

# THE GOSPEL BIBLE STUDY

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# The Gospel

Important Concepts:

1. You're going to learn about the Good News from a biblical perspective
2. You're going to know how important the death, the burial and the resurrection of Jesus truly is to us today—all these years later.
3. After we finish, you're going to be able to share what you've learned with other people so they can hear the Good News!

The **Gospels** are ALSO the first FOUR books of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.

In the first three, we find the story of the passion of Christ—His death, burial and resurrection. It's the story we typically hear at Easter time but it's a timeless story!

## Overview of the Gospel

I Corinthians 15:1-5—find in Bibles and highlight

II Peter 1:3-4—God promises us a way out of the world's corruption

John 3:3-5—We are SAVED through the gospel—water and Spirit

Romans 1:16—*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek*

Christ died for our sins

He was buried

He rose from the dead

There were many witnesses that saw Christ after His resurrection

## The meaning of the Gospel is—Good News

Ancient Hebrew—Hebrew word for good news, or Gospel, is **basar**.

Two meanings—good news and flesh or meat

Flesh, meat was only eaten on very special occasions, such as a feast or arrival of guests, or any event that required a celebration. Times of good news were associated with the slaughter of an animal and a meal of flesh. A household would invite guests to a feast for a celebration.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is a time of celebration, sharing with others how they can be saved through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

### **Application of the Gospel**

Romans 6:1-5—read in Bibles and highlight

Dead to sin

Buried with Jesus in baptism in Jesus' name

Resurrected by the Spirit

Acts 2:37-41—read in Bibles and highlight

Repentance

Baptism in Jesus' name

Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost

Acts 10:43-48—read in Bibles and highlight

Already repented

Baptized in Jesus' Name

Received the Holy Spirit

Witnessed by Peter, other brethren that were present.

Testimony was that the Gentiles had received the same gift that they did at the beginning in Jerusalem—Acts 11:13-18 and Acts 2:1-4.

Acts 19:1-6—read in Bibles and highlight

Disciples of John the Baptist were already believers

They were baptized in Jesus' name

They received the Holy Ghost and spoke with tongues

Ephesians 4:5—read in Bibles and highlight

One Lord  
One Faith  
One Baptism

Galatians 1:8-9—read in Bibles and highlight

The same Gospel that the Apostles preached is the same that **MUST** be obeyed today, otherwise the preacher is cursed.

Some people claim to have received a **NEW REVELATION** and state that an angel appeared to them with new revised Gospel. According to the scripture in Galatians 1:8-9, that angel is cursed, in other words is a lying spirit and **NOT** of God.

We do not worship angels—Colossians 2:18

## **Formula for Salvation**

Salvation is a **CRITICAL** topic. It is the **MOST** important subject in our study! Here's a step by step look at the Biblical salvation experience:

**REPENTANCE**—to think differently, to change one's mind or opinion, to regret, to be sorry for

What does the Bible say regarding **REPENTANCE**?

- Repentance symbolizes '**death**' unto our sin and former life
- Comanded by God—Acts 17:30
- Asking for forgiveness—when we sin, only the blood of Jesus can pay for those sins. We must ask Him for forgiveness, resolve to turn from our carnal—fleshly ways and begin living a life that pleases Him. II Chronicles 7:14—pattern for true repentance
- Change of Lifestyle—Acts 2:38. Not just regret, but to make a conscious decision to change their lifestyle. Instead of living for and through ourselves, we attempt to live according to the **WORD** of God.

- Necessary to TURN away from sin—go and sin no more
- Required for Salvation—Luke 13:3. We begin a new relationship with God at repentance.

## **Water baptism in Jesus Name—**

*baptizo*=to immerse, submerge; to cleanse by submerging

What does the Bible say regarding baptism in Jesus name?

