

ABOUT GOD AND HIS WORD
AND HOW TO LIVE FOR HIM:
A BOOK FOR YOUNG TEENS

Compiled By: Sandy Haga

Much Thanks to:

Levi Horton
Emily Goad
Amanda Carter

And Other Students in New Life Christian Academy
Who Contributed As Well

Dedicated to:

Levi Horton

*We Love and Appreciate You. Thank you for your wonderful testimony.
You are a light to many.*

Also dedicated to Emily Goad who inspired this book to be written.

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Introduction

By: Sandy Haga

I have taught for over 30 years. The last 25 years have been in our ministries' Christian Academy, New Life Christian Academy. During those years, I noticed that there were lots of books written for teens, but not many were written for the "in-betweens", those that were in between middle school and high school age. Some of the students and I were talking about this one day, and we decided to write a book ourselves.

First, we put together a list of questions that these students thought were important. Many of these were questions that they didn't know the answers to themselves. They had always wanted to know the answers to these questions. So this was good for them. Sometimes we can have questions that never get answered, because we don't take time to seek out the answer. We don't look up the answers in the Bible. We don't ask other people that we have confidence in to have the right answers. We don't ask God to show us the answers. So we never learn. By doing this, students learned how to find the answers to their questions. Then, we researched answers in the Bible and did lots of discussion. This book is a result of all that work.

I went back and edited everything, putting things together and adding some information, but this book is really written by the students. It is written by people who are your age, in your language. People who had some of the same questions that you may have are the ones who wrote this book. It is written so that you can understand the answers. It is written for you. Young people who had concern for other young people, and a willingness to help them to understand more are the ones who wrote it.

It is a book:

ABOUT GOD AND HIS WORD
AND HOW TO LIVE FOR HIM.

Note:

When you read verses in the Bible they are written like this: Genesis 1:5. That means that you look in the book of Genesis and find chapter 1 verse 5. The Bible is divided into two parts, the Old and the New Testament. The Old Testament is

the part that was written before Jesus was born, the New Testament is the part that was written after He was born. The Bible is also then divided into books.

The books of the Bible are like sections of the Bible written by a certain person at a certain time. Some of the books are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and so on. If you look in the front of your Bible you will find an index where it lists the books of the Bible. It will show you the page where that book is found. Then you can find the chapter and verse. You try it. Let's look up the verse John 3:16. Look in the front of your Bible in the index for the book of John. Turn there. Then at the top of the pages you will see the chapters that are found on those pages. That makes it easier to find the chapters. Look for chapter 3. Find that chapter on that page. Then go down and find verse 16. Read it. That is easy. That is how you look up verses in the Bible.

It is good to learn the order that the books of the Bible come in. Practice memorizing these. That will help you to be able to look up verses faster without having to look in the index to find the page numbers where each book is found.

Chapter 1 About God

Question:

How do we know God is real?

The first place that we go to find the answer to that question is the Bible. (You may wonder if we don't know that God is real, how do we know that the Bible is really His Word. Well, hang on a minute, and in another section, we'll answer how you can know that the Bible is real. For now let's start here.)

The Bible talks throughout about how God is real, and when we read the Bible we constantly see what He is like. The Bible also tells us many things about how we can know that God is real. It is full of stories where God did many miracles for His people. (We will talk later in this chapter about how another way we know God is real is because of miracles that He does for people today as well.) The first miracle that we read about in the Bible is how God made the world. Then He made the first people. It says that He spoke and when He spoke, things were created. We learn in public school that things evolved, that things just happened to come about. When we study all the wonderful things God made, we see that this can't have happened that way. Some of the ideas that scientists used to come up with what they call evolution (the idea that things just happened to create themselves in a crazy kind of way) have been proven to be wrong by other scientists. One of the ways that we can know that the story of creation is true is by looking at our own bodies. The Bible says in the book of Genesis, the first book in the Bible, in chapter 2 verse 7 that God made the first people out of dust from the ground. He picked up dirt and breathed life into it and made a man. Today when scientist analyze (study) the elements of our body (or the stuff our body is made of) they find that most of the things our body is made of is found in dirt. That is the first miracle we read about and when you study about it you know that God has to be real, and that He made the world and all that is in it.

We can see that God is real because of all the wonderful things that He has made. The public school books teach about evolution. They say that life just started out of nowhere. Then over millions of years that little blob of cells changed into a man through a process that was really just an accident. When you really study all the wonders in nature, in the universe, and especially when you study the human body and all about how it works, you can tell that all this was no accident. It was a careful plan put together on purpose by a huge and wonderful God. If you don't think so, begin to study for real all His creation. It won't take long before you change your mind. Next time you see a newborn baby, think about this.

Make your notes on this page.

The miracle of creation is only one miracle that we read about in the Bible. The Bible is full of stories that tell of things that God did for His people. One such story is the story of Joshua. Read this story in the Bible in the book of Joshua in chapter 10. In this story Joshua was fighting a battle against an enemy of God's people. It was almost night. They would lose the battle if it got dark. God made the day last longer. Scientists have proven that there was a day in time where it lasted longer.

We read a story in the Bible that happened after God sent a flood in the book of Genesis in chapter 11. We read that before this time, everyone spoke the same language. There were no different languages. After the flood, people started saying to themselves that they would build a tower to heaven to keep God from destroying them again. They started working on the tower. God stopped them from doing this by causing them all to speak a different language. Then they couldn't work on the tower any longer. When scientists who study how languages developed in the different countries study languages of the world, they have found that at one time in the ancient past, everyone spoke one language. At a certain time, this changed and different languages were brought about.

The Bible is full of miracles that God has done. Many of them, like the ones that we mentioned in this chapter, were proven to be true by scientists who didn't even believe that God is real. But they proved Him to be real. There are hundreds and hundreds of miracles in the Bible that prove that God is real. Only God could do these miracles that were written in the Bible. Here are more miracles. Read about how God brought His people out of a land where they were slaves in Exodus chapters 1 through chapter 14. It is a good story. It would be good for you to get out your Bible and read that story. Read in I Kings chapter 17 how God made food, and made alive a boy who was dead. Read in Matthew chapter 14 how 5,000 people were fed with 7 loaves of bread and a few fishes. Read in Matthew, the first book of the New Testament, how Jesus healed many people. All these miracles prove that God is real.

We also know that God is real because of the miracles that He does today. Here is a testimony from Levi Horton, one of the students who helped write this book. He said, *I went to a hospital to have an MRI. Before I went there, I had back and neck trouble. I had headaches. My neck was stiff. They said in the MRI that the fluid from my brain tumor had seeded itself into my brainstem, and my spinal cord. Tumor cells frosted my brain stem and spinal cord. I was eating Advil right and left for my pain. We were once again devastated. On Veteran's Day, Aaron and Amanda Crabb were in revival for that Sunday morning, and that Sunday night. We went to church and we enjoyed the service. Aaron prayed over me. I said, "I felt the Spirit of God like electricity run through my whole body." From then on, I have been healed of that pain. I thank the Lord for it each day.*

Make your notes on this page.

Many times today people are healed because God heals them. Mrs. Haga's mother was healed of an advanced stage of lymph cancer. God healed her, and she is still healed today. The doctor's tests showed that she was completely healed. This kind of cancer doesn't go away by itself. God healed a broken bone in Mrs. Cramer's son's hand. It grew back right in only a few days. God has healed both Mrs. Cramer and Mrs. Haga many times. He also healed many of the others who work at New Life. Many of the parents of students have been healed. God has done many miracles to help the school, the people who work at the school, and many parents of students, and students. Many others have experienced miracles. Ask the staff at New Life about the miracles that they have heard about through the years. Listen to the testimonies of people that you know who have seen God work miracles. All this proves that God is real. When you see God miraculously help you when you need help, that proves that God is real.

We also know that God is real because of His Spirit. His Spirit comes inside of us to live. We can feel Him. He changes us when He comes in. He helps us and strengthens us to be able to do the right things. When God comes into our hearts, there is such a difference that everyone can see that there has been a change in us. We will talk more about what it means to be saved, and how that can change us in a chapter coming up later. When God is inside you making a difference to your life, you know without a doubt that He is real.

Another way that we know God is real is because we can have a relationship with Him. We can get to know Him. He will show you that He is real. In the book of Matthew chapter 7 verse 7 we read, "Ask, and it shall be given you: seek, and ye shall find, knock, and it shall be opened unto you for every one that asketh receiveth and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." If we want God to show us that He is real, and we ask, and we seek Him, He will show us that He is real. He will become like your own father. In the book of I John chapter 3, verse 1, we read, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God..." He will show you how much He loves you. God is a personal God. He will get up close and personal to you if you let Him. That is the best way that we know that He is real.

Question:

How can we find out for ourselves that God is real?

God answers that question for us several times in the Bible. Jeremiah told us in Jeremiah 23:3 that God said this. "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Jeremiah 31:3 says, "The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." He will draw us to Him.

Make your notes on this page.

Acts 17:27 says, “That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.” God is nearer you than you think. If you really want to know if He is real, seek Him with all your heart. He will let you know that He is real. He will draw you to Himself.

Question:

What is God like?

James 1:17 tells us, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” “With whom is no variableness” means there is no change. God never changes. He doesn’t have to. He is perfect. How can someone who is perfect change for the better? All this is hard for our little finite (not eternal) minds to understand. On earth we were born and we will die. On earth we have a beginning and we will have an end. It is hard for us to understand someone that isn’t that way. But it is still true. A lot of things about God are too big for our minds to understand. That doesn’t change the fact that they are true. The Bible says that as far as the heavens are from the earth God is above our understanding. Isaiah 55:8-9 tells us, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” God is smarter than us. As far as the heavens are above the earth is His understanding above us. We can’t even understand Him with our minds if He doesn’t show Himself in a way that we can understand. He is so big that He is bigger than eternity. He understands eternity. He is bigger than time itself. He knows everything and sees everything. He is that huge. He knows all about you and what you are like. He knew you the day you were born, and He knows how you will be the day that you die. Not only that, but He knows all about you, even what your heart is like, how you feel and how you think. Luke 16:15 tells us that “God knoweth your hearts”. He knows you even better than you know yourself. Better than that, He will always be there for you. He will never forsake you. Isaiah 41:17 tells us, “When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.” He will be there for you and never let you down. He is perfect. Deuteronomy 32:4 tells us, “He is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: a God of truth without iniquity, just and right is He.” Iniquity is another word for sin. God has no sin. He makes no mistakes. He does no wrong. There is no darkness in Him. He is all light. You won’t find any dark side to God. I John 1:5 tells us, “This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.”

