

Ministering to Personal Needs

Teacher's Manual

Ministering to Personal Needs

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Introduction to Course

This course is designed to equip the believer to be a dispenser of spiritual help to people who are in need. All members of the Body of Christ are called to minister one to another out from that which they have received from God.

Every believer ought to get to the place where they feel comfortable praying with people and counseling people in the foundations of their Christian walk. In essence every believer should be able to disciple people into a relationship with their Savior.

Every believer should be able to lead someone to Christ, especially someone who has expressed an openness to Him. Every believer should understand the importance of water baptism and know how to explain it to someone who has not yet experienced it. Every believer should know how to pray with someone who desires the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Every believer should be able to pray for those who have physical needs who are believing God for healing. Every believer should be able to assist other believers in simple areas of counsel.

Unfortunately many believers are ill-equipped for this kind of personal ministry. They would just as soon bring these needy people to the pastors and the church leaders for help. This is not what God wants. Not that pastors and leaders will not continue to do these things, but pastors and leaders have been given to the church to help equip the saints to do the work of ministering. As long as this kind of ministry is limited to an elite few, the great harvest that God desires will not take place.

As we look at these areas, we will be approaching them in two ways. First of all, we will be looking at the theological basis for ministry in these areas. Sometimes we do not have confidence in these areas because we are not sure ourselves of what the Bible teaches. If we do not know the word we cannot have the faith that we need to minister freely.

Second of all, we will focus on the practical side of each of these areas. Here we will focus on the “how-to’s” of ministry. We will talk about what to do and what not to do as we seek to touch the lives of people in a personal way.

Lesson 1

Ministering Salvation

Part 1—The Foundation

The experience of salvation in a person's life is meant to be a radical event where they are translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. Often times what is promoted as a person "coming to Christ" is not that way at all.

Part of the reason for this could be that we are not presenting the Gospel in a way that demands a radical response and a radical change. Many people who come to the Lord do not change that much and seem to drag most of their problems with them for many years to come.

The Gospel and the cross of Christ have more power than that. So the problem, if there is one, cannot be in the plan of salvation as presented in the Scripture. The problem must be in how we are preaching the Gospel.

When people are brought into the kingdom properly they will experience a major change in their life. If we preach a Gospel that makes no demands, people will make little response. Many problems that Christians face should have been dealt with at conversion. Most of the counseling that goes on in the pastor's office is over issues that should have been settled when they made Jesus the Lord of their life.

As we look at the subject of salvation. We want to be sure that we truly represent the message that Christ brought. Therefore we cannot be harsher than God Who is a merciful and forgiving God. However, we cannot be more merciful than God Who is a holy and righteous God. When we present God as He is presented to us in Christ, we will see fruits of salvation.

Note: All of the verses quoted in this lesson are from the *New International Version* of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

I. Before building a life there must be a strong foundation.

A. Our foundation must be God's and not man's.

1. Man's foundation is shaky (Job 4:18-20).

If God places no trust in his servants, if he charges his angels with error, how much more those who live in houses of clay, whose foundations are in the dust, who are crushed more readily than a moth! Between dawn and dusk they are broken to pieces; unnoticed, they perish forever. Job 4:18-20

2. God's foundation is sure (II Tim. 2:19; Pro. 10:25).

Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness." II Timothy 2:19

When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever. Proverbs 10:25

B. Our foundation is the rock, Christ Jesus (Rom. 15:20; I Cor. 3:9-11).

It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. Romans 15:20

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. I Corinthians 3:9-11

1. He is a Rock of Offense and a Stone of Stumbling (Rom. 9:33).

As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." Romans 9:33

2. We are blessed if we are not offended in Him (Luke 7:23).

Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me. Luke 7:23

C. Our foundation is the most important part of the building (Ps. 11:3).

When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do? Psalm 11:3

The foundation of anything is the most important part. When you buy a house, you do not worry so much about the minor things, but you check the foundation carefully. A damaged foundation can cause you to lose your whole house.

1. It will enable one to weather the storms of life (Mt. 7:25; Col. 2:8; I Tim. 6:19). We never know what the future holds. As a result there is no way to anticipate how strong or secure our foundation needs to be.

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

Matthew 7:25

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. Colossians 2:8

In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. I Timothy 6:19

2. It will help establish one in the faith (Col. 2:7).

Rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2:7

D. Our foundation will be very costly (Luke 14:28-30).

Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Luke 14:28-30

1. It involves a cross experience (Luke 14:27).

And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

2. It involves a denial of self (Mark 8:34-38).

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

3. It involves a digging deep (Luke 6:48). This means removing everything that separates you from the Rock.

He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built

4. It involves losing your soul-life (Mark 8:35).

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.

5. It involves a surrender of all life's possessions (Luke 18:22). There can be no first but Jesus.

When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come,

follow me.”

6. It involves being broken (Mt. 21:42-44).

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes?' Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."

7. It involves a total love for God (Luke 14:26).

If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters-yes, even his own life-he cannot be my disciple.

8. It involves a continual pressing on toward the mark (Luke 9:62).

Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

E. Our foundation is based on the principle of hearing and doing.

1. There are many who know what to do, but do not do it (Rom. 1:32; Mt. 23:3).

Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. Romans 1:32

They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. Matthew 23:3

2. There are many who have ears but do not hear (Mt. 13:10-13).

The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand."

3. How we respond to the commands of Christ indicates our relationship to Him (John 14:15; Mt. 8:9; 21:6).

- a. It should be a relationship of love.

If you love me, you will obey what I command. John 14:15

- b. It should be a relationship of lordship and obedience.

⁸The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ¹⁰When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. Matthew 8:8-10

- c. It should be a relationship of discipleship.

So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. Matthew 21:6

4. To neglect to lay this foundation is the height of folly and deception (Jam. 1:22-25).

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

Lesson 2

Ministering Salvation

Part 2—Repentance

Outline continued from previous lesson...

II. Before going on to build the house there must be a proper Christian birth (Acts 2:38-39).

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

A. Repentance is the first word of the Gospel (Mt. 3:2; 4:17; Mark 6:12; Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38; 20:21).

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” Matthew 3:2

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matthew 4:17

They went out and preached that people should repent. Mark 6:12

And repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:47

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
Acts 2:38

I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. Acts 20:21

How often do we use the word “repent” when we pray for someone to come to Christ? How often do we even bring up the “sin” issue and make any demands of people at all? Are we making it too easy to get saved? Where do we get the notion that all we have to do to come to Christ is ask Jesus to come into our hearts?

B. It is important to know what repentance is not.

1. It is not conviction of sin. It is possible to even tremble with conviction of sin, but if that does not lead to some response call “repentance,” it means nothing.

Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess. He sent

for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." Acts 24:24-25

2. It is not worldly sorrow. Worldly sorrow is being sorry for getting caught or being sorry for the consequences that resulted from what we have done.

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. II Corinthians 7:10

3. It is not reformation. It is not "turning over a new leaf." It is not making a string of New Years' resolutions that are attempted through will power and personal discipline.
4. It is not being religious. It is not going to church, celebrating church festivals, tithing, giving to the poor, etc. The Pharisees did all of these things, yet Jesus called them to repentance.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance." Matthew 3:7-8

Jesus said that our righteousness must exceed that of the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees (Mt. 5:20). He is not just looking for something to take place on the external. He wants an internal change.

5. It is not mental faith. This is subscribing to a creed or doctrinal statement. In its most generic sense someone could say, "I believe the Bible" or "I believe in God."