- Baptism symbolizes '**Burial**' with Christ—Romans 6:4 and Colossians 2:13
- Baptism saves us. Mark 16:16
- Baptism is essential to be saved. John 3:5; I Peter 3:21
- Baptism remits sins—Acts 2:38 states that baptism is “for the remission of sins.” Jesus paid the price, or wrote the check. It’s up to us to cash that check.
- Baptism washes away sins. Acts 22:16, Ananias told Paul to “be baptized, and wash away thy sins.” I Corinthians 6:11. At baptism, God cancels the record of past sins and removes the future penalty due for them.
- Baptism is necessary for salvation—John 3:3-5
- How should we be baptized?

Biblical way—only one formula for baptism. Ephesians 4:5

- In Jesus name—Luke 24:47, preach baptism and remission of sins in His name; Acts 10:48; Acts 19:5; Colossians 3:17; His name is extremely important. It was His blood that as shed for those sins.
- Immersion in water—Baptism means to immerse

## **Filled with the Holy Ghost**

The term Holy Ghost is used to describe the gift that God promises to His followers. It is God in us—the Spirit of the only Holy One.

Other terms are: Holy Spirit—Luke 11:13. Comforter—John 15:26. Seal—Ephesians 4:30. Spirit of God—Romans 8:9. Living Water—I Corinthians 10:1-4. Power from on High—Luke 24:49. Born of the Spirit—John 3:3-5

- Holy Ghost adopts us into God’s Family. Romans 8:15 says that we have received the Spirit of Adoption. I Corinthians 12:3
- Holy Ghost prepares us for heaven. Romans 8:11 and I Thessalonians 4:16-17
- Holy Ghost is required for salvation. John 3:2-7—**read in your Bibles and highlight**
- Holy Ghost gives us power to be witnesses. Acts 1:8

Phrases used in Bible to describe the Holy Ghost experience:

Filled—Acts 2:4

Baptized—I Corinthians 12:13

Poured Out—Joel 2:28

Sent from Heaven—I Peter 1:12

### How does a person receive the Holy Ghost?

- Repent—God will NOT fill someone with the Holy Ghost until they have repented of their sins. You must first ask God to forgive you and cover your sins with His blood.
- Ask in Faith—Jesus said that they who believe shall receive (John 7:38-39).
- We should desire to be filled with the Holy Ghost **MORE** than anything else in the world—Matthew 7:7
- Offer praise to God—The Bible gives us a wonderful promise in James 4:8 that if we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. We have to move toward God to get God.

### What happens when a person receives the Holy Ghost?

Stammering Lips—Isaiah 28:11. As you raise God and give Him thanks, His Spirit will move upon you and you will feel God begin to take control of your tongue as you completely surrender to Him.

Speaking in tongues—As God fills you with the Holy Ghost, you will begin to glorify God in a language you do not know. God gives this audible evidence so we will know with complete certainty that He has filled us. Acts 2:2-4; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:6

Joy Unspeakable—When God fills you with His Spirit, an unbelievable joy will flood your soul. Psalm 51:12—joy of our salvation. I Peter 1:18—you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

### **Steps to Receiving the Holy Ghost**—by Missionary Mark Shutes, Latvia

Here are some tips on explaining how to pray in order to receive the Holy Spirit:

When we encourage a person to learn the bible study we need to pray for them to be opened to the truth of God's Word. Leading them to acceptance of the truth and conviction to repent which may open their hearts to receive the Lord and would result in them being filled with the Holy Spirit.

1. We must transmit a Faith in God, first of all, that God is able to do anything. The person must know that He loves them, and that He will fill them with His Spirit.
2. At this time give your personal testimony how you came to the Lord and were born again of water and Spirit and what happened to you.
3. Tell them that we are taught through God's Word that we are like an empty vessel, when we confess our sins to God.
4. Walk them through repentance—asking God to forgive them of anything that would hinder them from receiving the Holy Ghost.
5. Then, through our praise to God, we provide ourselves the opportunity for God to enter into our hearts to live forever.
6. Teach them how to praise God by saying *hallelujah* (what this means), *I praise you, I love you*, etc. Show them how to do it by opening their mouths to speak with God, and praying from the heart.
7. Explain to them why we raise our hands to the Lord, and that it means—*I surrender myself to you Lord*.
8. Let them know that they need to tilt their head up to the Lord, and that this means that they are confident that they will receive from the Lord.