Make your notes on this page.

The Bible tells us that God is love. He loves you with a perfect love, because He is a perfect love. He loves you so much that He sent His only Son to die for your sins so that you can eternally be with Him. That is grace. You don't have to be afraid that one day he will find out that you aren't perfect and quit loving you. He already knows all about you, and still loves you. He will be there for you and be your God. Leviticus 26:12 tells us, "And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people." He won't love you today and be gone tomorrow like your friends sometimes do. He will become closer to you as time goes on.

Here are some more verses that tell what God is like. II Samuel 22:33 tells us, "God is my strength and power: and He maketh my way perfect." I Chronicles 16:14 tells us, "He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth." Psalm 62:7 and 8 tells us, "In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in Him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us." Psalm 71:5 tells us, "For thou art my hope, oh Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth." Romans 15:13, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." God is a positive God. He is a God of hope. We don't have to be afraid or down and out and depressed when we know Him, because He will lift us up.

Question:

When was God born? Who made God?

Who made God? The Bible tells us that in the beginning of all things God already was. John 1:2 tells us, "The same was in the beginning with God." Nobody made God. He wasn't born. He had no beginning. He has always been, and He always will be. Nothing made Him because He always was. Nothing was before Him.

This gives you just an idea of what God is like. The best way to find out that He is real, and what He is like is to get to know Him. He can show you Himself. Be willing to seek Him, and He will find you. He is already looking to get to know you.

Make your notes on this page.

Chapter 2 About Jesus

Question:

Who is Jesus?

Jesus is God's Son. John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." The Bible also tells us that Jesus is our savior. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is the Lamb of God.

Jesus is eternal. Just like God, He has always been and always will be. We read in the Bible that He was born in Bethlehem as a baby (Matthew 2:1). But we read in the first chapter of John that He was in heaven before that. In other words, He was in heaven before He was born on earth. Then He was born as a baby, lived here, and died for our sins. Then He went back to heaven to be where He started. How did that happen? How did that come about? God just made it happen that way. He can do things that are way past what we understand. That doesn't mean it didn't happen, just because we don't understand how it did. We have to trust what He says in His Word. We don't understand a lot of things, like the details of how a remote control works, but we all have one in our houses. We use them every day. We don't know how satellite TV works, but we have them. Just because we don't understand something, it doesn't mean that it isn't what it is, and it doesn't mean that it isn't real. We won't understand all the things about God. He is beyond our understanding. He is too smart and too big for us to understand. But that doesn't mean that He can't do the things He does. That doesn't mean He isn't real. We don't understand how Jesus came down from heaven to be born as a baby, so that He could die for our sins, but that doesn't mean it didn't happen.

Question:

What is Jesus like?

Jesus loved you so much that He came to earth, was born as a baby, so that He could understand you. He knows what it is like to be 5, 13, 18, and 25 years old. He walked here with us so that He could know what it was like to be human. He knows us because He had a body like us. Hebrews 4:14-15 tells us, "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." He understands you because He's been there. He came to earth so that He could understand us, to feel what we go through.

Make your notes on this page.

Also, He came to die for our sins. Jesus was born to die. That is a lot of love. What other friend has done that much for you. Romans 5:6-8 tells us, “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” He didn’t die for you because you were good, and you deserved it. He died for you because you were not good, and the only way that you could go to heaven was if you were forgiven. He is a friend that will stick closer than a brother. He loves you very, very much.

Question:

Why Did Jesus Die?

Jesus died on the cross.

Why did Jesus die? He died on the cross so we could be forgiven for our sins. The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. What we earn when we sin is eternal death, eternal separation from God. We could not be perfect. Somebody who was perfect had to die for sin. We couldn’t die for ourselves because we aren’t perfect. Jesus was perfect. He had no sin. So He took your punishment. He did this because He loves you.

It is like this. This is an example. Maybe there are two brothers. One is in trouble. The other takes the blame and the punishment so that the other can get out of being punished. The trouble that you got into is sin. The Bible says that everyone has sinned. Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God...” Everybody has sinned. Everybody had to be punished. Jesus took our punishment so that we wouldn’t have to be punished.

Question:

What did Jesus go through when He was crucified on the cross?

We read about what Jesus went through in John chapters 18-19. We read that He was betrayed by His friends who ran away because they were afraid. We read how one of His best friends lied and said that he didn’t know Him. We read how the crowd put a crown of thorns on His heads. The thorns were so big that they dug into His skull. They made fun of Him and spit on Him. They beat Him so bad that you couldn’t tell what His face looked like. They whipped Him 39 times with a whip that tore the skin and flesh from His back. Then He was hung on the cross. The cross was such a bad thing that the Romans said it was against the law for their own people to die that way. They fastened Him to the cross with huge spikes in His hands and feet. He hung there for hours until He died.

Make your notes on this page.

The hardest thing He went through was dying for our sins. While He was on the cross He took on Himself the punishment for everything that you have done wrong, for everything all of us have done wrong. He took the punishment for it all so that we could be forgiven. God turned His back on Him because He couldn't look on all our sin that was on Him. Still Jesus did all this because He loved us. Here are some more verses about Jesus' love for you. John 15:9 says, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love." Romans 8:35, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" Jesus loves you very much.

Question:

How can we waste all that Jesus did for us? How can we make fun of it?

One way we can waste all that Jesus did for us is by not believing, and not getting saved. If you don't believe in who God is, who Jesus is, and how Jesus died for us, and all He has done for you, then He died for nothing as far as you are concerned. When He hung there on the cross it was for you as much as it was for anyone else. So when you shut up your brain and refuse to believe in it that means that part of what He did for you was wasted.

We can also do that by keeping on sinning. Some people get the idea that because God loves them, and Jesus loved them enough to die for them, that it is OK to do whatever they want to. After all that He went through for us, we need to let Him help us to be and do the best we can be. We don't need to do whatever we want, even though it is against His Word and His will for us just because we have been forgiven.

Question:

Why is Jesus called the Lamb of God?

Because He was the lamb that was killed. He was sacrificed for us. In the beginning, from the time when Adam and Eve (the first people) sinned until Jesus died for our sins, God told people to kill a lamb as a sacrifice. It couldn't forgive them of their sins like Jesus did, but God told them to do this to remind them that one day a perfect Lamb (Jesus) would come and die. When He did, they would be forgiven for their sins. That is why the Bible talks about Jesus as being the Lamb of God.

Also, the Bible talks about how Jesus left as a lamb who died for us, but He will come back as a lion, a conqueror who will beat the devil. He will be King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Make your notes on this page.

Question:

Some people think that they haven't done anything as bad as other people do. If they haven't sinned, did Jesus die for them, too?

Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God". We talked about that verse before. Here's more about this. God is a perfect Holy God. He can't improve, because He is the best already. The Bible says that He is so perfect, that our best that we can do is like filthy rags compared to Him. He loves us still. So even if we think that we haven't done anything as bad as other people have done, that doesn't mean that we haven't done anything wrong. We can't be perfect. The only way that we can be good is to let His Spirit come inside us and help us to be better people. Jesus comes inside us and lives. He can help us to be better. We will talk more about this in the chapter about salvation.

A Question For You To Answer:

Now that you know about Jesus and what He did for you, what are you doing about all this? Do you believe? Have you been saved? Have you asked Jesus to come into your heart? If you aren't sure what it means to be saved, then go to the chapter about salvation. Are you doing your best for God? Are you continuing to sin on purpose knowing that what you are doing is wrong? Are you making all that Jesus did for you to be all for nothing, or are you making fun of what Jesus did for you? Usually at the end of the questions, we put the answers. These questions, only you can answer.

Make your notes on this page.

Chapter 3 About the Holy Ghost

Question:

Who is the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost?

The Holy Ghost is also called the Holy Spirit in the Bible. These terms both mean the same thing. He is a part of God.

Question:

What does it mean when we talk about how God has more than one part?

God has three parts. One part of God is God the Father. Another part of God is Jesus. Another part of God is the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost. To explain this, there is a little song that goes “He’s God in the Father. He’s God in the Son (His son Jesus). He’s God in the Holy Ghost. He’s God all three in one.”

To understand this, think about this. Get an egg and three bowls. Crack the egg and separate out the white and put it in one bowl. Put the egg yellow in another bowl. Put the eggshell in another bowl. How many bowls do you have? There are 3. How many parts of the egg do you have? There are three. How many eggs do you have? There is only one egg. That is how God is. He has three parts of Him that all work together. All three are like one. They think what the other thinks, they all agree in perfect agreement, they all work together just like they are one, but they are three separate parts. God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost are all a part of God.

Question:

What does the Holy Ghost do for us?

We will talk more about what it means to be saved in a later chapter. When we are saved, Jesus through the Holy Ghost comes inside of our hearts to live. God’s Spirit comes right inside of us. He lives inside of us helping us to do right, to think the right way, and He helps us to understand God and His Word.

Question:

What does the Bible say about the Holy Ghost?

Here are some verses about the Holy Ghost:

Ezekiel 36:27, “And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” God’s Spirit comes inside of us to help us to do what God wants us to do. It helps us to be better than what we can be ourselves.

Make your notes on this page.

John 14:16-17, “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” This tells us that God sent the Holy Ghost to be with us for forever. It tells us that the Holy Ghost is a Spirit of truth, and will show us the truth. It also tells us that the Holy Ghost will live inside us.

I Corinthians 3:16, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” This says that God lives inside of us, and that we are like His church. That should really make you think about not doing wrong things when you know they are wrong. When you do them, remember that God through His Spirit is living in you if you have been saved.

