

B I B L E K E Y S

The Christian Life

Lessons 23 to 25

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THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

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Welcome to *The Christian Life*

This is the sixth and last book in the BibleKeys series – 25 lessons of foundational teaching from God’s Word. A mini “Bible School” really!

Since each book builds on the previous one, we encourage you to read them in sequence. Here are the books, in order: *The Gate to Life, Growing in Christ, A School of Prayer, Doing the Works of Jesus, The Church and the Holy Spirit, The Christian Life*. You can read them online at www.biblekeys.org or download to your tablet or computer.

In these three lessons we begin by looking at the kind of life we are called to live – a life of holiness. There are practical implications, of course, but in Christ you have all you need to live a holy, fruitful life. And he will help you by his Holy Spirit, as you follow and obey him. Your life right now, and how you live it, is important!

In conclusion, we talk about the wonderful future that awaits us, when we will be with Jesus forever. *God has a glorious future for you!*

As you go through this course:

- Always find and mark the verses in your Bible.
- Have a notebook to write your observations, questions and answers.
- Learn some verses by heart, starting with those at the end of each lesson.
- Practice what you have learned. It is through hearing the Word and doing what it says that you will be blessed!

The sections and their symbols



Bible Teaching

This is the symbol for “Bible Teaching” – the section at the beginning of each lesson. It teaches the subject we are studying.



Bible Quest: Self-study

In this section there are things for you to do. These help you to know what the Bible says, so you can apply it to your life.



Action Time: Act on the Word!

Faith without action is dead. Therefore, we encourage you to always DO something after each lesson. When you act on what you have learned, God’s blessings become real to you.



Memo Time: Memorise Bible verses

In each lesson, we have chosen one or two important Bible verses for you to memorise. The best way is to read them aloud until you know them by heart. Meditate on them regularly and let them become part of your life.



Praise Time

Here we encourage you to praise and worship God. Tell God how wonderful he is, or sing praises to his name!

Bible abbreviations

Old Testament:		<i>Isaiah</i>	<i>Isa</i>	<i>Acts</i>	<i>Acts</i>
<i>Genesis</i>	<i>Gen</i>	<i>Jeremiah</i>	<i>Jer</i>	<i>Romans</i>	<i>Rom</i>
<i>Exodus</i>	<i>Ex</i>	<i>Lamentations</i>	<i>Lam</i>	<i>1 Corinthians</i>	<i>1 Cor</i>
<i>Leviticus</i>	<i>Lev</i>	<i>Ezekiel</i>	<i>Ezek</i>	<i>2 Corinthians</i>	<i>2 Cor</i>
<i>Numbers</i>	<i>Num</i>	<i>Daniel</i>	<i>Dan</i>	<i>Galatians</i>	<i>Gal</i>
<i>Deuteronomy</i>	<i>Deut</i>	<i>Hosea</i>	<i>Hos</i>	<i>Ephesians</i>	<i>Eph</i>
<i>Joshua</i>	<i>Josh</i>	<i>Joel</i>	<i>Joel</i>	<i>Philippians</i>	<i>Phil</i>
<i>Judges</i>	<i>Judg</i>	<i>Amos</i>	<i>Amos</i>	<i>Colossians</i>	<i>Col</i>
<i>Ruth</i>	<i>Ruth</i>	<i>Obadiah</i>	<i>Obad</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians</i>	<i>1 Thess</i>
<i>1 Samuel</i>	<i>1 Sam</i>	<i>Jonah</i>	<i>Jon</i>	<i>2 Thessalonians</i>	<i>2 Thess</i>
<i>2 Samuel</i>	<i>2 Sam</i>	<i>Micah</i>	<i>Mic</i>	<i>1 Timothy</i>	<i>1 Tim</i>
<i>1 Kings</i>	<i>1 Kings</i>	<i>Nahum</i>	<i>Nah</i>	<i>2 Timothy</i>	<i>2 Tim</i>
<i>2 Kings</i>	<i>2 Kings</i>	<i>Habakkuk</i>	<i>Hab</i>	<i>Titus</i>	<i>Titus</i>
<i>1 Chronicles</i>	<i>1 Chron</i>	<i>Zephaniah</i>	<i>Zeph</i>	<i>Philemon</i>	<i>Phlm</i>
<i>2 Chronicles</i>	<i>2 Chron</i>	<i>Haggai</i>	<i>Hag</i>	<i>Hebrews</i>	<i>Heb</i>
<i>Ezra</i>	<i>Ezra</i>	<i>Zechariah</i>	<i>Zech</i>	<i>James</i>	<i>James</i>
<i>Nehemiah</i>	<i>Neh</i>	<i>Malachi</i>	<i>Mal</i>	<i>1 Peter</i>	<i>1 Pet</i>
<i>Esther</i>	<i>Esth</i>			<i>2 Peter</i>	<i>2 Pet</i>
<i>Job</i>	<i>Job</i>	New Testament:		<i>1 John</i>	<i>1 John</i>
<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Ps</i>	<i>Matthew</i>	<i>Matt</i>	<i>2 John</i>	<i>2 John</i>
<i>Proverbs</i>	<i>Prov</i>	<i>Mark</i>	<i>Mark</i>	<i>3 John</i>	<i>3 John</i>
<i>Ecclesiastes</i>	<i>Eccl</i>	<i>Luke</i>	<i>Luke</i>	<i>Jude</i>	<i>Jude</i>
<i>Song of Songs</i>	<i>Songs</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Revelation</i>	<i>Rev</i>

