Him to die so that you might live. Will you live for Him? (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

Question: What did God do that showed he loved us?  
Your Answer: .....

**AND YOU SHALL LOVE HIM**

“We love, because God first loved us” (1John 4:19).

Even as hate responds to hate, so love is awakened by love. The nearer you stand to a fire the more you feel its heat. As you read, think, pray and talk about the love of God in Christ, so that love will burn more strongly in your heart.

”This hope does not disappoint us, for God has poured out His love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us” (Romans 5:5).

“You were born again by the Spirit. God has sent the Spirit of His Son into your heart so that you cry, ‘Father’. It is not the spirit of slavery and fear, but of love and joy and peace. God Himself has created in you a new heart of love by His Spirit” (Romans 8:15-16; Galatians 4:4-7).

Question: Who brings the love of God into our hearts?  
Your Answer: .....

Jesus said, “if you love me, you will obey my commandments” (John 14:15). Love is like faith, without works it is dead. Give yourself and your life as a gift of love to God. Obey Him, serve Him, live for Him. As you do so, His love will fill your heart more and more. (See John 14:23 and 1 John 2:5;3:18).

**GOD’S LOVE WILL DISCIPLINE YOU**

“When the Lord corrects you, my son, pay close attention and take it as a warning. The Lord corrects those He loves, as a father corrects a son of whom he is proud” (Proverbs 3:11-12).

“A father who loves his son does not shut his eyes at his son’s faults, but corrects them. Do not be surprised therefore when God corrects you. He will use many things in your life as a means of discipline, not because He hates you but because He loves you as His precious child” (Hebrews 12:3-11).

Question: If God disciplines us, does that mean he hates us?  
Your Answer: .....

**GOD’S LOVE WILL KEEP YOU**

“For I am certain that nothing can separate us from His (God’s) love: Neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below - there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39).

How powerful is God’s love! Because you are in Christ Jesus there is nothing that can stop God from loving you. Rest in His promise, “I will never leave you, I will never abandon you” (Hebrews 13:5-6).

Question: Apart from sin, is there anything that can separate us from God's love?  
Your Answer: .....

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**LESSON FIVE**

**JOY**

“You will show me the path that leads to life, your presence fills me with joy and brings me pleasure for ever” (Psalm 16:11).

God is the only creator of perfect happiness and it is His will that you be happy. The greatest happiness in the world is found in God Himself. When you walk with God you walk in joy, even if the road is full of thorns and stones. (See Proverbs 10:22).

Question: Who gives us the greatest happiness?  
Your Answer: .....

**JESUS CHRIST CAME TO BRING US JOY**

“The Sovereign Lord has filled me with His Spirit. He has chosen me and sent me to bring good news to the poor. To heal the broken hearted, to announce release to captives and freedom to those in prison. He has sent me to proclaim that the time has come when the Lord will save His people and defeat their enemies. He has sent me to comfort all who mourn, to give to those who mourn in Zion joy and gladness instead of grief a song of praise instead of sorrow” (Isaiah 61:1-3).

That is the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ to us. Let us look at the words carefully.

- 1. Jesus came to announce release to captives and freedom to those in prison.

What a wonderful salvation! Free from the bondage of sin, fear and Satan. Praise the Lord! Jesus is our great Deliverer. That should make us happy! ‘When the Lord brought us back to Jerusalem (from captivity), it was like a dream! How we laughed, how we sang for joy! Then the other nations said about us, ‘The Lord did great things for them’. Indeed, He did great things for us; how happy we were! (Psalm 126:1-3).

- 2. Jesus gives us joy and gladness instead of grief.

One of the fruits of your new, wonderful life is JOY. It is a fruit of God's Spirit. Jesus wants to fill you with the Holy Spirit. He wants your joy to be full. “Do not get drunk with wine, which will only ruin you, instead, be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18). As a child of God, find your joy in the wine of God and not in the beer of men. (See John 7:37-39).

- 3. Jesus gives you a song of praise instead of sorrow.

Some people clothe themselves with words of complaint and criticism, but Jesus has covered you with the garment of praise and thanksgiving. Praise God for His greatness and power, thank Him for His mercy and goodness. Make it a habit to start your prayers with praise and thanksgiving.

Question: Who gives us joy, gladness and a song of praise?  
Your Answer: .....

“I will always thank the Lord. I will never stop praising Him” (Psalm 34:1).

Learn this great secret of God: When you are tempted or troubled, in darkness or despair look up to God and praise Him. Remember the God of your salvation is your joy praise God in your weakness and He will give you new strength.