9. Have them close their eyes when they pray so that they can be focused upon the Lord—not distracted by anything else going on around them.
10. Now have them raise their hands and begin to say hallelujah, and to praise the Lord with all of their hearts. Let them know that as they praise the Lord the Spirit of the Lord will come upon them, and that they may feel peace, joy, love, and that this is the Lord Jesus. As they are praising the Lord they will feel the presence of the Lord in a strong way, and that they at this time need to receive the Spirit of God, and they will start speaking words that they do not understand.
11. As they raise their hands and start praising the Lord, it is your time to lay your hand lightly upon their head and say receive the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost will come upon them, and now you simply encourage their faith by letting them know that they are doing this correctly. Imagine that you are coaching them forward in order for them to receive the Holy Ghost. Your faith needs to be that you see them filled with the Holy Ghost and speaking with tongues. Keep your hand on their head as long as they are praying with all of their hearts to receive the Holy Ghost.
12. When you see and hear them speaking with tongues, encourage them that this is the Holy Ghost, and encourage them to keep doing this.
13. After they are done praying, don't ask them if they received the Holy Ghost, simply ask them if they spoke words that they did not understand. If they said, yes, then let them know that this is the sign that they have received the gift of the Holy Ghost. At this point you want to congratulate them.
14. After they have been taught this lesson, and if they have received the Gospel and want to be baptized in Jesus Name, then you need to take them to the next step. They now need to be a part of a Home Group, where they can learn how to walk with God. They also need to be a part of the main assembly of the church if there is one in your area. You now need to be a very close friend to them and help them along until they can walk with God.
15. Once they have been filled, tell them that the Holy Spirit will guide us daily while we learn to walk in faith with God. We must be led to fulfill God's will for our lives, dying to our own self-will, as the Lord sacrificed for us. Living for God is a daily relationship—**not** a once saved, always saved situation. It's an ongoing process that we must CHOOSE to partake in every day.



## **Study Acts**—the book of history of the birth of the church

- Message to the Samaritans at Samaria  
Acts 8:12 & 14-17—men and women were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ  
The apostles laid their hands on those who believed, and they received the Holy Ghost.
- Salvation of the Gentiles—not Jews  
Acts 10:44-48  
They received the Holy Spirit with the visible evidence of speaking in tongues.  
The disciples knew they had received the Holy Ghost because they heard them speak with tongues.  
They were baptized in the name of the Lord—Acts 22:8
- Salvation of John’s Disciples—Paul talked to them on the way to Ephesus. While talking, Paul realized that they had already repented.  
Acts 19:1-6  
Were RE-baptized in the name of Jesus Christ  
Received the Holy Ghost and spoke with tongues

## **Study the Epistles**, the letters written to the saints in the churches across the Roman Empire; no one experienced salvation in these books—*Romans through III John*

- Message to Romans—the book was written to the church at Rome who had already fulfilled the salvation plan in the book of Acts.  
Romans 6:3-5—do you find the death, burial and resurrection in that passage?
- Eternal Life—when we follow the plan for salvation, the hope of eternal life is made available.  
John 14:1-4  
Jesus is preparing a place for us—Heaven—or the New Jerusalem—  
Revelation 21:2

Jesus will return for those who have followed this plan  
Jesus said we would know the way. The way is revealed in the Word  
of God.

### Extension of the study:

1. The word ***gospel*** means *good news* and is found over 100 times in the Word of God. Using a concordance, discover what the Scripture says about the gospel. If you don't own a concordance, you can access an online concordance at <http://biblestudytools.com/concordances/>  
Try to write down at least 10 places where the word Gospel is mentioned and why
2. Look in the same concordance to see if you can locate these examples:
  - Preach the gospel
  - Light of the gospel
  - Dispensation of the gospel
  - Blessing of the gospel
  - Separated unto the gospel
3. A few more scriptures on the mystery of the divinity and humanity in many ways:
  - As a man He was born in humility, but as God He was worshiped by men and angels—Luke 2:11-20. Thoughts?
  - As a man, He grew weary, John 4:6, but as God He had all power—Matthew 28:18. Thoughts?
  - As a man He slept on a pillow in a ship, but as God He rebuked the wind and the sea, and it obeyed Him, Mark 4:37-41. Thoughts?