I John 2:27, “But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.” This tells you that God’s Spirit that comes inside you will help you to understand things in the Bible, and how to be a Christian. He will help you to understand the truth of things. Understanding these things will help you to abide or live in Him. It will help you to have a good life.

Question:

If the Holy Ghost lives inside of us, when does He come inside of us and how?

When we get saved, we ask Jesus to come in our heart. We invite Him to live in us. He does through the Spirit of God. That is when the Spirit of God comes inside of us. If you don’t want Him to come in, if you don’t invite Him in, then He won’t come in. We are made so that this can happen. We have a part of us that is a holder to hold the Spirit of God. We are made so that He can come into our hearts. When we are saved, that is what happens.

Question:

Why does the Holy Ghost or Spirit of God come inside of us?

God knew that we couldn’t do what we needed to do, or be the best we could be, with out His help. We can’t be good. It is easier to be bad then it is to be good. We need all the help we can get to keep our lives straight and keep from messing up. When God’s Spirit comes inside of us, He helps us to be what God wants us to be. He helps us to do right. He strengthens us. He makes us bold. The Bible says that the Holy Ghost will comfort us when we are really sad. It also says that He will teach us about God and His Word.

Make your notes on this page.

Question:

What does it mean when the Bible and people in church talk about the anointing?

The anointing of God is when God's Spirit is there in a church service, or when someone sings or preaches and His Spirit is touching what they do. When God anoints someone, His Spirit comes on what they do. It is like His approval. They are doing what He has told them to do, and He is anointing what they do.

Question:

Why does God anoint us?

When God anoints, His Spirit will cause people to be saved, to be healed, to be set free from things that are causing them to be bound up and not free (like alcohol, and drugs). When God anoints, His Spirit will cause people to be set free from fear, and anxiety, and anger, and rebellion, from all kinds of things that mess them up. When God anoints, His Spirit will cause us to be able to help people in a wonderful way, when we can't do that by ourselves.

We will talk more in a chapter coming up about things that take place in church that the anointing of God does.

Make your notes on this page.

Chapter 4 About the Bible

Question:

Who wrote the Bible?

The Holy Spirit led people what to write. He told them what to write. There were lots of people who wrote the Bible, but God's Spirit told them what to write, so He is the main author. The Bible was written over a time period of 1,500 years. It took over 40 generations for it to be written. Over 40 authors wrote it from every walk of life. Every part of it from start to finish agrees. All of the separate parts of it that were written by all those authors agree just as if one author had written it.

Even though there were several men who helped write the Bible, God is the author. God told people what to write, and they wrote it. Ezekiel 1:3 tells how the book of Ezekiel was written. "The Word of God came expressly unto Ezekiel, the priest...and the hand of the Lord was there upon him." Acts 1:16 tells us about something that happened in Acts, "Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus." The Holy Ghost will speak through and to people. In II Peter 1:21 we read, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." God's Spirit told people what to write and they did. That is why the Bible is such a different book. God wrote it by His Spirit.

Question:

What does the Bible say about itself?

Psalm 119:89 says, "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." From the beginning of time to the end of time, God's Word will stand.

I Peter 1:25 tells us, "But the Word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

Jesus said this about the Bible in Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

Psalm 119:105 tells us, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Psalm 119:47-48 says, "And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved: and I will meditate in thy statutes."

Make your notes on this page.

The main reason why the Bible was written is found in John 20:31, “But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

Question:

How do we know that these people wrote what God told them to write, and that they just didn't make it up?

One of the reasons that we know that God told people what to write is the prophecies that are in the Bible. The hundreds of prophecies that are in the Bible prove that God's Spirit led people what to write. A prophecy is something that is said or written about something before it happens. God shows someone something that is going to happen, and they write about it. There are hundreds and hundreds of prophecies in the Bible. There are over 300 prophecies that are just about Jesus, His life on earth and how He died. We can even read in the Bible about things that are happening today. How can this be so? God knows everything. He is so big that in the past He could see the future. He knows your future as well as He knows the day you were born. He knows all the details about you all through time. He even knows how many hairs are on your head. Matthew 10:30 says, “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.” He is different than us. Time, future or past, is all the same to God. He knows everything. So thousands of years ago He was able to tell the Bible's writers what is going to happen even today. Through all this we can see that it is easy to know that the Bible was written because God told the people what to write. That is one of the reasons too that we know that the Bible is true, and it is God's Word.

We know that God led people what to write, also, because even though it was written by so many people who wrote so many years apart, it all agrees.

Question:

You hear about all kinds of prophecies, like the Mayan Prophecies, and others. How do you know that these aren't just as true as the Bible?

The prophecies in these things are very general. They aren't specific. If you say something that is a general statement, then in the next hundred years, that general statement will come true just because it isn't very specific, and people want to make it be true. If I say that before a really bad thing happens, the sky will be purple, then something bad happened and the sky was purple, then everybody says, oh you are a prophet telling something before it happens. But the sky was purple hundreds of time before that. The Bible prophecies are different because they are very specific. The Bible specifically gives details. You don't have to work the prophecies around to make them seem true, because they are true.

Make your notes on this page.

Question:

Why do we need to read the Bible?

The Word of God is one name that we give the Bible because it is God's Words. Another name given the Bible is the Bread of Life. Deuteronomy 8:3 says, "And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live." Taking in food helps our body to stay strong. Taking in God's Word helps our spirit to stay strong. Taking in food helps us to grow in body. Taking in spiritual food (God's Word) helps us to grow in the inside of us, helping us to be strong people who will stand up for what is right.

Taking in God's Word helps us to know how to live, and helps us to be strong enough to do what we know to do. Psalms 119:9-12 says, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes." We can come clean by listening to God's Word and taking it into our heart. If we want with all our heart to do right, God's Word will help us to do it. It can help us not to sin.

The Bible also helps us to know what God and Jesus, and the Spirit of God are all like. It helps us to get close to them, and love them. It talks about how much we are loved, and about how special we are. We all need to hear this.

The Bible also keeps our faith strong. Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." God's Word makes our faith to be stronger. We will talk more in another chapter about what faith is and why having a strong faith is important.

Question:

Why is the Bible written with thees and thous and in the different way of talking?

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament was written in Greek. The Bible was translated into English in the 1500's. That is how people talked when it was translated. They spoke what is called old English. Since that is how they talked, that is how they wrote the Bible when they translated it.

Question:

Why are there different versions of the Bible and which one is right?

Make your notes on this page.

The Bible was originally translated into English in the King James Version. Down through the years, people took it and wrote it different ways. Sometimes one person wrote it the way he thought it ought to be. Sometimes a team of people translated. Some people got together and changed it to be what they wanted it to be. Some people may have tried to do it the way God wanted it to be translated. Some just changed it on their own. That is why some translations are good, and some are bad. For example, one translation took out anything that mentioned the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. One translation changed what we need to do to be saved. One translation took out the part about us being able to be healed. If we aren't careful we can get a translation that doesn't match God's Word totally. The one most accepted is the King James Version because it was the first translation.

Question:

What is a concordance and how can it help me?

A concordance has words that are in the Bible. You can look up a word and see what verse has that word in it. For example, if you want to study more about God's love, you can look up love in the concordance, and find verses that talk about God's love. Or if you can't remember a verse, but you know part of it, you can look it up to see where it is in the Bible. You can find a small concordance in the back of most Bibles. Or you can get a big concordance that is huge with every word (Strong's Concordance). They are very helpful.

Question:

What if we read the Bible, but we don't listen to what it says and do what it says, will that help us?

In James 1:24-25, we read about a different man. It talks about someone who looks in the mirror and sees what a mess he is. He may be dirty faced with his hair sticking up on end all crazy. He looks at himself and walks away and doesn't wash his face and comb his hair. He stays a mess. It did no good for him to look in the mirror. He didn't change. It didn't help him. Here is the verse: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." If we want to be blessed in our deeds, blessed in the things that we do, then we need to read God's Word and we need to do what it says to do. It will help us and it will change our life, and it will cause us to be better people. We will be successful, happy, and blessed.

Make your notes on this page.

Question:

What are the parts of the Bible?

We talked before about how there are two main parts in the Bible, the Old and New Testament. The Old Testament was written before Jesus was born, and the New Testament was after. Each of the parts is made up of several parts. We call each part books of the Bible because they are like separate little books inside one big one. The Old Testament starts with the book of Genesis, which tells about how God created the earth and everything. It also tells about some of the main characters of the Bible like Abraham. It is a good book to read because it tells about the beginning of everything. The book of Exodus tells us about the story of Moses and how God led his people out of slavery. It is an exciting book of the Bible to read. The next several books up to the book of Judges tells the history of the Israelite people (the people who make up the nation of Israel). Israel is God's chosen nation. He has taken much care of them through time because of a promise that He made to Abraham. A lot of the Old Testament talks about the country, people, and history of Israel.

The book of Ruth tells a story about a lady named Ruth and how God blessed her. The book of First and Second Samuel, and First and Second Kings, and First and Second Chronicles tells about a prophet named Samuel, his life, and a king named David, and his life, and about David's son Solomon. (Many times you will see something like I Kings, and II Kings or I Samuel and II Samuel. That means First and Second Kings, or First or Second Samuel. Sometimes books of the Bible will be divided up into two parts like that. Kind of like part 1 and part 2.) The book of Ezra tells about a man named Ezra and how he obeyed God and did something really special. The book of Nehemiah tells about another person who obeyed God and did something special as well. It talks about people who had to build something and fight while they built. Read it for a great story.

The book of Esther tells about a queen who saved her people. The book of Job tells about a man who lost everything, and still served God. God then blessed him back. The book of Psalms is written mostly by King David who was also a musician. The book of Solomon was written by David's son, the wisest man who ever lived, to his son. It is wonderful book to read with all kinds of wise sayings that help us. Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon were also written by Solomon. The rest of the Old Testament has books that were written by prophets of those days, special men who lived during those times, and who spoke for God.

When we look at the New Testament, the first four books there are called the Gospels, because they tell of Jesus life. Four different people who traveled with him and followed him wrote these. They were called disciples. Then we find the book of Acts. It is an exciting book that tells about the early churches.

Make your notes on this page.