“The joy that the Lord gives you will make you strong”. (see Nehemiah 8:10, Psalm 103:1-5; 100:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:16).

**THINK ABOUT THESE WORDS OF GOD’S PROPHETS:**

“Even though the fig trees have no fruit and no grapes grow on the vines, even though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no corn, even though the sheep all die and the cattle stalls are empty, I will still be joyful and be glad, because the Lord is my Saviour” (Habakkuk 3:17-18).

**Your Work: Write out Nehemiah 8:10.**

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## LESSON SIX

### PEACE

“May the Lord Himself, who is our source of peace, give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you all” (2 Thessalonians 3:16).

Peace in your heart is one of God's greatest blessings in this wonderful life. It does not matter what happens to you, God is able to give you peace - at all times and in all ways.

Question: Who gives us peace?

Your Answer: .....

God's peace came into your heart when Jesus entered. He says to you, “Peace is what I leave with you. It is my own peace that I give you. I do not give peace as the world does. Do not be worried and upset. Do not be afraid” (John 14:27).

In this verse Jesus is saying two things to us:

1. He gives us peace.
2. We must keep that peace.

### JESUS GIVES US PEACE

Jesus gives us peace with God. “God made peace through His Son's death on the cross and so brought back to Himself all things, both on earth and in heaven” (Colossians 1:20).

“Your sins separated you from God, made you His enemy, brought His anger and judgement upon you. When you believed that Jesus died for your sins God forgave you, cleansed you and made you His child. The blood of Jesus has ended the war between you and God” (Romans 5:1; John 3:18).

Question: What made us enemies of God?

Your Answer: .....

### JESUS GIVES US THE PEACE OF GOD

“For God's kingdom is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of the righteousness, peace and joy which the Holy Spirit gives” (Romans 14:17).

You will not find the peace of God by keeping the customs of religion. God's peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, the blessings of God's kingdom are Spiritual blessings. When Jesus spoke peace He stilled the stormy sea. It is Jesus alone that can bring peace to your heart by His Spirit. (See John 16:7; 33).

Question: Will religious customs give us the peace of God?

Your Answer: .....

Always remember, sin takes away peace, because sin will separate you from the Lord of peace. But you know the way back to God and His peace - confess your sins to Him and He will forgive you. (See Psalm 32:3-5 and 1 John 1:9).

**REST IN HIS PEACE**

“You, Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in you” (Isaiah 26:3).

Keep your mind and heart filled with the words of God. Always remind yourself that you are walking with God who loves you and has all power. Repeat his promises to you, like this one:

“Do not be afraid - I am with you! I am your God, let nothing terrify you! I will make you strong and help you; I will protect you and save you” (Isaiah 41:10).

“Do not worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need , always asking Him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

When you have a problem or troubles or you are worried or afraid, when you have failed to walk in God's ways, tell your heavenly father. Always bring your burdens to God, and bring them with praise and thanks on your lips. Give God your fears and He will give you His peace. (See 1 Peter 5:7).

Question: If I want peace, who must I trust in?  
Your Answer: .....

As we come to the end of part one of these studies, we would repeat the prayer of the apostle Paul.

*“May the Lord Himself, Who is the source of peace give you peace at all times and in every way”.*

**GROW**

When the Apostle Peter ended his second letter he wrote these words: “But continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, now and forever! Amen” (2 Peter 3:18).

**YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER WANTS YOU TO GROW UP TO BE LIKE HIS SON**

***Grow in Grace***

“You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, rich as He was, He made Himself poor for your sake, in order to make you rich by means of his poverty” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

“You do not deserve to have anything from God, but because He loves you He has given you all the riches of His love and mercy. You were poor but now you are rich because God has given you of His riches. In yourself you are weak but yet you are strong because God has given you His strength. That is grace. As you see more and more that your righteousness and strength is God's gift to you, not because you deserve it but because He loves you, so you will be growing in grace. The tree of humility grows in the soil of grace, and the weed of pride dies!” (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

***Grow in knowledge***

This is the testimony of the Apostle Paul: “But all those things that I might count as profit I now reckon everything as complete loss for the sake of what is so much more valuable, the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord” (Philippians 3:7-8).

Make this your aim: To know Jesus Christ more and more. To love Him more, to trust Him more, to obey Him more, to speak about Him more than ever before. The Lord Jesus Christ is your Salvation, your life, your wisdom, your righteousness and your peace, love and joy. You are only complete in Him. Grow up into Jesus!

The Apostle Paul grew to be a mighty man of God because he knew the wisdom of the words of John the Baptist, “He (Jesus) must become more important while I become less important” (John 3:30). That is God's way of growing.

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