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? James 2:19-20

C. It is important to know what repentance is.

1. Finney: "It implies an intellectual and a hearty giving up of all controversy with God upon each and every point. It implies a conviction that God is wholly right, and the sinner wholly wrong, and a thorough and hearty abandonment of all excuses and apologies for sin."
2. Chalmers: "It describes that deep and radical change whereby a sinner turns from the idols of self and sin unto God, and devotes every movement of the inner and outer man to the captivity of His obedience."

3. Repentance involves a losing of the soul-life—the mind, will and emotions (the three realms of the soul).

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.” Mark 8:34-35

Repentance has implications relative to the mind of man.

- a. **THE MIND:** It means to change one’s mind, thought, purpose, views regarding a matter; it is to have another mind about a thing. We need to have another mind about God, about man, about sin, etc.).

And constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

I Timothy 6:5

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:5

- b. **THE EMOTIONS:** It means that we have a godly sorrow for sin.

Yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. II Corinthians. 7:9-11

But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” Luke 18:13

- c. **THE WILL:** It means a changing of the will or disposition.

“I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.” So he got up and went to his father. Luke 15:18-20

D. It is important to know how true repentance is demonstrated.

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. Matthew 3:8

1. Godly Sorrow

Yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. II Corinthians 7:9-11

2. Abhorrence of Self

Pride is at the center or core of all sin. We must see ourselves for whom we are.

My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes. Job 42:5-6

3. Confession of Sins

This is in essence an admission of guilt for the wrongs we have done without excuse or blame shifting.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9

4. Forsaking Sin or putting off old man

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. Proverbs 28:13

5. Burning bridges

This involves a renunciation of the past, some house cleaning and perhaps a bonfire or two.

God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even and kerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them. Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. [One day] the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered

them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power. Acts 19:11-20

6. Godly hatred for sin

Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices. I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake, declares the Sovereign LORD. Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, O house of Israel! “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt.” Ezekiel 36:31-33

7. Turning to the Lord or putting on the new man

First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds. Acts 26:20

8. Restitution where possible.

The laws of restitution help us to take responsibility for those we have harmed and instill in us a carefulness about sinning in the future knowing that it is costly to do so.

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” Luke 19:8

Lesson 3

Ministering Salvation

Part 3—Faith

Outline continued from previous lesson...

III. Faith in God is absolutely essential in the new birth process.

A. True repentance and faith are inseparable. They are mutually dependent upon each other.

Baxter: “To profess to turn to God without forsaking sin in repentance ends in hypocrisy. To attempt to forsake sin without turning to God in faith, ends in failure and despair.”

B. Faith can be defined in several ways:

1. Webster: “Trust, firm persuasion, assurance, firm conviction, confidence in another's word.”
2. Conner: “Faith toward God is simply to trust God, to have confidence in Him and His word. To believe what God has said, that His word is true, and what He has promised, He will perform.”
3. Torrey: “To believe God is to rely upon or have unhesitating assurance of the truth of God's testimony, even though it is unsupported by any other evidence, and to rely upon or have unfaltering assurance of the fulfillment of His promises, even though everything seen seems against fulfillment.”
4. Hebrews 1:1 – “Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of things (we) hope for, being the proof of things (we) do not see and the conviction of their reality - faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.” – Amplified Bible

C. Faith is necessary to please God.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

*“The just shall live by **faith**...”* Romans 1:17

D. There is a Fight of Faith

*“**Fight the good fight of faith**, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed a good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”*

I Timothy 6:12

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

II Timothy 4:7

“Contend earnestly for the faith which was once delivered to the saints.” Jude 3

*“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that **the testing of your faith produces patience...**”* James 1:2-3

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” I Peter 1:6-7

E. There are Opponents to our Faith

1. The Voice of Satan

Just as in the Garden, whatever God says to us, Satan will put a question mark upon.

2. Mental Doubts

Just like when Peter stepped out of the boat and into the water. He was fine until he began to doubt that he could really do what he was in fact doing. He began to doubt that the Word of the Lord could sustain him.

3. Discouragement

When things don't go as planned or they don't happen according to our schedule it is easy to get discouraged.

4. Insurmountable Circumstances

When we face obstacles that seem much stronger than we are it is easy to panic. Just like when the children of Israel faced the Red Sea or when they faced Goliath.

5. Physical Weaknesses

When we start looking at ourselves and seeing how frail and weak we really are. Just like Moses when he said “Who am I?” or “I am not eloquent.” Or when Jeremiah said “I am but a youth.”

6. Lack of Financial Provision

When we see how much money our vision is going to take and we see how little we really have. We forget that God said that all of the gold is His and all of the silver is His. Compared to God, even the richest man in the world is a poor man.

F. Keys to Overcoming Faith

1. The Key of Exposure to the Word of God.

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

Romans 10:17

“the hearing of faith...” Galatians 3:2, 5

- a. Faith comes through the avenue of God’s Word.
- b. Put yourself in a place of hearing the Word of God.
 1. Listen attentively when it is preached.
 2. Read the Word daily.
 3. Take every opportunity to receive from the Word.
- c. Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.
 1. Feed on relationships that reinforce your faith.
 2. Feed on activities/literature that are word-based (magazines, entertainment, etc.)

2. The Key of Praying in the Spirit

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on you most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.” Jude 20

3. The Key of Obedience to God

- a. Faith is demonstrated by obedience (James 2:18-26). Faith is dead faith if it does not lead to action.

But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son

on the altar? ²² Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? ²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. ²⁵ Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? ²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

- b. As we are hearers and doers of the Word and practice a lifestyle of obedience, faith grows in us and we walk from faith to faith (Col. 2:6-7).

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Colossians 2:6-7

- c. The Heroes of faith in Hebrew 11 all demonstrated their faith by specific actions.
- d. Faith is not an emotional feeling, it is acting on the principles of God’s word without the evidence of feeling. It is being governed by the Word of God without any other proof (Hebrew 1:1).
- e. In a very real sense, **faith is obedience.**

4. The Key of Our Profession

- a. Christianity is first and foremost a “confession”.

*“Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our **confession...**” Hebrews 3:1*

- i. As such there is a language of faith.
- ii. As such there is a voice of faith.
- iii. There is a faith that speaks.
- iv. The word “confession” means “saying the same thing.”
 - (a) Faith is agreeing with God or saying the same thing as God on each and every point.
 - (b) Confession is the affirmation of the truth that we have received.
 - (c) Jesus only said those things that He heard the Father saying.

- b. True Faith Speaks.

Read: Romans 10:6-13

There are two types of speaking or confession:

- i. Negative Speaking (“Do not say!”). There is a type of speaking that destroys faith.
 - (a) Do not speak contrary to the Word of God.
 - (b) Whatever is not of faith is sin.
 - (c) The Example of Job. He maintained faith, he maintained a good confession, he maintained high standards, and he maintained his principled life in the face of contradiction (Job 1:20-22; 2:10; 19:25-27; 27:2-6).
 - (d) It is a sin to speak other than what God says.
 - (e) We are snared by the words of our mouth (Pro. 6:2).
- ii. Positive Speaking (Saying what God says”). There is a type of speaking that increases faith.
 - (a) You must hear it (Faith comes by hearing)!
 - (b) You must believe it in your heart (Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks – Matthew 12:34)!
 - (c) You must speak it (The righteousness of faith speaks – Romans 10:6)!
 - (d) The Children of Israel lost out because of a bad confession (i.e. We can’t do it). Our confession is “YES WE CAN!”

5. The Key of Right Meditations

- a. Avoid Vain Babblings
 1. Shun profane and vain babblings that overthrow the faith of some (II Tim. 2:16-18).
 2. Don’t listen to fables and endless genealogies that do not build faith and cause many to stray from the truth (I Tim. 1:4-7).
 3. Reject seducing spirits and doctrines of devils that will cause some to depart from the faith (I Tim. 4:1-5).
 4. Reject old wives fables that are contrary to faith (I Tim. 4:6-7).
 5. Avoid the contradictions of what is falsely called science or knowledge when cause some to stray from the faith (I Tim. 6:20-21).
 6. Don’t consume yourselves in “doubtful disputations” (Rom. 14:1).