Acts tells about how the first churches were started, how they were persecuted, and how they overcame. It tells about what the early Christians went through, and all that God did to help them to be strong and spread the Gospel around the world. (By the way, when you hear the word Gospel, it means good news.)

The rest of the New Testament, except for the last book (the book of Revelations), is made up of letters that were written to the early churches, and to different people. A man named Paul who helped to start a lot of the first churches wrote most of them. You can read his story in the book of Acts. These are good books to read to find out how to live, and how to find strength, faith, and encouragement.

The book of Revelations is the last book of the Bible. It is a book of prophecy. Remember, we talked earlier about how prophecy is things that God led people to write that often talks about what will happen in the future. There are some things written in Revelations that are happening now. It talks about what it will be like when all are in heaven, too.

Question:

What do I need to read? I am not sure where to start reading?

It is good to start reading the Gospels, the first four books of the New Testament because these tell about Jesus, and it helps you to be able to get to know Him. Then read the rest of the New Testament. It helps you to be able to understand more about the Christian life, and how God can help you to do that. Then read the Old Testament. You could start with the book of Psalms and then read Proverbs. Then read the rest of the Old Testament. Then after you read all that, start at the beginning of the Bible and read it all the way through.

Question:

I can't understand what I read? How can I find help?

The Bible comes with a built in teacher. I John 2:27 says, "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." That means that the anointing of God's Spirit will teach you what the Bible says when you read it. For you to understand God's Word, you have to have His Spirit, the Holy Ghost, in your heart. You have to be saved. When you have His Spirit in your heart, then He can help you to understand things in the Bible that you can't understand on your own. God will help you to understand. He will teach you. Ask Him to, and believe that He will. He promises to do that.

Make your notes on this page.

Question:

If I have already read the Bible once, why do I need to read it again?

God's book is different than any other book. It will really change your life. It will help you like no other. We read before how much it can help you. Also, you will learn as you grow in God that every time that you read it, God will show you different things. He will show you things when you need to know them. You will understand more every time you read it.

Make your notes on this page.

Chapter 5 About Faith

Question:

What does it mean when we talk about faith? What is faith?

The Bible describes faith in Hebrews 11:1, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” In other words, we don’t see God, but we believe that He is. We learn to see the evidence that He is there. We see the things that He does. We feel Him in our hearts, and see how He is working for us. We see the evidence all around us that He is real, even though we can’t see Him. We believe that He is. We read His Word. We believe that it is true. We accept Him into our heart, and we are saved. We believe that is real. All this takes faith.

When we pray for God to do something, that is faith. The wonderful part about faith is that when we believe enough to pray, then we see what He does to answer our faith. Our faith in the unseen becomes seen, because we see what He has done to answer our prayer.

There are two parts to faith. One part of faith is to believe that God is. Another part of faith is to believe that He will do it for us. That part is called trust. We have to trust God’s love for us. We have to trust that He will hear us and answer our prayers. We have to trust that He loves us enough to do that. We have to trust that we are special to Him. Faith is believing in God. Trust is the personal part of faith. Faith is knowing that He can. Trust is knowing that He will do it for us.

Question:

Why is it important to have faith?

All the things of God come about because of faith. For example, if we don’t have faith that God is real, then we won’t have anything that He can give us. If we don’t believe in salvation, then we will never get saved. If we don’t believe that the Bible is true, then we won’t ever have any of its promises. If we don’t believe that we can be healed, we will never be healed. If we don’t believe that God can help us to be set free from things that mess up our lives, then we will never be set free. If we don’t believe in God’s love personally for us, then we will always be miserable. If we don’t believe that God can take care of us in every situation, then we will become all messed up with fear. All God’s things come because we believe. Believing is like the gateway that lets in everything that God can do for us. Faith is what you believe, and how you believe it. It is what God gives us to help us along in life. When you have faith you don’t doubt.

Make your notes on this page.

You don't wonder what is going to happen to you. You know it will be all right because God will help you.

Question:

How do we get faith? How can our faith grow?

Romans 12:3 says, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." This means that God gives us all some faith. What we do with that faith causes it to grow. If we exercise our faith, it will grow. If we pray, and see God answer our prayers, it grows our faith so that we pray more. If we do things that we know God has put on our heart to do, and we see how He blesses that, we see how He works with what we have done, then we have faith to do more. For example, if God leads us to talk to someone about Him and they get saved, then that makes our faith grow so that we do that again. Using our faith makes it grow. The people who have strong faith have much more peace in their lives. They are also the ones who make a difference in the lives of everyone around them, because they are believing God and obeying Him.

The Bible says that we can ask God to grow our faith and make it stronger. Luke 17:6 says that the disciples (apostles) asked Jesus to increase their faith. We know from this that God can make our faith stronger. He uses the Bible to do this. The Bible tells us that faith comes by God's Word, (the Bible). Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." When we read in the Bible about how big and great God is, and about how He works for His people, then this makes our faith grow. That is why it is important to read the Bible. Also, listening to good preaching helps to grow our faith. Listening to Gospel music that talks about how big and good God is helps to grow our faith.

Question:

Who are some people in the Bible who had a lot of faith?

We didn't write out the stories of everyone here, but please read your Bible and see how God used these people who had a lot of faith.

Abraham— Genesis 12:1-7 (God blessed Abraham and made the nation of Israel from his children)

Caleb—Joshua 14 (God blessed Caleb's faith coming out of the desert)

David—I Samuel 17 (God helped him to kill Goliath, and later made him king)

Make your notes on this page.

Jehoshaphat—II Chronicles 10 (God helped him to win a battle just by praising him)

The Leper and the Centurion Soldier—Matthew 8

The blind Man in Matthew 9

The diseased woman in Matthew 14

Hebrews 11 is called the Hall of Faith, because it talks about many people who believed God.

Questions:

Does God do the same thing today that He did for these people in the Bible?

God will help you just as much as He did those people in the Bible. You are special to Him just as much as they were. God will do miracles for you if you need Him to.

Make your notes on this page.

Chapter 6 About Salvation

Question:

What does it mean to be saved?

It means that you know that Jesus is real. You admit that Jesus is your Lord. You choose to give yourself to Him. It means that you do what the Lord wants to do, and you live the way He wants you to live. It means that you make a commitment to serve Him. It means you are a part of His plan. It means that you are forgiven from all the things that you have done wrong, and that you have His Spirit in your heart to help you to do and be better.

Question:

How can we be saved?

Ask Jesus into your heart. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins. Believe that He will do these things. Make a choice to serve Him. Make a commitment to Him. The Bible says in Romans 10:8-11, "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." If you aren't saved, then you can pray and Jesus will come into your heart. It is good to do this at church, but you can get saved anywhere. Just pray a prayer like this prayer:

Jesus, please forgive me of all that I have done wrong. I want to live for you. I want you to help me to do this. Come into my heart. I give my live to you.

When you say this prayer, it can't be just words. You have to mean it in your heart. It isn't something that you do half-hearted. You have to purpose in your heart that you love God, and that you want His love. It is the beginning of a relationship with Him that is real.

Question:

Why should you get saved?

When you get saved, you become God's child. We are loved with a great love. Psalm 100:3 says, "Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture."

Make your notes on this page.

Psalm 144:15 says, “Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.” When we are saved, we are God’s people. We are special to Him.

When we are saved, we have guidance to know where to go. God leads us. He leads us into good places. He keeps us safe. When we are saved, God becomes our Father, and He will love us and keep us like the most wonderful Father that could ever be. We become part of the family of God, part of all God’s kids. We also know that we are forgiven for all we have done wrong, and we know that God will help us to change to be better. When Jesus comes into our heart through God’s Spirit, there is a change. We no longer just have us in there, because He is in there too. That will make a difference in us. We won’t feel empty. We won’t feel like nobody cares. Or if we do, it won’t last long. We know we are special because we have Jesus in our heart. We know that we can do all things, because He is in us, and He will help us.

Another thing that we are saved from is hopelessness. We don’t have to be hopeless. God is our Father. He spoke and made the whole world. He made it right. It is a mess because we messed it up. If He can speak and create the whole world, then we know that He can take care of us. No matter how big your problems seem, or how bad the world seems, you have hope that things will turn out better. Romans 8:28 tells us, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.” You might go through bad things, but even those will be turned into good. The Bible says plainly that you don’t have to be afraid. You don’t have to worry. Over 366 times in the Word of God it says to “fear not”. If I look at the world and all the bad situations, my heart will fail me with fear. If I concentrate on all the bad things around me, I will feel bad all the time. Some people actually are sick because all they think of all the time is the bad things around them. If I think on things that cause me to be afraid all the time, I will have panic attacks and health problems. If I think about God and his Word, His love and His promises to me, I will be all right. I will be full of joy. I won’t have fear. That is what happens when you are saved, and you become God’s child.

Question:

What happens when we get saved?

He starts showing us that He is real. He starts showing us that we are doing wrong. We feel conviction because of our sin. Conviction means that God begins to show us that we have done wrong, and that we need Him. The Bible says that we are all so bad that we really can’t naturally by ourselves do anything good. Just naturally, on our own, if God doesn’t show us what is right and what is wrong, then we can’t know it on our own. It isn’t in our nature to know the difference.

Make your notes on this page.

It is our nature to want it our way. It is our nature to make excuses for the wrong we do so that we can keep on doing it. Doing things our way won't give us a peaceful, victorious live on earth, and it certainly won't lead us to heaven. God shows us what is wrong when He convicts us. We begin to repent. That means that we become very sorry for what we do wrong. We begin to feel so sorry that we purpose in our heart not to do those things again. Then He starts leading us to give our heart and our life to Him. We start to feel His love. Somebody will say something about Him, and we start to feel lonely for Him. We start to want to have His help in our lives. Then we might be at church or talking to one of His children, or just lying by ourselves in bed at night and it happens. We start to feel God's presence. We feel His love just like He is there wrapping His arms around us. Nobody has to tell us He is real because we feel Him there with us. We may start to cry. We know that He is asking us to make a decision to give our heart and life to Him. We do. We say yes. We pray, "God, I give you my heart and life." We ask Him to come into our heart. We confess our sin and repent. We tell Him that we are sorry. Our heart breaks because we can feel His love and we are sorry that we ever hurt Him by doing wrong. Then we ask Him to forgive us. Maybe we remember John 3:16. We know He will forgive us if we ask. Then we feel a load lift up off us. We know somehow that we have been washed clean from the inside out. We feel His love in a mighty way and we know that we are forgiven.