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A Holy Life

About this lesson:

Just as the Holy Spirit works *through* you, he is also at work *in* you. As you walk closely with him, he will produce wonderful fruit in your life, teaching you to overcome sin and live in righteousness (see lesson 9). This process of becoming more and more like Jesus – being holy as he is holy (1 Pet 1:16) – is a lifelong journey, but gloriously possible through the power of the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah!

The topics of this lesson are:

- God is holy
- The importance of a holy life
- Sin and victory over sin
- The Holy Spirit in us

Luke 3:38

Rom 5:12

In the beginning, everything was perfect! Adam, the first man and “son of God”, was created in God’s image and lived in fellowship with him. Tragically, through Adam’s disobedience and rebellion, sin entered the world. The original holiness Adam had received from God had been lost, not only for himself but for all humans. But God had a plan to get Adam back! Not the original Adam but “man”, “humanity”, which is what “Adam” means.



Heb 12:29

1 Thess 5:9

1 God is holy

Our God is immensely good, but he’s also holy, which means “separate”, “different”. He cannot tolerate what is unholy. The Bible says, “Our God is a consuming fire.” When he encounters unrighteousness, his fire consumes it! One day God will judge all that is unrighteous, but the good news is that instead of pouring out his anger on us, God saved us

through Jesus and clothed us in righteousness (see lesson 7). A holy lifestyle requires effort, however: ***“Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”***

Heb 12:14

Just look at this radiant bride! She’s a picture of holiness: pure, white, prepared for her bridegroom, full of love and expectation. She does all she can to stay pure because she wants to please her beloved.



Lev 20:7,8

The same goes for you and me. We want to be pure and set apart for Jesus. That’s holiness! Holiness is rooted in God’s heart. Holiness protects us, like a firewall against evil. It helps us stand against Satan and resist that which would pollute us.



2 The importance of a holy life

Everything we’ve studied in BibleKeys – faith, authority, the gifts of the Holy Spirit – goes hand in hand with living a holy life. Why? Because they all work through love, and **the heart of holiness is love**. Faith works through love. The gifts of the Holy Spirit work through love. Remember this verse? “And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”

Gal 5:6

1 Cor 13:2

1 Pet 1:15

Eph 4:1-3

In the Bible, the call of God goes hand in hand with a call to holiness: “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Why are humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance and love so important? Because only in the body of Christ, in close fellowship with one another, can we fulfil our calling. If the members of the body start fighting each other, we’ll not display Jesus, only our sinful nature. But praise God, we can live a holy life by the power of the Holy Spirit. However, there are three enemies to be aware of, and possible pitfalls and dangers:



3 Sin and victory over sin

1 Pet 5:8

- **The devil.** “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” The devil is actively against you, but if you’re walking with Jesus the devil will not be able to stop God’s plans from being fulfilled in your life.

James 4:4

- **The world.** “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?” The world’s values, thought patterns and passions are directly opposed to God. We will look into what is meant by “the world” in a moment.

Rom 8:6-8

- **Our own sinful nature – our flesh.** “To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” The “flesh” is not the body itself. Rather the Bible uses this word to describe our sinful nature, that part of us that doesn’t want to obey God.