7. Philosophies, vain deceits and traditions of men can also lead us down the wrong road (Col. 2:8).

b. Think on These Things.

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lively, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

Philippians 4:8-9

Lesson 4

Ministering Salvation

Part 4—Praying for Salvation

I. Use your testimony as a witnessing tool.

Your personal testimony is the most powerful tool in witnessing to your faith in Christ.

- A. You should write out your testimony in a succinct form.
- B. You should practice sharing your testimony in 10 minutes or less.
- C. You should include the following elements:
 - 1. Your life apart from Christ (do not glorify the life of sin).
 - 2. What brought you to a point of decision for Christ.
 - 3. The changes in your life since receiving Christ.
 - 4. Your experience of water baptism and the baptism of the Spirit.
 - 5. The challenge of separating from the old life.
 - 6. The importance of your identification with the local church and other believers.

II. Become familiar with the “Roman Road” passages and the associated truths.

A. Romans 3:23

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

- 1. All people on earth are sinners.
- 2. Sin separates us from God and keeps us from fulfilling our destiny.

B. Romans 6:23a

For the wages of sin is death...

- 1. The penalty for sin is death.
- 2. The death that is referred to is both physical and spiritual.
- 3. Eternal death is separation from God.

C. Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1. God set His love upon us in spite of our sinful condition.
2. Because of God's great love for us, He provided a plan for our condition.
3. God in His holiness could not simply ignore our sin.
4. God sent Jesus to pay our debt and die in our place.

D. Romans 6:23b

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. He became our sinless substitute.
2. Because of what Christ did, God offers to us a free gift of eternal life.
3. In order to receive that gift we must reach out and accept the gift.

E. Romans 10:9-10 and Romans 10:13

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:9-10

For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." Romans 10:13

1. When Christ died on the cross He made it possible for us to receive the forgiveness of sins.
2. This gift of salvation is given to those who call on the name of the Lord Jesus and accept him as their Savior and Lord.

III. Encourage them in the steps toward a "decision."

This involves walking the candidate for salvation through some basic steps based on the above scriptures. Ask and, if necessary, discuss the following questions before you pray.

- A. Do you realize that you are a sinner (3:23)?
- B. Do you realize that Jesus died on the cross for your sin (Rom. 5:8)?

- C. Are you willing to repent of and turn away from your sins (Acts 17:30)?
- D. Are you willing to receive Christ into your life as the Lord of your life (John 1:12)?
- E. Are you willing to come under the authority of the Word of God?
- F. Are you willing to begin a new lifestyle under the direction of God's Word?
- G. Are you willing to do it now (II Cor. 6:2)?

IV. Talk them through the “sinner’s prayer.”

- A. Have them repeat a prayer along these lines:

Dear Lord,

Today I realize that I am truly a sinner. I realize that my sins have separated me from God. I call upon You as the only One that can save me. I thank you that You love me and that you sent your Son to die in my place on the cross. I repent of all my sins and all of those things that have separated me from You. I am willing to put away my sinful ways and live the way that You have designed for me to live. I acknowledge You as the Lord of the universe and the Lord of my life. I believe that Christ died for me and rose again from the dead. I want to live a life that pleases You in every way. Help me to know what to do. Help me to do what I know is right to do. Thank You for saving my soul.

- B. Ask them to pray to God additionally in their own words.

V. Give them some basic instructions.

- A. Praise the Lord with them for their new found salvation.
- B. Talk to them about the importance of water baptism to seal the work that they have just begun.
- C. Give them a Bible (if they do not have one) and encourage them to read the Gospel of John over the next couple of days. Ask them to take notes on what they feel that God is saying to them as they read.
- D. Talk to them about prayer and communing with God.
- E. Talk to them about the importance of gathering with the believers for support and encouragement.
- F. Warn them that Satan and even their relatives and friends may try to talk them out of what they just experienced.
- G. Ask them if it would be alright to call them regularly for a while.

VI. Follow-up on them quickly and often.

- A. Call them the next day to find out how things are going. Check to see if they are reading the Gospel of John. Pray with them every time you talk to them.
- B. Call them on Tuesday to invite them to the mid-week service. Tell them that you will save a seat for them. Talk to them of the importance of becoming familiar with the Word of God and receiving teaching.
- C. Call them on Saturday night and encourage them to come to the prayer meeting with you and to remind them about the service on Sunday. Invite them to lunch following the Sunday service.
- D. Talk to them about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Let them know that any time they are ready to pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit you are ready to assist them.
- E. Give them your phone number and encourage them to call for any reason.
- F. Encourage them to come to one of the many small groups.

VII. Get them involved with other believers and the local church.

- A. Stress the importance of fellowship with other believers.
- B. Introduce them to other believers with whom you feel they may have an affinity.
- C. Assist them in being able to attend activities for their age or lifestyle group.
- D. Encourage them to take initiative to make some new friends.

Lesson 5

Water Baptism

Note: All verses quoted in this lesson are from the NIV unless otherwise noted.

I. What is water baptism?

A. The Jews were familiar with many types of baptisms in their history.

1. Aaron and his sons were wholly bathed in water when they were consecrated to the priesthood (Ex. 29:4; Lev. 8:6).

Then bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and wash them with water. Exodus 29:4

Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons forward and washed them with water.
Leviticus 8:6

2. The people were to experience the waters of separation when purified from certain defilements (Num. 19).
3. These washings spoke of the fact that even under the Old Covenant God required those who would approach Him in worship to be clean from the defiling effects of sin.
4. All of these washings foreshadowed that perfect and eternal cleansing from sin which the atoning blood of Christ was to provide for His people (Pink).

B. The Jewish people as a nation experienced a baptism when they passed through the Red Sea.

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food.

I Corinthians 10:1-3

1. It was an act of faith.
2. It was an act of obedience.
3. They were identified with their leader, Moses, the mediator of the Old Covenant.

C. Tradition suggests that the Jews baptized proselytes or converts to the Jewish faith.

D. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord when he came baptizing.

And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Mark 1:4

He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Luke 3:3

1. The days into which John came were full of darkness, formalism, hypocrisy and traditions of men.
2. John's message was a call to repentance.

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." Matthew 3:1-2

3. John's baptism signified that those responding had repented, that they recognized their own sinful condition and that they had a desire to be cleansed in the sight of God.
4. John baptized them unto repentance, but he pointed them to another baptism to come under the ministry of the Messiah—the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Luke 3:16

- E. Christ's disciples baptized people prior to the death and resurrection of Christ.

The Pharisees heard that Jesus was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John, although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. John 4:1-2

- F. Christian baptism, as we know it, finds its origin in the command of Christ after His triumphant resurrection from the grave.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:16

1. The word "baptize" (English) or "*baptidzo*" (Greek) means "to dip", "to overwhelm", "to plunge", "to submerge". It actually means "to cause something to be dipped" or "to immerse something beneath the surface of water, or some other fluid" (In most cases the act of immersion was temporary and not permanent).

2. We are commanded of Christ to “baptize” believers.

II. Why should we be baptized?

- A. It is a command of Christ and, therefore, a matter of obedience.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38

- B. Jesus closely connected baptism with the experience of salvation.

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:16

III. What takes place in baptism?

- A. There is a spiritual cleansing in water baptism. The Holy Spirit works in connection with the God prescribed means.

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name. Acts 22:16

- B. We are identified with our leader, Christ.