We ask Him to come into our heart, and we know that He does. His Spirit comes inside of us. We feel different-new and changed. And we aren't lonely any more. We don't have that empty feeling inside of us any longer. We know that we are loved with a great love-the greatest love we could ever find. We know that we are precious in His eyes. We become God's own children. We are special. We fit into a crowd that is the best crowd that anyone could ever belong to, God's family. It doesn't matter after that what anyone thinks about us or says about us. It doesn't change how we feel about ourselves. We are loved. No, we aren't perfect. No matter. That doesn't change His love. God's love will love us like we are, but it is a love that will change us. There is a little song that says, "He's still working on me. To make me what I ought to be". That is how we are. We are a work in progress. We can be proud of who we are, even if we know we aren't perfect, because we know that God is working on the things that aren't perfect.

Question:

Do I have to change when I get saved? There are some things that I want to do that are bad? Do I have to give these things up to be saved?

The best way to answer that question is to put it in different words. We could ask it this way. Do I get to change and give up the things that are bad for me?

Make your notes on this page.

The answer is yes. God will help you to change and give up the things that are bad for you, the things that can destroy your life. Why wouldn't you want to give those things up? One thing that God does for you when you become saved is that He will change your "want to". He will change the things that you want to do away from the bad things to the good things. He does this when His Spirit comes into your heart. He does this because He loves you and wants the best for you. If He really cared about you, why would He let you keep doing things that mess up your life and your future, your mind and your heart, your life, and the lives of those who love you? If you really want to keep a mess in your life, instead of having a life filled with good things, then you need to stop and think really hard about why.

Question:

Will I have to give up my friends when I get saved?

Sometimes people won't get saved because they are afraid of what everyone will think. When you feel this way, you need to remember that Jesus died for you because He loves you this much. You need to realize that if your friends don't want you to change for the better, if they don't want you to get the best that God has for you, then your friends don't care for you as much as you thought. Also, you may think that your friends will talk against you becoming saved, but they may in their heart wish that they had the courage to do the same thing. You may lead your friends to the Lord by making the first step. Care enough about your friends to try. If you do, and they turn their back on you, then you don't need that kind of friends. When you get saved, you will find out who your friends really are.

Also, when you get saved, you become part of the family of God. It is a huge family. God's children are all over the world. They think alike, because they serve the same God. They all live by the same things taught in the same Bible. They love one another because God loves them. You won't ever be alone. You will always have Jesus as your best friend, and God as your heavenly Father. You will always have the family of God.

Question:

Can't I be saved by just going to church and doing good? Isn't that how to be saved?

Jesus says this in John 14:6, Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jesus is the way to be saved. We can't get there by just going to church. We have to go through Jesus, not through the church. We have to accept Him as our Savior. We can't be good enough to be saved. We can't be good at all on our own.

Make your notes on this page.

The Bible tells us that our best is like filthy rags when compared to God's best. It says that we can't earn our way. We can't work to get saved. We come to God like we are, and He works in us.

Question:

Can I get saved by just being baptized in water?

We get baptized to show to others that we have been saved. Being baptized can't save us. We have talked about before how to be saved. If we don't ask Jesus to forgive us, and we don't ask Him to come in our heart, or we don't dedicate our heart and life to Him, then all we will get when we get baptized will be wet.

Make your notes on this page.

Chapter 7.

About Other Religions

Question:

How do we know other religions that don't believe in God and that don't believe that Jesus is the Son of God are wrong?

We have already talked about how we know that the Bible is real. The Bible tells us that God is real, and what He is like.

Religions that do not believe in Jesus as God's son are wrong, also. The Bible tells us this over and over. We read in John 6:44, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." We already talked about this verse in John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (It just makes sense that we would listen to the words of the only man who rose from the dead and went to heaven. I will take His Word for it.)

Question:

What are some other things that show us whether or not a certain religion is true?

The Bible gives us many ways to be able to tell if a religion (or even a Christian church) is right. To be true, a church has to believe that Jesus is God's Son. It has to believe that Jesus died and that He rose again. It has to believe that the Bible is the Word of God written by people who wrote what God spoke. It has to believe that everyone has sinned and come short of the glory of God, and for one to be saved, that they must repent of their sins, confess with their mouth, the Lord Jesus, and must believe in their heart that God has raised Him from the dead. It must believe that one must be saved or born again to inherit eternal life. It must believe that when you are saved, God's Spirit comes into your heart to change you. It must believe that when you are saved, there will be a change in you, and you won't continue to sin on purpose. These are all things that Bible says a church has to believe to be a right church. These are all called doctrines.

Question:

Why is it dangerous to believe things that are not the way that the Bible says they should be?

There is a right way and a wrong way to believe, and the Bible tells us this.

Make your notes on this page.

If people don't believe in those basic things they cannot get saved, and they cannot make heaven their home. Other people that believe in other things are not Christians, and they are not saved, and they are not going to go to heaven. Some beliefs lead people in the wrong direction. In other words, some beliefs are wrong. Some examples of this are believing in Allah, and Buddha. One example is this. The Hindus believe in reincarnation. They believe that you come back as an animal or someone else until you can work things out to the place where you are perfect and then you get to go to heaven. But nobody is or ever will be perfect except for our Lord and Savior. Because they believe this, some animals are sacred, like the cow. They won't eat the cows. They are allowed to run around everywhere, even in their houses, even in their city streets. The people are starving, but they cannot eat the cows. They cause problems everywhere. The way they believe causes them to starve to death. That is one example of how people's wrong beliefs can destroy them. Do not make the wrong choice and go to hell because you are serving the wrong god and believing the wrong things.

Question:

How can God send people to hell that live in countries where they don't believe in God and they have not heard about the truth?

Jesus does not make people serve Him, but everyone has a free choice. God doesn't send anyone to hell, we send ourselves to hell if we refuse to believe the truth. We go there because we choose to go there. That is just how it is.

There will never be anyone who has not heard the truth. God sends people to everyone to tell them about Him. Or His Holy Ghost will lead them to Him even if no one else goes. The Spirit of God draws us to Him. It is what deals with our hearts and leads us to come to accept Jesus as our Savior. It deals with everyone's heart in different ways. Sometimes His Spirit leads us to Him. Sometimes His Spirit sends God's Word to those people. Sometimes His Spirit leads others to say things to people. That is how God leads others to come to Him. Everyone will have a chance to hear the truth no matter where they live, or what religion they believe in. Someone or something will tell them the truth. It will be up to them whether or not they choose to believe.

Question:

What does it mean to witness to others, and why is it important?

A witness is someone who has seen or experienced something, and wants to tell others about what they have seen or experienced. When we are Christians, we experience what being saved means. We experience God's love and we experience what it means to be His child. We experience His Word.

Make your notes on this page.

We experience how God can help us, and lead us. We know how His love can change our lives. So many people don't know what this means. They have a hard time in their lives because they don't know. You may remember what that was like before you were saved yourself. God's love makes us love others. God's love makes us to have compassion, to be concerned about other people. Because of His love, we witness to others. We tell them about how God has changed our life. We tell them about how He loves us and we know that He loves them as well. We tell them how that they can be saved. We share miracles with them that God has done for us. This is important because one day we may meet that person in heaven, and they might share with you that you were the reason that they are there. There is nothing quite so wonderful as watching someone's life change when you have led them to the Lord.

Question:

Some people feel that they can't do anything like witnessing. How can they?

We have talked about how the Holy Spirit inside of you can lead you. If you yield to Him, and let Him, He can lead you to go to someone who needs Jesus. He can lead you to tell them things. He can show you what to do. He will lead you to talk to people when His Spirit is dealing with their hearts at the same time that you talk to them. He will show you what to say and do. He will do the rest.

Question:

Why do different churches have different beliefs? Why isn't there just one big church?

Different people have their ways of belief. We just have to be sure that what we believe is God's Word the way it is. Some churches don't believe in the main things that we are required to believe, those things we mentioned earlier in the book. That is dangerous. When we don't believe in the truth the way that it is, we can get caught up in things that really lead us away from God, and away from heaven, instead of to them. We can get caught up in things that bind us up so that we can't serve God, things that confuse us from being able to have a relationship with Him. Sometimes churches have all these different beliefs because instead of trying to serve God with all their heart, they want to do it a certain way. They aren't yielding to God letting Him have His way in their lives, so they create a way to believe that lets them do it the way they want to. That is dangerous. Ask God to show you the truth, and lead you in the right way.

Question:

Why is going to church important?

Make your notes on this page.

We all know how hanging around with the wrong crowd, how having the wrong kind of friends can pull us down, and eventually get us in trouble. Well, it works the other way, too. Hanging around with the right crowd, with your family in God, can pull you up and keep you from getting in with the wrong crowd. God's family is the church. It is a group of people who fellowship with you, who lift you up when you are down, who cry when you are sad, and laugh when you are happy. They are people who will help you when you need help, people who will be there for you. Sometimes the family of God will be closer to you than your own family. What is really great is if your family is part of the family of God, too. If your church isn't like this, then it should be. We need to stick together as a church. That is why going to church is important. The Bible says in Hebrews 10:25, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." This means that we have to be careful to go to church and get together with other Christians, and not forsake it, or neglect to do it like some people do. We need to teach and talk to one another more than ever because at the last days, we need this more than ever before.

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Chapter 8.
About Who You Are and
How You Can Be the Best You Can Be

Question:

How did God make people special?

He made us with a soul and a spirit. We have the body part of us which is our flesh. It is the part of us that is separate from God. It isn't very good most of the time. Most of the time it is easier for us to do bad than good because of the flesh part of us. God made us with a spirit that is part of us that will live forever either in heaven with Him, or in hell, separate from Him. We also have our soul which is connected with our spirit. That is the part where God can come in with His Spirit and live inside of us. God made us so that He can come inside of us to live so that He can help us to be the best that we can be. So when you are saved, you have God's Spirit inside of you.