- As a man He became hungry, John 4:2, but as God caused the bread to multiply at His command, Matthew 14:19-21. Thoughts?
  
- As a man He was tempted to sin, but as God He never gave in, Hebrews 4:15, Thoughts?
  
- As a man He had a physical body, but as God He was still that same Spirit who filled the universe. Locate verses for this one
  
- Jesus never had an impure thought, never gave into temptation. He was flawless. He was perfect. He also had something that HE did not previously have as a Spirit alone—As a man He had blood—perfect, sinless blood. Locate a scripture for this.

4. Why did Jesus come into this world? Read the scriptures to answer the question

- I Timothy 1:15
- John 10:10-11
- Hebrews 9:28
- II Corinthians 5:21
- I Timothy 2:5
- Romans 8:3
- John 20—story of the death, burial and resurrection
- Mark 10:45
- Romans 5:8-9 & 19

- I Corinthians 15:1 & 3-4
5. The Atonement was the payment for the sin of all humanity through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Read II Corinthians 5:17-21. Spend some time giving God thanks for His sinless sacrifice on the cross so that we might have freedom from sin.
6. In summary, the ***gospel*** (*good news*) –
- Jesus died for our sins—locate a scripture for this truth
  - He was buried—locate a scripture for this truth
  - He was resurrected on the third day—locate a scripture for this truth
7. Because of Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection, we have an opportunity to restore that relationship with our Creator. The chains of sin are broken, Our Redeemer Lives! Read each of the following scriptures and **make a list** of what is required to be saved. Circle each requirement that God provides in His Living Word, the Voice of God, the Bible.
- James 1:21
  - Proverbs 28:18
  - Luke 7:50
  - Acts 11:14
  - John 10:9
  - I Peter 3:21
  - Acts 2:37-40
  - Isaiah 45:22
  - Acts 16:31
  - Ephesians 2:8
  - Romans 10:13

- Titus 3:5
- Matthew 10:22
- Romans 8:24
- Mark 16:16
- Romans 10:9
- John 5:39
- Revelation 20:12-15

Define these terms: Use scriptures from the lesson too

- Repentance—
  
- Biblical method for baptism—
  
- Visible sign that accompanies the infilling of God’s Spirit in a life—

**KEY:** Study the scriptures for yourself—understanding & OBEYING the GOSPEL is the most important topic of our study—John 5:39.

One day, God will judge us by His Word—Revelation 20:12-15

A few books you might wish to read on this subject of the New Birth and the Gospel:

*How to Receive the Holy Ghost*—by J.T. Pugh

*Salvation in the Book of Acts*—Fred Kinzie

**Note to the Bible study teacher:**

After a person repents of their sins, and turns to God, they should be invited to be a part of a Home Group, where a group of believers meet weekly for prayer, study the Word of God through *Exploring God's Word*—Genesis to Revelation, and fellowship with each other. If you have a home group already started, it will be your home group. Connect them with the Director of Education, Valeria Hughes, at Victory, to get them plugged into the Sunday morning Discipleship classes called, **Basic Training**, that meet at 8:45 am. These classes are necessary for knowledge in spiritual disciplines and learning to walk with God on a daily basis as the study pointed out.

You need to meet with them on a weekly basis to strengthen them in the Lord. After a person repents of their sins, this is not enough: they need to be baptized in Jesus Name, and receive the Holy Spirit, and now learn to walk in holiness with God.

Satan will try to destroy them, and bring them back under his dominion, therefore, they need to be strengthened, and be with the assembly of the believers.