The danger of sin

Isa 59:2

Sin is like a dangerous cancer. It’s more than just speaking in haste or getting angry about something. Sin starts within you, and if not repented of leads to death – separation from God.

Matt 5:29

That’s why, as a Christian, we bow humbly before God asking him to forgive and cleanse us. Our biggest threat will always be sin because sin breaks our fellowship with God. Jesus said, “If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.”

Rom 6:23

Of course God does not want us to tear out our eyes, but he does want us to stay away from sin at all costs. Why? “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

“The world”

Gen 2:15

In the Bible, “the world” has two different meanings: first, it refers to creation and humankind as a whole; second, to the spirit of this world. God created a good and beautiful world, and made man the head of his creation, to cultivate and care for it. But there’s a worldly spirit that’s not from God, as we

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Rom 12:2

see in this verse: **“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”** The spirit of this world is in rebellion against God’s Spirit, focusing on earthly things and on the lusts and passions of our sinful nature.

1 Cor 2:12

Eph 2:2,3

We are *in* this world and we enjoy all its blessings, but we are not *of* this world! So instead of copying worldly behaviour and customs – being conformed to this world – we pattern our lives on Jesus and his heavenly standards. However, the struggle between what is of God and what is of the world affects us too! (We learned more about this in lesson 9.)

Rom 7:22,23 NIV

Paul describes it in this way: “For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.” Can you see the struggle?

Undoubtedly, you know what Paul is talking about. You want to do good, you want to pray, you want to be kind – but you do the exact opposite. Although we want what is right, **we just can’t do it in our own strength!** Like the man in the picture, we are chained.

But God has a twofold solution!



Freedom = the cross of Jesus + the Holy Spirit

Rom 7:24,25 NIV

Paul exclaims, “Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?” And then immediately answers, “Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

Rom 8:2 NIV

A little later, he declares, “Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set me free from the law of sin and death.” There is victory over sin, the devil, and our sinful nature!

✓ **The cross of Jesus Christ**, where he took all our sin and guilt upon himself, but not only that, he nailed our old,

Rom 6:6

Gal 2:20

1 Pet 2:24

sinful self to the cross. We have been crucified with Christ! "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness." Romans 8:3,4 NIV explains, "For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.



And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us..." Jesus took it all – your guilt, your sin, your sinful nature.

✓ **The Holy Spirit**, who empowers us to live a holy life. Note how Romans 8:4 continues: "...who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." When we walk according to the Spirit, we have victory over the flesh, our sinful nature! God's power for us who believe

Eph 1:19,20

is the same mighty power that raised Jesus from the dead. We can never strive to reach the goal of becoming like Jesus in our own strength. But Jesus lives in you through the Holy Spirit. This is the hope of glory! And he empowers you to turn from sin and pursue holiness.



Rom 8:9,10

Col 1:27

Sin enslaves you, but Jesus and the Holy Spirit set you free. Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house for ever; the son remains for ever.

John 8:34-36



2 Cor 3:17 **So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.** And Paul wrote, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.**" No more slavery under sin, hallelujah!

You've got the wheel

Rom 8:5,6 The steering wheel is in your hands. If your wheel is set straight, you will go straight ahead. If your wheel is set towards the ditch, you will end up in the ditch. The Bible says, "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace." What is your mind set on? Where do you want to go? Your goal will decide the outcome. And as you choose what's right, the power of the Holy Spirit is there to help you do what's right.

Gal 5:16



4 The Holy Spirit in us

The Bible shows us two ways of living. One is Jesus-centred, the other is self-centred. One leads to life, the other leads to death. Let's look at these two lifestyles, along with the characteristics and actions that the Bible uses to describe them.