If we yield to God's Spirit in us, and we let Him control us, then we will be people who have victory, people who are different than most others. We will be people who will shine out because God is shining out through us. If we take more of His Spirit in to us by praying, by reading the Bible, by praising Him, by going to church, by listening to Gospel music, we will let God shine out through us. Our life will be so much better. If we crowd out the places where he can be in our lives with sin, wrong attitudes, wrong ideas, fear, rebellion, and all those kinds of things, then God won't shine out through us. We will just be a mess. We can't serve God halfway and be happy. We can't crowd Him out of our lives and have a peaceful good life. If we don't have room for Him in our lives because we are too busy with our friends that aren't saved, with gaming, with the drama of facebook, with music that isn't Gospel, with the things that everyone who isn't saved is doing, then we won't have a peaceful, good life, with God shining out of us. We will be full of all kinds of junk instead of full of His Spirit with not much room left for Him. If we hold onto other things in our life, then He can't make things work out for us. If we don't yield then He can't help us. If we are hungry to have a life that is full of God, dedicated to serving Him, and we fill our lives with His things, and we yield to His Spirit, then we will have a wonderful life, and when others look at us they will see Jesus in us.

Question:

What does it mean to yield to God, and how do we do that? Why is it important?

People are mostly really spoiled to get their own way. They want to do what they want to do when they want to do it. They want their way.

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They don't want anyone to tell them what to do. Part of growing up is giving up our way to others. Part of growing up in God is giving up our way to Him. It is giving up our will to His will, doing what He wants us to do. If we don't, then we will always have something wrong with our life, and our heart and mind. We will always have problems.

One example of this is how God can lead us to do things. So many times He will lead us out of harm. He will lead us to do things that will cause us to be blessed, things that will turn out for lots of good in our lives. He will lead us to stay away from things that can damage our soul, and cause us to go away from serving Him. He will protect us. If we don't yield to Him, then when He does all this, we won't listen to Him. We won't let Him lead us. When He tries to get us to go in one direction, we will run in the other direction right in to harm's way. When He tries to show us what not to do, we will do it any way. So many people can't yield to anyone, let alone God. If they can't control things, they don't want to be part of it. God will change your whole life if you will only learn to yield to Him.

Question:

How do we know what is wrong and what is right?

The Bible tells us what is wrong and what is right. Some people say for instance that you can drink and smoke and do whatever you want to and that is all right. They say that it is OK to do whatever you want to. When you think this way you wander in sin. You will have a life that is full of trouble when you do. You will have a hellish life full of bad things that you reap because of your sin. God wants us to do right things because He loves us, and He doesn't want us to get destroyed by sin. The Bible says that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. Sin will steal our life away. It will steal our eternal life with God away.

We know what is wrong and what is right because it is written in His Word, and it is the truth. His Spirit will guide you and lead you to know what is wrong and what is right. He will convict you. He will let you know. He will convict you to the point where when you pray He won't hear you. When you are convicted you feel it. Yield to His Spirit when you feel His conviction.

Question:

What does conviction mean?

Conviction means that God's Spirit lets us know that we are doing wrong. It causes us to feel bad for doing something wrong. Here are some times when people felt convicted. Read these verses: Proverbs 3:12, Hebrews 12:6 and 7, Acts 3:19 and Acts 8:22, and II Corinthians 7:1.

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Question:

What does repentance mean?

Repentance means that we are so sorry for what we have done wrong that we won't ever do that again. We seriously mean it. We seek God's help so that we won't. Here is one way to look at it. Let's say that two boys are fighting on the playground. One punches the other in the nose. He tells the boy that he is sorry. Then five minutes later he does it again. He really doesn't mean it. He is not serious about apologizing. He doesn't really feel bad in his heart about what he has done. Then the teacher sees them fighting, and punishes him for punching him. Then he is really sorry. The teacher brings conviction to the boy, and he sees the wrong that he has done. Then when he is sorry for real, he won't do it again. That is a picture of how it works with God too. Conviction causes us to know we have done wrong so that we repent. When we repent we are seriously sorry for what we have done, and we tell God so. With His help we won't do that again.

Question:

How can I do right?

Prayer helps you to do right. The Bible helps you to do right. When you read it, you take God's Word in your heart and it helps you be strong. Seeking God with all your heart helps you. The Holy Ghost lives in our heart. He helps you to do right by being inside of you. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost will help you to be strong and do what is right. Speaking in tongues helps you to fight satan. Going to church helps you to be strong. Being with the right people in church helps you. It encourages you. The move of God's Spirit in church strengthens you. Read these two chapters, Romans 7 and 8. They talk about how God can help you to do what is right. Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." This tells us that God can strengthen us to be able to do right.

Question:

What is forgiveness?

We won't be perfect. Even after we serve God for a long time, we will still make mistakes. It is what we do with our mistakes and our sin that matters. When we make mistakes, or sin, we ask God to forgive us of our sins. We have to admit we've done wrong. Then we have to repent. We have to be sorry for our sins. We have to ask Him to forgive us. We know He will forgive us because He says it in His Word. When we are forgiven, we will know that we are. It is the best feeling when we know that we don't have to feel guilty any more, than God has forgiven us and that it is fine. We will have to pay for our sins. Sometimes sin has a price that we have to pay. It can only turn out bad for us.

Make your notes on this page.

For example, if we get into things we shouldn't get into, and we get in trouble, that is the price that we have to pay. Sometimes it may be bad attitudes that cause us to have problems in our life. Sin costs. But it is good to know that God will forgive us of that sin.

Question:

Why is it important to forgive others?

Part of the Lord's prayer says this in Luke 11:4, "And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us." That means that since God forgives us, we need to forgive others too. God forgives us as we forgive others. Why is it bad not to forgive others? That is holding a grudge. That doesn't get you anywhere. That is called bitterness. When you don't forgive those who have done you wrong, you are really having self-pity. Even doctors say that this can cause physical problems like cancer. When you hold grudges it hurts you worse than it does the people that you are holding a grudge against. It really doesn't hurt them.

Question:

Why do we need to try to be the best we can be?

We need to care about ourselves. Because we know that we are loved, and we know that God loves us, we need to love ourselves. When we love ourselves, we won't do stupid stuff that can destroy us, and destroy our lives.

Question:

Can we think in harmful ways?

How some people think influences their life. Like some people are depressed. Some people think that the world hates them and they do things like cutting themselves. Some people think about suicide because they think they are nobody and there is no hope for them. Some people don't believe in God. They are crushed with all this. They are beating themselves down. They stop caring. The sad thing is they don't know that this is happening to them. If they did, they would stop it. The devil blinds them so that they can't see. Also, they have sin in their life. Maybe they are doing things that they don't want to quit, and because of that God can't set them free so they make excuses for what they do. God can't fix it because they don't really down deep want Him to. All these are dangerous ways of thinking. If you do any of these, let God help you.

Question:

Why do people do drugs and smoke cigarettes and other things if it is bad for them?

Make your notes on this page.

Because it is addicting, and the devil pulls them into that mess using that addiction. Sometimes they do what they want to do no matter how bad it is for them because they are like spoiled kids. They will do what they want no matter how it hurts themselves or people around them.

Question:

Can God deliver them?

The word deliver means that we are set free. God can set them free so that they are no longer addicted if they really, really, really want Him to and if they believe in Him and obey Him. They have to want to get rid of it. For you to be set free from things that are destroying you have to admit that this is bad and wrong. You have to yield to God's Spirit and say that you want to do it His way. You have to ask for His help. You have to let His Spirit work in your life to set you free. If you lie to yourself and say that you like it, and want to continue to have that in your life, or you make excuses for being that way, then you will never be set free.

Question:

Why are certain kinds of music and TV shows, etc. bad for you?

God wants you to be healthy in mind, body, and spirit. He wants you to be happy and full of joy. He wants you to be the best you can be. He wants you to stay away from the traps that the devil sets to catch you up in bad things. Music and TV shows that act like it is good to do bad things are not what you need to fill your mind and heart with.

Also, we talked about how to be strong you need to fill your heart and mind with Christian music, with praising God, with His Word, with fellowshiping with other Christians, with good preaching. You can see that if you fill up your heart and mind with things that are against all this, that it would cause you to be weak. We are what we eat. If we fill ourselves up with all kinds of junk, then you will be a junky Christian. If we fill ourselves up with good things, then we will become a strong Christian. It is up to you to choose.

Make your notes on this page.

Chapter 9. About Spirit Filled or Pentecostal Churches

Question:

What makes a Pentecostal church different from other churches?

The Holy Spirit moves in a Pentecostal church. It is more involved. It is more traditional. We believe in the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. The gifts of the Spirit move. These gifts are: speaking in tongues, healing, deliverance, and more. People obey the Spirit of God and God is allowed to move in His people. When churches don't allow God's Spirit to move then the things that God wants done are not done, and it is just a social thing, not something that can totally help people and change lives. They just sit there. God isn't allowed to move and have His way. Pentecostal churches are dynamic churches. You can feel God's Spirit there.

Question:

What is the Spirit of God and what is the anointing?

We have talked a lot about the Spirit of God, what He is like and what He does. He guides and teaches us. He shows us things. The anointing of God is when God allows His Spirit to come into the service. God anoints people who preach and sing and teach. He anoints people who obey the Lord in the service even if they are not up front. He leads them what to do, and His Spirit blesses what they do. He is there, and His Spirit makes a difference to everyone who lets Him work in their lives. If people just sit there and don't yield to His Spirit, then His Spirit can't bless them, and they can't feel His wonderful power working in their lives.

Question:

What is the Holy Ghost Baptism?

Being baptized with the Holy Ghost is when the Holy Spirit of God comes inside of you and fills you up completely. You yield yourself to Him and He fills you up. It helps you to be led by Him more. It makes you stronger in Him, and makes your faith stronger. It makes you bolder and you can stand up and do what you need to do for the Lord. When we are saved, we get a portion, or a part of His Spirit. When you receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, you are filled up all the way with Him. You have more of His power to make you strong.