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food.

I Corinthians 10:1-3

1. We identify with Him in His death.

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Romans 6:3

2. We identify with Him in His burial.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:4

3. We identify with Him in His resurrection.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:4

C. We loose our old master (sin, Satan) and become servants of righteousness.

If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin- because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey-whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:5-23

D. We receive the New Covenant seal of circumcision of the heart.

1. This is pictured in the Old Testament rite of circumcision under the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 17:10-14).

This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be

circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner--those who are not your offspring. Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant. Genesis 17:10-14

Circumcision had three parts.

- a. The cutting away of the flesh and, hence, the shedding of blood.
 - b. It was to be performed on the eighth day. Eight is the number of resurrection and new beginning.
 - c. There was an official naming of the child at this time.
2. The New Testament circumcision of the heart also involves three things (Col. 2:12-13).

Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins...

- a. A separation from the lusts of the flesh by an appropriation of the shed blood of Christ. It involves an offering up of ourselves to God as living sacrifices and so identifying with the death of Christ.
- b. We experience the quickening power of God to rise above sin and its power as we rise to a new beginning and newness of life.
- c. We have a new name invoked over us, the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Col. 1:19; 2:9).

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him. Colossians 1:19

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form. Colossians 2:9

IV. What is the significance of the Name used on connection with water baptism?

- A. The disciples were commanded to baptize in the “name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” To repeat the command is not to fulfill the command.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I

have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
Matthew 28:19-20

- B. Notice how the disciples fulfilled or responded to this command.

Because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Acts 8:16

So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days. Acts 10:48

On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Acts 19:5

- C. What is the name of the Father? The name “Yahweh” was so sacred to the Jewish people that they would not say it. They would supply “adonai” which means “Lord”. All throughout the Old Testament when the capitalized word “Lord” appears, it means that this sacred name of God appears in the original text.

And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.” Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” Exodus 3:12-14

- D. What is the name of the Son?

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.” Luke 1:26-31

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived. Luke 2:21

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21

- E. What is the name of the Spirit (I John 2:27)? “CHRIST” means “anointed.” The Holy Spirit is that anointing oil that descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove making Him Jesus Christ.

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all

things

- F. The name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost is fulfilled in the fullness of the Godhead bodily, the LORD JESUS CHRIST. Therefore to baptize in the name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST is to fulfill the command of Christ.

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Kenyon – *“When we are baptized into the Name of the Father it gives us the place of a child and all the privileges of a child, all the inheritance and wealth of a child. We are baptized into the protection and care and fellowship of the God of the universe as our Father. We take on all that union means. We have the standing of a son, the privilege of a son, the responsibilities of a son. We become by that baptism a joint heir with Jesus, and an heir of God...When we are baptized into the Name of the Holy Spirit, we are baptized into the Name, wealth, power, wisdom and glory of God’s representative on the earth – all the Spirit has we are baptized into.”*

- G. In baptism we actually take on the family name (Eph. 3:4-15).

In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

Kenyon – *“Baptism in this sense is equivalent to marriage. When the wife puts on marriage she takes her husband’s name and enters into her husband’s possessions and has legal right to her husband’s home. When the believer is baptized into the Name of Christ, he puts on all that is in Christ. He not only puts on the Name but takes his legal rights and his privileges in Christ.”*

Note: All of these benefits of baptism are appropriated by faith. Sad to say, many people go down into the waters of baptism dry and come up wet, and that is the extent of their experience.

- H. All through the Scripture a name change indicated a change in nature as well (Abraham, Sarah, Jacob). As God works through you in baptism, expect your nature to change.

V. How should we be baptized?

- A. Scriptural baptism is baptism by immersion (burial).

1. Refer again to the definition of the word baptism.
2. In order for something to be buried, it must be all the way under. That which remains exposed will soon begin to stink.
3. There must be water.

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" Acts 8:36

Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized. John 3:23

4. There must be a burial in the water.

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death... Romans 6:4

5. There will be, therefore, a coming up out of the water.

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Mark 1:10

- B. Since there is only one name you do not have to be buried more than once at your baptism.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

- C. What would be a suitable statement in conjunction with baptism?

"Upon the confession of your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I baptize you into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; in the name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so you also shall rise to walk in newness of life."

This formula:

1. Quotes the command of Christ as declared in the Gospels.
2. Invokes the name of the Lord Jesus Christ as demonstrated in the Book of Acts.
3. Declares the spiritual significance as revealed in the Epistles.

VI. Who should be baptized?

A. All who fulfill the requirements for baptism should be baptized.

1. The requirement of repentance rules out membership baptism. We do not get baptized for the purpose of becoming a church member. There must be a genuine experience of Christ through repentance and faith.

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

2. The requirement of faith rules out infant baptism.

But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Acts 8:12

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:16

- B. Infants should not be baptized because they cannot fulfill these requirements. An infant cannot exercise true repentance and faith. Certainly very young children can do so, but again each child who is baptized must be doing so on the basis of their own faith. No one can believe for someone else. The answer for those concerned in this area is infant dedication.

VII. Who should administer baptism?

While there is no specific statement regarding who should actually do the baptizing in the Bible, the only persons that we find baptizing in the New Testament were leadership ministries who themselves were characterized by a life of obedience to the Word of the Lord.

VIII. What is the responsibility of the baptized?

(The following is taken from *God and His Word* by Ernest Gentile)

- A. A farewell to heathenism. It means a severing of relations with the ungodly ways of heathenism. It signifies the start of the CHRISTian life and dedication to Christ and the work of His Church. Baptism into His name passes the ownership of our life over to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. A new standard of living. From this point on, the Christian is to live according to the New Covenant of the Lord Jesus Christ. This entails both its blessings and its obligations.
- C. A disciple of Jesus. This means being a follower, a student and a witness to others of all that Jesus stands for.

Lesson 6

Administering Water Baptism

I. The preparation of the place

A. There must be adequate water to baptize by immersion.

1. The water should be clean and fresh.
2. The water should be a reasonable temperature.
3. The water should be easily accessible for both getting in and getting out.
4. The place should be useable all year round.

B. Some possible places that could be utilized.

1. An official church baptistery. If you do not have one, you can possibly utilize one from another church in the area.
2. A swimming pool. The best type of pools are ones that have gradual steps descending into the water;
3. A natural water source. This would include lakes, rivers and oceans. Make sure that a certain amount of privacy can be achieved and that any necessary permits are obtained.
4. A large water trough. These are portable units used for watering livestock. In such a case, those administering baptism would do it from the outside of the tank.
5. A large bathtub or hot tub. This is not ideal, but in emergencies it is possible.

C. The place should be accessible for congregational witnesses to the baptism.

II. The Preparation of the Candidate

A. In the spiritual realm

Provide a baptismal class where the candidates can be instructed in the biblical basis for baptism. This class should be about 45 minutes in length and the person leading the class should see to it that the following occurs:

1. Make a list of names for a permanent record.
2. Begin with prayer.
3. Have each person share very briefly, answering the following questions:
 - a. When, and under what circumstances, did you accept the Lord as your personal savior?

- b. Why do you desire to be baptized today?

From these questions you will be able to discern their spirit and the genuine nature of their experience.

4. Share with them a basic teaching concerning baptism (An abbreviated version of the previous notes).
 - a. This teaching should especially include why we should be baptized, and what we can expect to take place.
 - b. This teaching should be aimed at inspiring faith to believe God for a biblical experience.
 - c. This teaching should be simple and clear so that even the children can understand it.
 - d. This teaching should emphasize the truths found in Romans 6 (dying to sin and living for God) and Colossians 3 (circumcision of the heart).
5. Ask the people if they have any questions.
6. Ask them if they have experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking with other tongues.
 - a. If they have not, ask them to remain behind when the others are dismissed.
 - b. Share a brief biblical teaching with them on the baptism of the Spirit when the others have been excused.
 - c. Pray with them if they so desire or encourage them to have faith for this experience when they are baptized in water.
7. Encourage them to spend time in prayer prior to their baptism.