	A lifestyle in the flesh	A lifestyle in the Spirit
<i>1 Cor 13:4-7</i>	<i>1 Corinthians</i> Envy and boasts, is arrogant, rude, insists on its own way, is irritable and resentful, rejoices at wrongdoing	Love: is patient and kind, rejoices with the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things
<i>Gal 5:19-23</i>	<i>Galatians</i> The works of the flesh: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies	The fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

Eph 5:2-5, 18-21

<i>Ephesians</i>	Sexual immorality, impurity, covetousness, filthiness, foolish talk, crude joking, idolatry, drunkenness	Walks in love, is filled with the Spirit, sings and makes melody to the Lord; is thankful, submits to one another
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*Phil 2:2-8;
4:4-8*

<i>Philippians</i>	Rivalry, conceit, looks only to one's own interests	Is of the same mind, has the same love, is in full accord and of one mind; humility; looks to the interests of others; has the same mindset as Christ, who made himself nothing, took the form of a servant, humbled himself, became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross; rejoices, is reasonable, not anxious; thinks about whatever is true, honourable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent and worthy of praise
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Col 3:5-16

<i>Colossians</i>	The old self: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, covetousness, which is idolatry; anger, wrath, malice, slander, obscene talk, lying	Puts on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator; compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience; bears with and forgives others; puts on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony; lets the peace of Christ rule in one's heart; is thankful; lets the message of Christ fill one's life; teaches and admonishes others in all wisdom; sings psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness to God
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1 Pet 5:9 niv

There are two kingdoms, and each one has a king. To the left is the enemy, to the right is Jesus. It is easy to choose whom to follow! But even though Jesus lives in you, the enemy will still try to pull at your flesh. ***“Resist him, standing firm in the faith.”*** As you stand against him, he will flee. The more you choose to do right, the stronger you will grow. Your walk in

holiness will become steadier, and things you said and did a few years ago will become unthinkable to you. Praise God, the Holy Spirit takes us from glory to glory!

Becoming like Jesus

Rom 8:29

God’s plan to get Adam back is becoming reality! Adam, the first man and “son of God”, lived in harmony with him. God’s desire for us is that we become like the “second Adam”, Jesus. In fact, the Bible says that in Christ Jesus we are “predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers”. Jesus displayed all the characteristics listed in the right-hand column of the chart on the previous two pages, and as you become more and more like him, you will display them too!

2 Cor 3:18

How will it happen? By the Holy Spirit: ***“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”***

This is one of the most wonderful promises in the New Testament, and it is a step-by-step process:

- ✓ As you live in the presence of God, beholding his glory
- ✓ you are changed by the Holy Spirit
- ✓ from one level of glory to another
- ✓ into his image – becoming like Christ!

This is a mega-miracle that God performs little by little. As you walk in close relationship with the Lord you’ll shine brighter and brighter with his glory! And though you may sometimes fall, when you turn to the Lord and confess your sin, he will

1 John 1:9

Matt 5:3-6

forgive and cleanse you. God is not looking for perfection overnight; he is looking for people who are hungry and thirsty for him. When we are empty, that's when he can fill us. Praise God for his goodness! "A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench."

Isa 42:3

Bible Quest



Exercise 1: Sin is serious! Paul gives a vivid description of sin in Romans 3:9–20. How would you describe it?



Exercise 2: Use the Bible passages in this lesson to describe a Jesus-like life.



Praise Time

Praise him that you have the character of Jesus within you. Use the words in the chart describing a lifestyle in the Spirit. You can begin like this: "Lord, I praise you that through the Holy Spirit I have God's love within me. I am patient and kind, I rejoice with the truth, bear all things, believe all things, hope all things and endure all things... by the power of the Holy Spirit!"



James 1:22-25

Action Time

Use the texts in the chart as a mirror, and in the space below write what you see in your own life. Thank God for all that is good, and ask him to change what is not good. It will happen through the power of the Holy Spirit!



Memo Time

Memorise and Speak God's Word

**“And we all, with unveiled face,
beholding the glory of the Lord,
are being transformed into the same image
from one degree of glory to another.
For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”**

2 Cor 3:18

A Normal Day in the Christian Life

About this lesson:

As we near the end of the BibleKeys series of lessons, let's look at what living as a Christian means in everyday life. For most of us, daily life revolves around work, money and relationships. But of supreme importance for the believer is our life with God, affecting all other aspects of life.

In this lesson you will learn about:

- Daily prayer
- Work, service and money
- The Ten Commandments
- Fellowship and witness

How you spend your time shows what matters most to you. And using your time in a certain way determines your future. This is good news because it means the choice is yours. You're not a product of destiny – you can choose your destiny! This begins with deciding what your day will look like.



1 Daily prayer

A normal day in the Christian life includes time for prayer. We've talked a great deal about prayer already. Now it's just a matter of organisation: when, where and how. A prayer life that works is a Christian's biggest asset; a prayer life that doesn't will be a constant frustration.