Question:

What is speaking in tongues?

Make your notes on this page.

Speaking in tongues happens when the Holy Spirit prays inside you using your voice in His language. When you don't know how to pray, you pray in tongues because God knows what to pray for exactly. Your prayers are more powerful when you are praying in tongues. You can pray in tongues in church and you can pray in tongues at home. It is different, and when it is new to you it can be scary until you understand what it is all about. Some people teach it isn't real. I know its real because the Bible talks about it, because I have experienced it, and because others have. It will strengthen your faith more than anything that you can do.

Question:

What does it mean when people are slain in the spirit, (when they fall out in the Spirit), when they fall in the floor in church?

Falling out in the spirit is when people who are being prayed for fall in the floor. God's power just overcomes you and you are so filled up with God it is almost overwhelming and you just kind of get overcome with His Spirit. You have to yield for any of this to happen. Many people are healed and delivered from things that trap them up and keep them down when they are slain in the spirit.

Question:

What does it mean when we stand in for one another?

We get prayed for in the place of someone who is not there. Maybe there is someone at home who is sick and can't come to church to be prayed for. You can get prayed for in their place. Or there may be someone you want to pray for who is not saved. You can stand in for them in their place, and people can pray for that person by praying for you.

Question:

What are anointed cloths?

You pray over a cloth and ask God to anoint it. You give that cloth to someone and the anointing on it transfers to them and they are healed, or touched by the Spirit.

Question:

Why do people lift their hands and praise God out loud in church?

People praise the Lord in church to show that they love the Lord and to show appreciation for all that He has done for them. The Bible says that God rejoices in our praise. He loves to hear the praise of His people. Even people like praise.

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God is perfect and deserves our praise even more. When we can praise Him even in the bad times that shows our faith. That touches His heart.

In church services people pray in tongues, give an offering, lift their hands in praise and worship, they say praise the Lord. We praise the Lord by singing. Those are some ways you praise the Lord in the service. We praise the Lord, too, when we read the Bible. We also praise Him by obeying Him, and living for Him.

Make your notes on this page.

Chapter 10.

About the Devil

Question:

Who is the Devil?

He was once one of God's angels, but he disobeyed God and got thrown out of heaven. Because of that he hates God, and he hates us because God loves us. He tries to mess us up because of that.

Question:

How does the Devil fight us?

The devil will use anybody and anything he can to keep you away from God. He can wrap chains around you to steal you away from God. He is sneaky. He has been stealing people away from God for a long time. He knows what to do to keep you away. He sets traps for you. He lies to you. One the biggest things he does is telling you that you are worthless and stupid, and that anybody can do it better. He tells you that you are a nobody, and that nobody loves you. He tells you that you are invisible to people. He tells you that God can't use you. If you are saved, the devil is your enemy because you are God's child and he hates that.

Do we have to be afraid of the devil? No. The Bible says not to be afraid. Because when you are afraid that is when he gets you. He will beat you down. We don't have to be afraid of the devil because we are the children of God. We have in us God's Holy Spirit. We have His Word that we are over comers. We have the armor of God to protect us. We can win over the devil.

Question:

How do we fight against the devil?

We fight against Him by using scripture. We fight him when we pray in the Holy Ghost speaking in tongues. We can take authority. You have the right to tell the devil where to get off. We have the right to be his boss, to have authority over him. That is what the Bible tells us. Use that authority. You can tell him in the name of Jesus to leave you alone, and he has to go. When he hears that name he has to flee. He has to run away from you and from Jesus and God's Spirit that is in you.

Make your notes on this page.

Question:

Why am I afraid of the night?

Sometimes when you are younger, you are afraid of monsters under the bed, or monsters in your closet. Sometimes as you get older you are afraid to go to sleep. This happens for several reasons. Sometimes when you have had someone you are close to die, it makes you afraid that if you go to sleep you will die. Or you could be afraid that something bad could happen to you or your house when you were asleep and you wouldn't be able to save yourself and your family, or stop the bad from happening. Also, the devil is our enemy. He wants us to be afraid. He wants to steal our peace of mind. He wants us to stay up all night worrying, so he puts these things in our minds. We can stay busy during the day, and we don't have as much time to worry as we do at night after we go to bed. Our mind gets busy thinking about all the things that we could worry about.

Question:

How can you stop from being afraid at night?

Pray to the Lord and ask Him to help you not to be afraid, and to sustain you from any fear or torment that might come against you. Know that He is God and He is big enough to protect you and keep you. He promises us in the Bible that He will, and He always keeps His promises. Psalms 4:8 says, "I will both lay me down in peace and sleep for thou oh Lord only makes me dwell in safety." Proverbs 3:24, "When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid, yea, thou shall lay down and thy sleep shall be sweet." Here are some more good verses that tell us not to be afraid. Look these up: Jeremiah 29:11-13, John 14:27, and Romans 8:37-39.

When the devil tries to make you be afraid, cast him out of everything that you have done, you are doing now, and everything that you are going to do. We don't have to be afraid of the devil and we don't have to listen to him when he tries to make us afraid.

Rebuke him. That means to tell him off and tell him to go away and leave you alone, for you are a child of God, and you have power over him. II Timothy 1:7 tells us

When we are worried about things that we have to do and we are afraid that we can't do them here is a good verse, Phillipian 4:13. Here are some things that you can do to help you. Pray and read your Bible. There is more coming up.

Make your notes on this page.

Here are some verses that will help you. Isaiah 41:10 says "Fear thou not for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. There are 366 times in the Bible where we read the words "fear not". Isaiah 43:2 says "When thou passeth through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. You can also ask God to help you not to be afraid. He will. Remember that He will never leave you. He will always be there to help you. You don't have to be afraid. (Hebrews 13:5).

When our mind gets busy thinking of all the things to worry about, we need to remember this verse in Philippians 4:8. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." This verse tells us to think of good things, not all the bad things.

Question:

What does it mean when we talk about fearing God, and why do we need to fear God when He tells us not to be afraid?

When the Bible tells us to fear God it means to reverence, to be very, very respectful of Him, to love Him. Some people curse His name. They do what they want to even though they know its bad. They do things their own way and refuse to listen to God and their parents. They refuse to believe in God or that Jesus died for them. They don't care about doing God's way. They do not have any respect or fear of God. One day they will have to stand before Him and then He will turn them away for eternity.

Some people say, why should I fear God or be respectful of Him? He made you and if it were not for Him you would not be here. So you should respect Him even though you for right now might not be saved. Also, God is much bigger and smarter than we are. He knows what is best. If we don't do what He wants us to do our life won't turn out for the best. We will be a big mess, and so will our lives if we don't respect God and His ways.

Make your notes on this page.

Chapter 11

About Our Problems

Question:

Why do bad things happen?

Many people say if God is real then why is there such terrible things that happen in the world. One example of this is a story that gives a good illustration. There was a man in a barbershop. They were laughing and talking and getting along. They came to the subject of God. The barber said that if God were real then why would bad things happen to good people. The barber said, just look outside at all the disease, alcoholism, drug addiction, and all the problems that people have and you will see that God does not exist. The man didn't want to argue so he just walked outside. He saw a homeless man that had long dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He went back in and told the barber that he didn't believe in barbers. They weren't real. The barber said, yes, they are, I just got done working on you. The man told the barber to look outside and he would see that barbers are not real because there were people all over with long dirty hair and untrimmed beards. The barber said that if those people would come into his shop that he would help them, but he couldn't go against their free will and cut their hair without their permission. He said that he couldn't help those people unless they let him. He laughed because he then understood what the guy was trying to show him.

Some people have all these problems because they don't go to God and let Him work in their lives. Some people do let God work, but they still have some sort of disease or hindrance. But God might be using their problem to speak to some one else and to make a huge difference in the lives of other people around them.

All things work together for the good of those that love the Lord and are the called according to His purpose. If we trust the Lord, then He will work out even the worst things in our life for good.

Sometimes bad things happen because of the enemy, the devil. He tries to destroy us. But when he does things to destroy us, the Lord just uses these things to make us stronger. In our weakness we are made stronger. Sometimes we think it looks like something that has happened is really bad. But God has a purpose that He is working out through it. We may not see and understand what He is doing. But He is at work in us. We just have to trust Him.

Make your notes on this page.

The world is a mess because most people are not Christians. So many times we have to go through things because other people bring bad things on us. Also, because of the fall of Adam and Eve, there are sicknesses, diseases, and bad things in this world. We sometimes reap these things just because we are in this world. Still God can bring these things out for good in our lives. Romans 8:28 says, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” God can make even the bad things that happen to us to turn out for our good. We can trust in Him even when bad things happen to us.

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Chapter 12: About How God Can Use You

Question:

What does it mean when we tithe our money and time?

When you pay your tithes, you give 10% to the Lord. If you make \$1.00 you would give 10 cents. If you made \$10.00 you would give \$1.00. If you give your tithes God will bless you back. Emily gave this testimony. She gave her tithes to the Lord. Later she went to the beach. You know how expensive that can be. She came back with money left over. Everything was paid for. She even bought something while she was there and got a \$15.00 gift card back. That is an example of how God will honor you paying tithes. It is important to have the right attitude when you give. If we give, and we hate doing it, what good will that do? We need to do what we do for the Lord with a whole heart, happy to be able to do it. We also need to tithe our time. If you give the Lord some of your time, He will bless that as well. One way to give Him our time is to read His Word, praise Him, pray, and fellowship with Him. We can help around the church. We can do things to help other people and to witness to them.

Question:

Who can God use?

He can use anybody. He calls us to do things for Him. None of us are perfect. The ones who think that they are perfect, He can't use them. He uses the ones who ask Him to help them. When you start out with a talent, pray and seek God and ask Him to help you. Don't be afraid to mess up. Those times will come when you mess up. Don't give up. Keep trying. Keep practicing. Keep working at it. You may do things that bother you, but don't be embarrassed about it. Everybody messes up. It isn't the end of the world if you do. Just keep trying. Don't let the fear of messing up stop you from using the talent that God has given you. Don't be too hard on yourself. When you are asked to do something for the Lord remember who you are doing it for. You aren't doing it for the people there, but for Him, and because you love Him. He has done so much for you. You can do this for Him. Just remember, when you are afraid to do something, the devil is the one who makes you afraid to do for the Lord. When you start being afraid to obey the Lord, the devil is the one making you feel that way. Bind him. Tell him to stop and he has to stop. Stand against him and do it anyway.