As they pray they should:

- a. Seek God to do something special in their lives and to break off any life dominating sins.
- b. Ask God to cleanse and purify their hearts and impart grace to them.
- c. Ask God to give them something to share with others as a testimony prior to their baptism.

B. In the natural realm

There are certain natural guidelines having to do with procedure that will make for a

better all around experience.

1. Let them know how to dress.
 - a. Modesty is the rule here especially in relation to the women who will be baptized.
 - b. Encourage them to wear a swim suit under street clothes.
 - c. Encourage them to bring a complete change of clothes and a large towel.
 - d. Have some towels on hand and robes available for those who do not have proper attire.
 - e. Have women ready to assist the women candidates before and after baptism.
2. Let them know when and where you want them to get ready.
3. Let them know what they should do when they join you in the water.
 - a. Be prepared to share a testimony and/or answer questions.
 - b. Hold their nose with left hand and their wrist with right hand as we lower you into the water.
 - c. Come out of the water praising the Lord with hands extended speaking in tongues.
 - d. Wait in the water until those baptizing have had a chance to pray over them.
4. Join the candidates prior to baptism for a corporate word of prayer.
5. Give a brief exhortation to the congregation concerning what takes place in baptism and encourage them to renew their vows to the Lord.
6. Enter the baptistery with the candidates one at a time. You may want to bring married couples or families in the water together if the venue permits.
7. Introduce the candidate to the congregation and have them answer a few questions or give a brief testimony.

These answers should be kept brief and should be regulated based on the time available and the number of candidates being baptized. Some appropriate questions would include:

- a. Do you love the Lord with all of your heart?
- b. Under what circumstances did you accept Christ?
- c. Do you plan to serve God all of your life?
- d. Etc.

8. Baptize the candidate; totally submerging them in water (Have the candidate hold their nose before you put them under).

9. As you baptize, say something like:

“Upon the confession of your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I baptize you into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; in the name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so you also shall rise to walk in newness of life.”

10. Encourage the candidate and the congregation to worship the Lord, speaking with other tongues.

11. Pray over them before you dismiss them.

12. Encourage them to go in newness of life.

C. Additional guidelines for children under 12.

1. Their parents must be convinced of their salvation by the confession of their mouth and by the fruit of their life.

2. It should be the child's persistent desire to be baptized.

3. Ideally the child should have the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

4. The parents must accompany the child to the class.

a. They should be encouraged to help explain the content of the class to their child.

b. They should be encouraged to make this a memorable time for the child.

III. The Baptismal Service

A. The Atmosphere

1. The congregation should be together to witness the baptism.

2. The context should be one of singing, worship, prayer and praise.

B. The Worship Leader

1. Should lead the congregation in worship as the candidate comes out of the water

2. A song should be sung between the baptisms that take place.

Note: All of these guidelines would be subject to revision in the event that 3,000 were to be baptized at the same time (Acts 2:41).

Lesson 7

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Note: All of the scriptures quoted in this lesson are from the NIV unless otherwise noted.

I. What was the relationship of the Old Testament believers to the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit?

- A. The Spirit of the Lord came upon various men to enable them to do supernatural feats (Judg. 11:29; Num. 24:2).

Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah. He crossed Gilead and Manasseh, passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from there he advanced against the Ammonites. Judges 11:29

When Balaam looked out and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the Spirit of God came upon him. Numbers 24:2

- B. The Spirit of the Lord rested upon men (Num. 11:25; Is. 11:2).

Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took of the Spirit that was on him and put the Spirit on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied, but they did not do so again. Numbers 11:25

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him--the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:2

- C. Men were filled with the Spirit to perform a certain task (Ex. 31:3; Mi. 3:8).

And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts. Exodus 31:3

But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin. Micah 3:8

- D. Like the dove that was released from the window of the ark of Noah the first and second time that found no rest or permanent place of habitation, so the Spirit of God in the Old Testament days found no permanent place of habitation in the lives of God's people (I Sam. 10:6, 10; 16:14).

The Spirit of the LORD will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person... When they arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he joined in their prophesying. I Samuel 10:6, 10

Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him. I Samuel 16:14

II. What did the Old Testament promise in regard to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit?

- A. An outpouring was promised to the Seed of Jacob (Is. 44:3; Rom. 9:6-8).

*For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.*

Isaiah 44:3

It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." In other words, it is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

Romans 9:6-8

- B. God would use other tongues to speak to His people (Is. 28:11-12; See I Cor. 14:21).

Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people, to whom he said, "This is the resting place, let the weary rest"; and, "This is the place of repose"--but they would not listen. Isaiah 28:11-12

I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue. Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature. In the law it is written: "With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; and yet, for all that, they will not hear Me," says the Lord. Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe. I Corinthians 14:18-22

- C. God promised to pour out His Spirit on all flesh in the last days (Joel 2:28-29).

And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

Joel 2:28-29

III. What was the relation of Christ to the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- A. Jesus was baptized in the Holy Spirit at Jordan. The Spirit came and remained on Him (Mt. 3:16-17; Mark 1:10-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:19-34).

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16-17

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:10-11

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Luke 3:21-22

Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" Now some Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel." Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'" John 1:19-34

- B. It is part of the ministry of Jesus to baptize with the Holy Spirit (John 1:33; Compare to John 4:2).

I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit." John 1:33

It should be noted that to avoid confusion about the baptism to which God was referring in the above passage, Jesus did not personally baptize anyone in water.

Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples). John 4:2

- C. Jesus prophesied that this baptism would be a believer's experience (John 7:38-39).

"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. John 7:38-39

- D. In order for Christ to fulfill this ministry, He had to leave earth (John 16:7).

But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. John 16:7

- E. It is given on the basis of the finished work of Calvary and the exaltation of Christ. He received it from the father and has given it to us (Acts 2:33; See also John 7:37-39).

Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. Acts 2:33

- F. Christ gave His disciples instructions prior to their receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5; Luke 24:49).

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 1:4-5

"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:49

IV. What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- A. It is the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4).

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. Acts 1:4

- B. It is an endowment with power to do the commands of Christ (Acts 1:8; Luke 24:49).

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” Luke 24:49

- C. It is a definite experience of which we can know that we have or have not received (Acts 19:2).

And asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Acts 19:2

- D. It takes place at a given point in time (Acts 1:5).

“For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 1:5

- E. It is an operation of the Spirit distinct from and subsequent to the conversion experience or being born of the Spirit (Acts 8:12, 15-16; 19:1-2).

But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Acts 8:12, 15-16

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Acts 19:1-2

- F. Every true believer has the Holy Spirit, but not every believer has the baptism of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:19; Rom. 8:9; Acts 19:1-2).

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own. I Corinthians 6:19

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. Romans 8:9

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy

Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Acts 19:1-2

- G. It is part of the proper Christian birth and separation from the old life (Acts 2:38).

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
Acts 2:38

- H. Synonymous phrases include baptized with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit fell on them, the promise of the Father etc.

V. How did the Early Church experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- A. On the Day of Pentecost God poured out His Spirit upon the expectant disciples (Acts 2:1-13).

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.” Acts 2:1-13

- B. The believers at Samaria received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17).

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14-17

- C. The Holy Spirit fell on those that heard the Word in the house of Cornelius, a Gentile (Acts 10:44-48; 11:15-17).