First things first. What we value most we put first – in priority and *time*. So how you spend your time reflects your priorities.

Here are three tools to help you create a daily routine that will give God the opportunity to come with more of his presence, power and blessings each day:

1. A diary/planner. Plan your prayer life! Decide today when to pray and read the Bible. Begin tomorrow, and if possible find a peaceful space where you can pray undisturbed. If your daily schedule varies, plan for that. When you make time for God, you make room for him to act in your life.

Ps 88:13

2. An alarm clock. This is a valuable tool for most Christians, since the best time to give to the Lord is in the morning: "But I, O Lord, cry to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you." Praying and reading your Bible in the morning sets the tone for the rest of the day. When you do this, you're telling God, "Lord I give this day to you! I want to hear from you before anything else!"



3. A prayer structure. Although your prayers will vary from day to day as you follow the Holy Spirit's leading, it can help to have a certain structure.

✓ **Praise** and thank God for all his good gifts, for salvation, for life in the Holy Spirit!

✓ **Pray:**

1 Tim 2:1,2

- "For all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way."
- For matters that are important to you, using your own words or a set prayer, such as the Lord's Prayer. The Holy Spirit will lead you!
- With your mind and with your spirit.

- ✓ **Read** God's Word, anything from a few verses that you can meditate on to a few chapters. There are many ways to do this, but most important is doing it every day.
- ✓ **Listen** to God. Take time to simply be quiet before the Lord and let him speak to your heart.



2 Work, service and money

Gen 2:15

A normal day in the life of a Christian is filled with work, studies, tending to home and family, as well as other responsibilities. This is God's plan. Man was created as the steward of the world and given the job of looking after it: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it."

A biblical approach to work and service

1 Thess 4:10-12

2 Thess 3:6-15

The Bible instructs us to work and be diligent in our everyday life: "We urge you, brothers... to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one." As we do this, God blesses the work of our hands!

Col 3:23,24

Christians can serve in all spheres of society. Wherever you work, when you serve God faithfully, you're bringing God's kingdom into that place!

1 Cor 9:13,14 NIV

While most of us are called to the workplace, some are called to fulltime ministry. Just as Levites in the Old Testament, they may receive their living from their ministry work. Paul wrote, "Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." We are blessed by ministers of the gospel, so we should also give to them: "One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches."

Gal 6:6

Why do we work? To serve others and to support ourselves. We are servants, just as Jesus was a servant. Serving is part of our stewardship.

A biblical approach to money

Our purpose in working is never to amass wealth for ourselves, and we are warned against having that as a goal. So, how can we approach money in the right way? Here are some Bible verses on this topic:

1 Tim 6:6-10 NIV

“Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

2 Cor 9:8-12

“God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.... He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.”

Money is good in two ways: it meets our own needs, and it enables us to give to others. What else can we learn from these two passages?

- Money is not evil, but the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, so beware of living for money!
- Contentment is good. Material things are never what matter most, but God wants us to have everything we need.
- Wanting to get rich is risky because we'll easily fall into temptation.
- God will enrich us when we give. Why? So that we can “be generous in every way” and “abound in every good work”.

This is God's financial system. We receive and give, receive and give! And in blessing “every good work”, we're blessed in return.

We give in two ways:

Gen 4:3

Gen 14:20

Matt 23:23

Mal 3:10

1. Tithing. To tithe is to give the first ten percent of your income to God. It provides for the needs of the local church and its various ministries. At the very beginning, Adam's family gave God an offering from the first fruits of their labour, and later on we see how Abraham gave the king and priest Melchizedek his tithe. These are examples of tithing from the Old Testament, but it didn't end there. Even as he rebuked the Pharisees for their hypocrisy, Jesus said they were right to tithe. God cares about your finances and promises to richly bless you when you put him first. One such promise is found in Malachi: ***"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need."***

2 Cor 9:6-9

2. Giving as the Holy Spirit leads. God wants us to be generous with what we have, and he will lead us to give and help others in various ways. Listen to what the Holy Spirit is telling you, and then give generously and cheerfully! ***"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*** As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.'"