Make your notes on this page.

Question: How do we listen to God and obey Him? How do you know when God is talking to you, and why is important to learn how to listen to him and do what He says?

Jesus said in John 10:27, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” Jesus talks to us. God speaks in a small still voice like you have never heard before. It isn’t a voice that we hear with our ears, but it is a voice we hear within our heart. Listening to Him is a good thing. He will take care of you when it is needed. He will lead you in the right direction. If you don’t listen to Him you will go in the wrong direction. God loves you and will lead you, but if you don’t listen to him and do what he says sometimes he can’t help you. Just like your parents. They want the best for you when they tell you what to do, but if you disobey, then you will have problems.

When we first get saved it is hard to get used to hearing God’s voice because we aren’t used to doing it. The more that we do this, the easier it gets. God will help us to learn how to do this.

Make your notes on this page.

Chapter 13. About Getting Along with Your Family and Others

Question:

Why should you obey your parents?

Some kids think that they don't have to listen to their parents and obey them. They have problems in their life because they don't such as, getting in trouble for doing things that they shouldn't do. God says that we are to listen to our parents and respect them. If we don't then our life can be shortened. Exodus chapter 20 talks about the 10 commandments that give a good picture of what we need to do, and what we don't need to know. One of the commandments tells us to obey our Father and Mother. We read about it in verse 12. "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land...." If we want to have a long life, then we need to honor our Father and Mother. A lot of kids have died because they were determined to disobey, and that got them in dangerous situations. God tells us to respect our parents. That means to obey them, and listen to them. That means we are to treat them with kindness. We shouldn't disrespect them and treat them wrong. We need to appreciate them. We need to talk right to them and not be rude. We need to love them. After all they love us. We think that our friends are more important than our parents. We get mad when our parents won't let us do the things our friends want us to do, even when we know that our parents are right and we shouldn't be doing it. But in the end, it will be our parents not our friends who stick by us. Our parents will be there for us for our whole life. Our friends will more than likely not be there for us.

How much do your parents do to take care of you? Have you thought about it? Many times parents make a sacrifice to take care of their children. They may not talk about it to the kids, but they do. It isn't all about you. Sometimes if we aren't careful we can get spoiled in our ways. We think that everything is all about us. We think that everything has to revolve around us. As we get older, we grow up and see that this isn't so. The more mature we are, the more we realize that we are a part of others and that there isn't a more important part. Everyone in the family is important, and equal. When see this, we are really better off. We know that we aren't less than anyone else in the family. Respect your parents for their love and for their care. Honor them. This means that you need to grow up enough to consider others. Love them. It isn't all about what you can get. It's about what you can give to them, too.

Question:

How can I get along with my brothers and sisters? Why should I?

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Mrs. Haga tells this about her sisters. She has 3 sisters. When they were growing up there were some times that they would fight (like most sisters and brothers). But even in the middle of the fights, if anyone outside the family tried to pick on one of them, they were in trouble. 4 girls would clobber them. Families stick together. All your life, you will have your sisters and brothers. Your friends won't always be around, but your family will. When you are 80, your brothers and sisters will be there for you. Most of your friends won't be. You may not always get along with your family, but if you work things out, they will be there for you. If you don't try to get along, then you always have something bad going on between you. Why not get along. It is much easier than having to have something bad going on all the time. Love your family. Let them have their way sometimes. It isn't all about you. Care about someone besides yourself. If you don't, then you will just be empty and lonely all your life. What you sow you reap. What you plant in your garden is what you harvest. Plant love, and caring and your life will be full of that. Plant selfishness and grumbling, and spoiled stuff, and nastiness, and that is all that you will get out of life. Especially when it is concerning your family. Love them and they will love you. Life will get much easier.

If you don't learn to love your family and get along with them, then you won't really, truly be able to get along with any one. If you can't get along with your family, you really can't get along with your friends. If you don't learn to get along with your family, then you won't ever be able to have a good family of your own. How you get along with family is the practice for how you will get along with your own family when you have one of your own.

Question:

How do I get along with others?

The best thing to do is what the Bible tells us to do. Treat others the way that you want to be treated. Love others and care about them. Show them respect. Most of the time people will echo back to you what you do to them. If you treat them with respect, they will respect you. If you treat them right, they will treat you right. Remember, it isn't all about you. Don't take and never give back in your relationship with others.

Question:

What about friends?

It is good to have friends. But be careful that you don't stop being who you are to get them. Some people change to be with their friends. Then before long, they don't even know who they are. God made you to be you. You are important.

Make your notes on this page.

He made you to be just like you. There are no two people in the world who are exactly alike. He made you that special and unique. Don't stop being the unique person that you are so that you can have friends. If someone doesn't like you the way you are, then that is their problem. So many times we think that if we don't have friends we aren't special. It isn't friends that make you special. God made you special.

Too often we can get into trouble and have problems in our lives because we do things that other people want us to do just to have friends. If someone cares about you for real, they won't want you to do things that will mess up your life. If someone tries to get you to do something that is wrong, or something that will mess you up then run from them. Don't choose them for a friend. We need to choose our friends, not have them choose us. Care enough about yourself and who you are that you don't give that up for other people who act like they care for you but really don't.

Remember, until you are happy with yourself and respect yourself, then others won't like you and they won't respect you.

Question:

How do I get to meet new friends?

Be friendly. Talk to people. Laugh and be happy. If you aren't as outgoing as other people, that is OK. Be yourself. Be sure though to care about others, and show that you do. Be a good listener. Let others talk. Find things that you have in common with them, and talk about those things. Most important, pray and ask God to send you friends that will be good to you and good for you.

Question:

How can you choose between God and your friends?

Jesus died for you. Your friends didn't. Never stop loving Him, and living for Him because you are afraid that your friends won't like you. They won't do for you what God has done for you. They won't love you like God does. They won't keep your life strong like God can. They won't love you forever like God will. Never act like you aren't a Christian because you are afraid of what others will think. You can make it without friends, but you can't make it without God. Put Him first in your life, and He will help you to find friends that do the same. That is the best kind of friends to have. They will be going the same places in their life, and doing the same kinds of things, and acting the same as you. You won't have to worry about them leading you wrong.

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Question:

Why is it important to have good morals and character? What does that mean?

If you have good morals that means that you want to try to do right and live the way that the Bible tells us we need to live. It means that you want to make God proud of you because you try your hardest to love Him, and live for Him. Go by the Ten Commandments. Your character is the kind of person that you are. Having good morals is one way to have good character. For example, if you lie, then no one will believe you. If you do other wrong things, then no one will think that you are very much of a person at all. A testimony, a reputation, is a good thing to have. Don't ruin your reputation. It takes a long time to build it back after you do something stupid that ruins it. If you ruin your reputation, and you don't have good character, then no one will respect you.

Question:

Why is it important to respect older people?

Sometimes we get so caught up in our friends, and people our age, that we don't even think about people who are what we might call old, people our parents' age or older. Sometimes we don't even treat them with respect at all. The Bible tells us that we need to respect those who are older. God honors them. They have learned lots, and have a lot to share with us, if we will listen to them. They can teach us lots. Be willing to spend time with older people. Remember too, you will be old one day. The way you treat others is how others will treat you one day.

A good rule in how to treat everyone is to remember how you treat others is how they will treat you.

Make your notes on this page.

Chapter 14.

About The Rapture

Question:

What is the second coming of Christ-the rapture?

The Bible tells us that Jesus will come to take His people home to heaven. We won't have to die. He will appear in the sky and we will be taken up to be with Him. When we go up to be with Him, we will be changed to be perfect. This only happens once through time. This will happen near the end of time, near the time when Jesus will come to earth to set up His kingdom. After the rapture, there will be a terrible time that people will have to go through who don't believe in and obey God, those people who won't get to leave the earth in the rapture. Then Jesus will come to earth and make things wonderful. That means that things will get back to being the way that God created it to be in the Garden of Eden. It will be a perfect time with perfect people in a perfect world. The Bible says that God will make a new heaven and a new earth. It will be His best work ever. That will be our new home for eternity. Can't wait.

Question:

When will all this happen?

The Bible tells us that no one knows exactly when this will happen for sure. Only God knows. But it tells us some things that we can look for to know when the time is near. There are different things that will happen in the world to let us know that this time is coming near. Many people say that a lot of those things are happening now.

Question:

What do you have to do to be able to be taken up to be with Jesus in the rapture?

We talked about how important it is to be saved. That is the first thing. Then you need to get to know Jesus and God, and live for them. You need to put your relationship with them as very important. You can't act like a Christian one day, and act like you don't know God the next. You need to listen to his voice and obey Him, and let Him keep you and guide you so that you can serve Him and be strong for Him. You need to let His Spirit fill you and strengthen you to live for Him. If you sin, you need to repent. Watch for Him, and keep ready for that day. You can't do it on your own, but let God help you. Let His Spirit keep you.

Question:

What is going to happen on the earth after God's people leave?

Make your notes on this page.

There will be such a bad time that the Bible says people will pray for the rocks to fall on them that they can die, but they won't be able to. It will be the worse time that has ever been and will ever be on the earth.

Question:

Do we have to be afraid when we think about the rapture?

We don't have to be afraid. We trust in God to help us and to keep us. When we walk with Him, it is an exciting time. A time to look forward to. We will be taken to heaven without dying. We get to see that perfect place that He has for us. We have a lot to look forward to.

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Conclusion

All of us that worked on this book hope and pray that it helps you. We wanted to be a light to other young people. We hope that this has been a light to you. If this book has helped you, let us know. You can email us at:

school@nlcm.net

If you enjoyed this book, tell others about it. It can be ordered on www.amazon.com. Or you can download it for free on this site found at www.freechristianonlinebooks.com.

We pray that God blesses you and makes you strong for Him.