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days. Acts 10:44-48

As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God? Acts 11:15-17

- D. The Ephesians Christians received the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:1-6).

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. Acts 19:1-6

- E. Paul received the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17-18).

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord-Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here-has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized. Acts 9:17-18

VI. What is the necessity of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- A. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary for every Christian for the service that Christ demands and expects of us.
1. Christ commanded the disciples not to enter upon the work to which He had Himself called them until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit.
 2. Jesus Christ Himself did not enter into His ministry until the Spirit of God came upon Him and He had been anointed with the Holy Spirit and power (Luke 4:18).

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed. Luke 4:18

3. When the apostles found believers in Christ they sought to discover whether they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit, and if not, they at once saw to it that they were.
- B. With the baptism of the Holy Spirit comes spiritual authority to the believer (Acts 1:8).

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
Acts 1:8

VII. What is the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- A. In all of the instances of people receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the Bible, speaking with other tongues is either present or implied.

1. This was true at the initial outpouring on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4).

“And began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
Acts 2:4

2. This was true when the Samaritans were baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-21).

“And when Simon saw that through the laying on of hands the Holy Spirit was given...” Acts 8:18

One has to wonder what Simon saw. Peter explains later that Simon had “neither part nor portion in this matter” (Acts 8:21, Greek, *logos*, which means utterance or speech).

3. This was true when Paul receive his Spirit baptism (Acts 9:17 with I Cor. 14:18).

I thank my God, I speak in tongues more than ye all. I Corinthians 14:18

4. This was true when the Holy Spirit fell upon Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:44-48).

For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Acts 10:46

5. This was true when the men of Ephesus were baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts

19:1-6).

And they spoke with tongues, and prophesied. Acts 19:6

- B. Ernest Gentile in his book *God and His Word* states, “The Bible does not say that you **MUST** speak in tongues to have the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but it does teach us by illustration that if you have the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you will be given the immediate evidence of speaking in tongues.”
- C. Perhaps God chose this sign because He wants to purify us by getting a hold of our unruly member (James 3:1-12).

Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. James 3:1-12

VIII. What are some of the reasons for speaking in tongues?

- A. It is one of the signs of a believer (Mark 16:17; John 7:38-39).

And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues. Mark 16:17

“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. John 7:38-39

- B. By it God speaks to man (I Cor. 14:21; Is. 28:11-12).

In the Law it is written: “Through men of strange tongues and through the lips of

foreigners I will speak to this people, but even then they will not listen to me,” says the Lord. I Corinthians 14:21

Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people, to whom he said, “This is the resting place, let the weary rest”; and, “This is the place of repose”--but they would not listen. Isaiah 28:11-12

- C. By it man may speak to God (I Cor. 14:2).

For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. I Corinthians 14:2

- D. It is a way to edify or build ourselves up (I Cor. 14:4; Jude 20).

He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I Corinthians 14:4

But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Jude 20

- E. It is a way to magnify God (Acts 10:45).

The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Acts 10:45

- F. It is a means of spiritual worship (I Cor. 14:15; John 4:24).

So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. I Corinthians 14:15

God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth. John 4:24

- G. It is part of the spiritual weaponry of the believer (Eph. 6:18).

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18

- H. It is part of the power package of the believer.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

- I. It helps us to pray according to the will of God (Rom. 8:26; I Cor. 14:14).

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. Romans 8:26

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.

I Corinthians 14:14

- J. It is a spiritual blessing for which we should be thankful (I Cor. 14:18).

Thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. I Corinthians 14:18

- K. It is spoken of as a “refreshing” or a “resting place” (Is. 28:11-12).

Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people, to whom he said, “This is the resting place, let the weary rest”; and, “This is the place of repose”--but they would not listen. Isaiah 28: 11-12

IX. Who may receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- A. All believers in Christ are candidates (Acts 2:39; Mark 16:17).

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call. Acts 2:39

And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues. Mark 16:17

- B. The fundamental conditions upon which the baptism of the Holy Spirit is given are repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as an all-sufficient Savior apart from the works of the law (Acts 2:38; 10:44; Gal. 3:2).

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2:38

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. Acts 10:44

I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Galatians 3:2

- C. For those who believe on Christ the experimental reception of the baptism with the Holy Spirit is sometimes conditioned on the believer’s knowledge that there is such a blessing and that it is for him in the here and now (Acts 19:2-6).

And asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."...When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. Acts 19:2, 6

- D. God gives the Holy Spirit to them that obey Him. Obedience means absolute surrender to the Lordship of Christ (Acts 5:32).

We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. Acts 5:32

X. How does one receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- A. Fulfill the prerequisites for receiving the Holy Spirit as listed above.
B. Remember that it is a free gift and not earned (Gal. 3:2).

I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?

- C. Ask Christ to give you this gift and He will (Acts 8:14; Luke 11:9-13).

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. Acts 8:14

So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:9-13

- D. Expect to receive this gift as hands are laid upon you.
E. Exercise your faith by speaking in an unknown language unto the Lord.
F. Yield your unruly member as an instrument of righteousness, not fearing that the Lord will give you something else that that which you desire.
G. Do not attempt to work up your emotions, relax in His presence.
H. Once you have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit use your tongue daily as it is a key to spiritual vitality.

Lesson 8

Administering the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

- 1. Don't get in a hurry to pray with anyone.**
 - a. Premature prayer may cause them feelings of inadequacy.
 - b. Premature prayer may hinder them from receiving later.
 - c. It is better to pray with those who are hungry and thirsty (Mt. 5:6).
- 2. Minister in twos or threes (Acts 8:14).**
- 3. Try to ascertain the level of their understanding.**
 - a. Do they come from a background that has taught against it?
 - b. Do they have any understanding of speaking in other tongues?
 - c. Sometimes the reception of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is conditioned on the believer's knowing that such an experience is for today (Acts 19:1-6).
- 4. Make sure the candidate is truly saved (Acts 2:38-39).**
- 5. Be sure the candidate has a biblical understanding of what is happening (Rom. 10:17).**

The point in taking them through the Scripture is to:

- a. Answer possible problems before they occur;
 - b. Instill faith for a biblical experience;
 - c. Convince them that God's Word is clear on this subject.
- 6. Take the candidate through a scriptural outline of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.**

The following scriptures are particularly effective:

- a. John the Baptist said that Christ was to be the baptizer with the Holy Ghost (Matthew 3:11; John 1:32-33).
- b. Jesus didn't enter into His ministry until he was endowed with power from on high (Luke 3:22; 4:1, 14, 18-19).
- c. Jesus prophesied that this would be a believer's experience (John 8:37-39).
- d. When Jesus left the disciples, He instructed them to wait to be endowed with power from on high before embarking on their ministry (Luke 24:49).