3 Living according to the Ten Commandments

Exod 20:3-17

Deut 5:7-21

A normal day in the Christian life presents us with many challenges, and there are decisions to be made. How do we know what's right and wrong? How should we live? Thankfully, God has given us the Ten Commandments, the moral compass for living. Jesus taught about them – even amplified them – and Paul and James often referred to them.

The commandments were written on two stone tablets and can be divided into two categories. One concerns our relationship to God, the other our relationship to our fellow men. These commandments serve as a fence around our lives, safeguarding the most important relationships we have.



Deut 6:4

The first tablet: our relationship to God

- 1. You shall have no other gods before me.** The Lord is one, and we are to have no other gods. "Other gods" refers to whatever takes God's place in our lives.
- 2. You shall not make for yourself a carved image.** "You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God." Idolatry is a serious offence against God himself.
- 3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.** This includes using the name of God or Jesus in an irreverent way. A name represents the person, so it's very important we keep the name of the Lord holy.
- 4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.** God rested on the seventh day after creating the world, and he wants us to keep a Sabbath day too – a day of rest. It's also an opportunity for believers to come together to worship God, listen to his Word and share Holy Communion and fellowship.

The second tablet: our relationship to our fellow men

- 5. Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.** It is important to God that we honour our father and mother. This commandment even has a promise attached to it: honour them, and you will be blessed. It's natural and truly Christian to take care of our parents and help them with their needs.

6. You shall not murder. This commandment forbids the intentional killing of another human being.

7. You shall not commit adultery. Marriage is a lifelong relationship between a man and a woman, and is the only sexual relationship that God approves of and blesses. There's a lot of confusion about sex, so it's crucial to distinguish between what is God's will and what belongs to the values and thought patterns of this world. Here are some key points:

- Sex is created by God for procreation and the mutual enjoyment of a married couple.
- Sex before marriage or with someone outside of marriage is prohibited. Jesus takes this a step further, stating that even looking at someone else's husband or wife lustfully is to commit adultery in one's heart.
- The Bible does not regard marriage as essential. In fact, both Jesus and Paul were single and celibate for the kingdom of God. To marry is good and a special gift; to not marry is also good and a special gift.

Matt 5:28

1 Cor 7:7,8

8. You shall not steal. God upholds the ownership principle, both here and in the New Testament. "Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labour, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need."

- A believer should live an orderly life that does not hurt others financially.
- Money should be given to whom it is due, including the authorities. "This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour."

Eph 4:28

Rom 13:6,7 NIV

9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. This commandment prohibits:

- Lying. To lie is to speak the language of the devil because he is a liar. "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When

John 8:44

Col 3:8
2 Cor 12:20

he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

- Slandering. To slander is to make false statements about someone. This also includes gossiping, spreading rumours about someone that may or may not be true.
- Giving a false testimony in court.

10. You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, house, field, male or female servant, ox, donkey, or anything that is your neighbour’s. Do not set your heart on what is your neighbour’s!

These are God’s commandments. In your day-to-day life as a Christian, you’ll honour God and be protected and blessed as you faithfully keep them.



4 Fellowship and witness

God never intended us to live our Christian life in isolation. We need each other! Even in places where there are few Christians, you will find believers in Jesus you can link up with – a church, home fellowship or Bible study group. The body of Christ is all over the world!

A normal day in the Christian life is one of being connected to other believers. Our closest relationships are invariably with our own family members, but then comes church, the people we get to know as we worship and praise God together. Remember what we said about the body of Christ: we are members of one body. Only together can we finish our mission. Only together with others can you have power **“to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God”**. You are one of the saints, but you need other saints to really experience the love of Christ in all its fullness.

Eph 3:18,19

Weekly worship

As we gather for the weekly time of worship and celebration, Jesus himself is among us! We lift up his name: “In the midst of the congregation I will praise you.” We listen to the Word of God and share Communion together. We pray as one. The

Matt 18:20
Ps 22:22

Eph 3:10 united church has power and authority! So, find a church that glorifies and preaches Jesus, and make it a priority to be there every week. You need it – and you need to be there for others too!

Regular fellowship

Acts 2:46,47 We all need regular fellowship with other believers, beyond our weekly worship service. Remember this passage in Acts: “And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” The church cared for those in need too. Sounds wonderful, doesn’t it? This is God’s vision for us: that we share everyday life together, are devoted to one another and take care of each other. This kind of love sends a powerful message to the world.