- e. Jesus instructed His disciples before His ascension (Acts 1:4-5, 8).
 - f. The promise of Jesus was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost. Notice that they spoke with other tongues (Acts. 2:1-4).
 - g. This experience was shared later by the Samaritans. Notice that it is an experience subsequent to salvation (Acts 8:12; Acts 8:14-17).
 - h. The house of Cornelius received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Notice how they knew that they were filled (Acts 10:44-47).
 - i. The Ephesians received this experience about 21 years after the account in Acts 2 (Acts 19:1-6).
 - j. This experience is for us today (Mark 16:16-17; John 8:37-39; Acts 2:39).
 - k. As God's dear children, all we need to do is ask. We will never be worthy. It is a free gift (Luke 11:9-13).
- 7. Reassure them that when they pray, God will not let Satan give them something that they didn't ask for or that will hurt them (Luke 11:11-13).**
- 8. Explain exactly what you are going to do.**
- 9. Explain exactly what you expect them to do.**
- a. You want them to pray and ask the Lord Jesus to baptize them with the Holy Spirit.
 - b. You want them to thank the Lord by faith and speak in another tongue.
 - c. Remind them that they cannot speak in English and in tongues at the same time.
 - d. Explain that to speak in any language, they must use their own vocal cords.
 - e. Encourage them to speak the syllables that God will give them.
 - f. Advise them not to try to analyze their words with their mind, but focus their attention on the Lord.
 - g. Warn them that Satan, THE LIAR, will try to make them believe that they are making it up.
- 10. Make sure you have answered all of their questions.**
- 11. Pray with them, but encourage them to pray themselves.**
- 12. Encourage them to speak in tongues by rejoicing in tongues with them.**
- 13. Afterwards:**

- a. Stop them and reassure them;
- b. Let them know that they can speak in tongues anytime they want;
- c. Encourage them to use tongues daily (Jude 20);
- d. Join them in another time of worship.

You might well ask, "Why all of this?" Didn't God sovereignly pour out His Spirit in the Bible times? That is true. But the problem today is that most of us have had so much teaching against this experience that by the time we are ready for it, we have no faith for it.

Lesson 9

Healing

I. Foundations for Ministering Healing in the Church.

A. Be convinced that divine healing is part of our inheritance as the people of God.

1. All sickness and disease have their origin in Satan and is the result of sin in the human condition (Gal. 3:13; Job 1-2).

*Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us...
Galatians 3:13a*

2. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (I John 3:8).
3. Jesus bore our sickness on Calvary (Mt. 8:16-17).
4. Healing is part of the children's bread (Mt. 15:21-28).
5. The ministry of healing has been entrusted to the Church (Mark 16:15-18; Jam. 5:14-16).

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Luke 9:1-2

After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road. But whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house." And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. And heal the sick there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

Luke 10:1-9

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take

up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” Mark 16:15-18

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:14-16

B. Be aware that there are different causes for sickness and disease.

1. There are causes in the **natural realm** such as carelessness in observing natural laws, eating poorly, getting an improper amount of rest and exercise or simply contracting a virus (I Cor. 3:16-17; Phil. 2:25-30).

Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me. Philippians 2:25-30

2. There are causes in the **soul** (mind, will, emotions) **realm** (III John 2), such as worry, anxiety, fear, stress or bitterness (lack of forgiveness).
3. There are causes in the **spiritual realm** where sickness can be associated with a spiritual test (Job 2:5-8), a direct demonic attack (Luke 13:11-12; Mark 9:25-27) or even judgment for sin (II Chr. 26:16-21).

And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.” Luke 13:11-12

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!” Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. Mark 9:25-27

But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. So Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him were eighty priests of the LORD--valiant men. And they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You shall have no honor from the LORD God." Then Uzziah became furious; and he had a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar. And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he was leprous; so they thrust him out of that place. Indeed he also hurried to get out, because the LORD had struck him. King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house, because he was a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD. Then Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land. I Chronicles 26:16-21

C. Be aware that there are hindrances to receiving healing (Pro. 26:2).

...the curse causeless shall not come.—KJV

1. Lack of forgiveness or bitterness (Mt. 18:23-35).
2. Lack of confidence in God or persistent unbelief (Mark 6:5-6; Mt. 9:29).
3. Lack of obedience and rebellion (Ex. 15:25-26; Pro. 4:20-22).
4. Lack of repentance (Jam. 5:16; II Chr. 7:14).
5. Lack of discerning the Lord's body (I Cor. 11:29-30).

For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

6. Improper marital relationships (I Pet. 3:1-7).
7. Spiritual depression (Pro. 17:22).

A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.

D. Be aware that faith is the key to healing.

1. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17; Ps. 107:20; John 8:32).
2. Faith is expected in the one healed (Matt. 9:2; 22; 15:28; Mark 5:32; 9:22-23; Luke 7:50; 22:32; Acts 6:5; 14:9).

Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." Matthew 9:2

But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour. Matthew 9:22

3. Faith holds the word of God as supreme (Jam. 1:6-7; Heb. 11:6; Rom. 14:23).
4. Faith will be tried; delay is not denial (Jam. 1:3; Jon. 2:7-8).

E. Realize the authority of the New Testament believer.

1. The New Testament Church has been given the power to bind and loose (Mt. 16:19; Luke 10:19).

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Luke 10:19

2. The New Testament Church has been entrusted with the Name of the Lord (Acts 3:16).

And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

3. The New Testament Church has been empowered by the Spirit of God (John 14:12).
4. The New Testament Church has been commissioned to carry on and fulfill the ministry of Christ (Mt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20).

II. There are several means by which healing can be received.

- A. There are natural means, including diet, exercise, relieving stress, proper rest and a disciplined life (Pro. 17:22; I Tim. 4:8; Phil 4:6-7; II Tim. 2:24).

For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. I Timothy 4:8

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which

surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7

- B. There is the medical profession, which is certainly used of God to help deal with sickness and disease (Mt. 9:12).
- C. There are spiritual avenues of healing that God has made available in the Church.
 - 1. Simple prayer to God by the sick person (Jam. 5:13-14; Heb. 11:6).
 - 2. The laying on of the hands of other believers (Mark 16:17).
 - 3. Anointing with oil by church leadership (Jam. 5:14).
 - 4. Through the word of power (Mt. 8:5-13; Ps. 107:20).
 - 5. Through the Table of the Lord (I Cor. 11:23-32).
 - 6. Being ministered to by someone operating in the gifts of healing (I Cor. 12:9).
 - 7. Being ministered to by someone who has the ministry of healing (I Cor. 12:28).
 - 8. Through special and miraculous means (Mark 7:31-37; 8:22-26; John 9:1-7; Acts 19:11-12; 5:15-16).
 - 9. Through dealing with any demonic bondage that might be causing the infirmity (Luke 13:11-12).

Lesson 10

Administering Healing

Outline continued from previous lesson...

III. Guidelines for Ministering Healing.

- A. Personal preparations of the one ministering.
 - 1. Cleanse your heart and mind of unbelief by rehearsing the Word of God regarding healing.
 - 2. Reaffirm your personal relationship to Christ as the healer.
 - 3. Ask God to reveal any cause or how He wants to move in this particular situation.
 - 4. Be sensitive to the leading and voice of the Holy Spirit.

- B. Personal preparations of the one being ministered to.
 - 1. Cleanse your heart and mind of unbelief by rehearsing the Word of God regarding healing.
 - 2. Repent of known sin or sins in your life.
 - 3. Reaffirm your relationship to Jesus as Lord of all.
 - 4. Forgive any person toward whom you may be holding bitterness.

- C. Things to do when ministering to the sick.
 - 1. Minister in teams of two or three whenever possible.
 - 2. Ask the prayer candidate to identify the need specifically.
 - 3. Ask them whether they have consulted a physician about their condition.
 - 4. Briefly address the possible hindrances to healing.
 - 5. Rehearse a couple of key verses regarding healing in the ears of the candidate.
 - 6. Assure the candidate by giving them hope and confidence in Jesus, their doctor.
 - 7. Lay hands on them discretely and/or anoint them with oil as you pray.

8. Use the name of Jesus in your prayer as you are operating as an extension of His authority.
9. Speak to the condition with the authority of Christ (Luke 5:13, 24; 18:42).

*“But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” -
-He said to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed,
and go to your house.” Luke 5:24*

10. Thank the Lord for His healing grace.
11. Encourage them to check out their condition to confirm healing.
12. If no healing is evident, encourage them to continue to look to the Lord and be willing to be prayed for often.
13. If healing is evident encourage them to testify giving glory to God and to prepare for a trial of their faith.

D. Things to avoid when ministering to the sick.

1. Avoid getting into a “magic formula” mode (Acts 19:13ff.).
2. Avoid putting guilt on the person receiving prayer if they are not healed.
3. Do not predict their healing at some later time if the healing is not immediately manifest.
4. Do not tell them to throw away prescription medications or other medical aids (as a sign of their faith) until their doctor has cleared them to do so (Luke 17:11-14).

Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

Lesson 11-12

Basic Counseling Guidelines

I. The Qualifications of the Counselor

The Counselor:

- A. Must be an example of the believer (I Tim 4:12). A great deal that you share in counseling others comes out of your own life and experience. The fact that you are living what you are sharing gives authority to your words.

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

This means being an example in the following areas:

1. In separation from sin.
 2. In love for righteousness.
 3. In desires to see God's purposes established corporately and individually.
 4. In compassion and concern for others.
- B. Must have the fruit of the Spirit operating in his or her life (Gal. 5:22-23).

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

All of these qualities will be tested in the counseling process.

1. Love
 2. Joy
 3. Peace
 4. Longsuffering
 5. Gentleness
 6. Goodness
 7. Faith
 8. Meekness
 9. Temperance
- C. Must have true humility (it will be tested).

You cannot allow the counselee to get you stirred up against them. There must be no

“buttons” in you that they can push that set you off or gets you out of control. This requires humility.

"True humility is accepting God's estimation of me" (Rom. 12:3).

- D. Must view God’s word as the only infallible authority on which to build (Ps. 19:7; John 6:63).

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple... Psalm 19:7

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. John 6:63

- E. Must have a deep loyalty to and agreement with the local church.

The answer to so many people’s needs is to be found in a right relationship to the local church. In order to push the church, you must believe in the church.

- F. Must have a basic understanding of authority and chain of command.

So many people’s problems come back to how they relate to the authority figures in their life. Counselors themselves are often tempted to move into a wrong place of authority or to overstep their authority in relation to the counselee. The counselor must be constantly pushing people in the direction of the authorities in their lives.

1. In the home
2. In the church
3. In secular society (government, job, etc.)

- G. Must have an understanding of the laws of relationship.

Many problems have to do with relationships. When you understand the laws of relationship you can help people to deepen relationships that are to be encouraged or to wean themselves from relationships that are harmful.

1. Governed by time
2. Governed by words
3. Governed by actions

- H. Must have a confidence in the biblical pattern and approach of confrontation as prescribed in Matthew 18:15-20.

Some counseling ends up becoming confrontational because people are not willing to repent of obvious sin in their lives.

- I. Must be confident in and dependent upon the Holy Spirit as THE COUNSELOR.
 - 1. For enablement
 - 2. For revelation and insight
 - 3. For personal comfort and encouragement
- J. Must be **available** to people.

II. Groundwork that Must be Laid by the Counselor

A. Establish their true salvation.

You cannot expect someone who is lost in sin and alienated from the life of God to be able to walk in the ways of God.

B. Establish their true desire for God's will.

Not everyone wants the will of God for their lives. Some people just want the problems to go away.

C. Establish their willingness to change.

Every counselee must realize that if they are going to have a different result in their life they will have to change what they are doing. To expect a different result without doing anything different is unreasonable.

D. Establish their willingness to cooperate (meeting times).

As a counselor your time is valuable and it is important that the ones you are counseling make personal sacrifices to meet with you the same way they would for a physician.

E. Establish their willingness to conform to the standard of God's word.

The word of God is the will of God and the standard for every Christian's behavior. If you are going to be able to make any progress, all parties must acknowledge the authority of the word of God.

F. Establish their willingness to work (homework).

Your personal involvement as a counselor is based completely on their willingness to participate in the process. You will never give them homework that is too difficult for them to do, but if they do not do the homework that is given, there is no point in continuing to meet.

G. Establish a spirit of hope in the counselee.

If the counselor does nothing else in the first few sessions establishing hope may be enough to get things moving in the right direction. You need to encourage them that “The way to get anywhere is to start from where you are.” As a counselor, you may not have an immediate answer to their problems or situation. However, you know someone who has all of the answers. Your confidence is not in yourself, but in God.

III. The Counseling Process

A. Get the facts.

1. Failure to do so ends in failure (Pro. 18:13).

He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.

What a shame, what folly, to give advice before listening to the facts! –NLT

What happens when a doctor misdiagnoses a problem?

- a. It takes focus off the real problem.
 - b. It makes the real problem hazy.
 - c. It may take some pressure off of the counselee and it may postpone a solution indefinitely.
 - d. It reduces the counselor’s credibility.
2. To do so the counselor must:
 - a. Be a good listener.
 - b. Be a good note taker.
 - c. Be a good questioner.

B. Identify specific problem areas.

“Life is not lived in the abstract, but in the concrete.”

1. Specific problems can lead to specific solutions.

The more concrete we are in the identifying of problems, the more concrete we can be in providing the solutions to those problems.

2. Generalization must be clarified by the counselee.

- “He doesn’t love me!” Clarification, “In what way does he not love you?”
- “He is inconsiderate!” Clarification, “In what way is he inconsiderate?”
- “I have a problem with temptation!” Clarification, “In what specific area?”

C. Pinpoint underlying attitudes.

All actions are based on a particular attitude or motivation. The problem may be stealing, lying or inconsiderateness, but the root issue might be laziness, covetousness or pride.

D. Reaffirm foundational commitments.

The counselor at this point needs to revisit the original commitments to the word and will of God. This can be done by asking the counselee, “Are you willing to discover what God’s word says about this area?” If humility is not at the base of our dialogue, the counselor can go no further. Unless there is a proper attitude at this point, we must go back and affirm the foundation for the counseling process.

E. Bring the counselee to a place of personal confession of failure (Pro. 28:13).

He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

Let the counselee confess his or her own failures (See Basic Assignment). Have them write down what they feel their failures are. Many will not go past this point and admit any wrong. If they do not admit wrong, you may have to give them a biblical warning.

F. Develop a scriptural prescription for change.

Right diagnosis is essential to writing a proper prescription.

1. What actions and attitudes must be put off (Eph. 4:22-5:21; Col. 3:1-17)?
2. What actions and attitudes must be put on?
3. What activities can I do that will help?
4. What activities should I avoid doing?

See chart below

	Example 1	Example 2
Put Off	Drunkenness	Stealing
Put On	Filled with Spirit	Giving to Needy
Activities To Do	Pray in Tongues Become Accountable	Work out Restitution Volunteer for Charity
Activities Not To Do	Driving by Bar Regulate Companionship	Shopping Alone Regulate Companionship

5. Who can I go to for help?
6. Why am I doing all of this?

It is important that the counselee understands that he or she is not making changes to gain a blessing, to get the heat off, to change their spouse or to look good socially. It is important that they understand that they are making changes because they want to glorify God in their life. They are making changes because it is the right thing to do.

- G. Follow up the counselee. Habits are not changed overnight. Most counsees will need some kind of follow-up for the purpose of accountability.
 1. Using additional meetings
 2. Using homework
 3. Using personal contact

BASIC ASSIGNMENT

Name _____

Date Given _____ Date Accomplished _____

Areas for Consideration:

BASIC STEPS TOWARD SOLUTION:

1. Reaffirm your desire to live according to the word and will of God. Jesus is Lord of all.
2. Spend time in sincere prayer and seeking God and asking Him for your part of the solution to the problem. What does He want you to change or begin to do or not to do?
3. Keep notes on what God tells you during these times of seeking on the back side of this sheet.
4. Be prepared to share what God is saying to you in the presence of your counselor and/or your marriage partner.