Acts 6:1-5

John 13:35

You are an important part of the church

Eph 4:16 niv The church is all of us together, and grows as we each do our part: “From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Each part is important! Maybe you can play an instrument or lead worship. Or you’re good with children and able to teach them. Or have practical skills and can help clean, cook or paint a wall. When each part functions as it should, the body grows! People are added to the church, and there’s much joy as we celebrate and praise God together.

Being Christ’s hands and voice

The Christian life, of course, is so much more than getting together each week for prayer and fellowship. Jesus lives in us, and he wants us to be his hands and voice on a daily basis. He sends us out to share his love with people, to tell them about him, to lay our hands on the sick, to be a help and a blessing. You are a key person in God’s marvellous distribution plan. You know people that others don’t know – and you are the one to reach them. So get moving! God will bless you with spiritual children and many wonderful new friends as you follow the Holy Spirit’s leading.

Bible Quest

In this lesson, we've talked about how you can live out your Christian life day by day. Take time now to review BibleKeys in search of biblical truths that answer the questions below and help you live as a Christian. If you don't have access to earlier BibleKeys lessons, use your Bible to find appropriate verses.



**Exercise 1: Who are you in Christ Jesus?
(Lesson 7)**



**Exercise 2: What authority do you have in Christ Jesus?
(Lesson 13)**



**Exercise 3: How can you do the works of Jesus?
(Lessons 16–19)**



John 14:26

Phil 2:13

Praise Time

Thank God for his Holy Spirit, who is there to help you in every aspect of your daily life. Praise him that he teaches you all things and gives you both the desire and the power to do what pleases him.



Action Time

Think about how to practice what you have learned by filling in the blanks below.

- **Set a weekly routine**

This is when I pray each day: _____

This is how much or how long I want to read my Bible each day:

This is when I meet with other believers for worship and fellowship:

This is how I can serve my church or fellowship: _____

- **Set goals for soul winning**

These are the people I am praying for and want to share Jesus with (write the names of 1–3 people):

- **Consider the Ten Commandments and how to apply them**

This is where I'm not living in line with the Ten Commandments and want to make a change:



Memo Time

Memorise and Speak God's Word

“And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs”

Mark 16:20

The End is the Beginning

About this lesson:

Heaven is a wonderful place! You'll be there one day – forever with our precious Lord! So, in this last BibleKeys' lesson, we lift our eyes to gain an eternal perspective, and take a look at what comes next, after life as we know it.

Today's topics are:

- The end of life
- The end of time
- Your future in heaven

Eph 2:6 NIV

The Bible says, "God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus," so in effect you're in two places at the same time right now! You live on this earth, and you're also seated with Christ in heaven. But one day this will change. Your life here will end, either through death or when Jesus returns. And if you are in Christ here and now, you will be with him forever!

Col 3:1-3

The purpose of this lesson is to help you become heavenly minded. The Bible says, ***"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."***

These verses tell us:

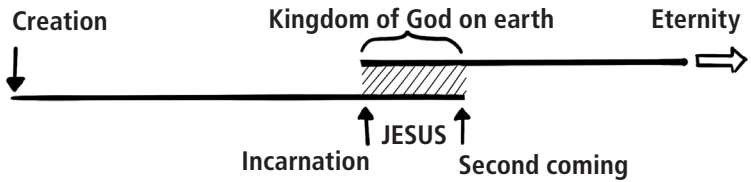
- We have already died and been raised with Christ and are seated with him in heaven.
- We are to set our minds on things that are above.

Col 3:4

The verse that follows reveals something astounding: ***"When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."*** This is the hope we

have! Our future is different from those who do not believe. Their end is despair; our end is glory!

From creation to eternity – a simple overview



1. This simple diagram begins with **creation**. The line that starts there represents the earth's history from creation to the future second coming of Christ.
2. The **incarnation**, Christ's first coming, was when Jesus became man – the greatest miracle in history! Jesus began his ministry on earth, a ministry he continues today through his body, the church. The first time he was born a baby, but when he returns he will judge the living and the dead.
3. Jesus ushered in the **kingdom of God** on earth (see top line) – the time we're living in now, also known as the "church era" or the "time of grace". This time will end when Jesus returns, but the kingdom of God is eternal and will continue after the earth has passed away. When we became part of this kingdom, we received eternal life!
4. **Eternity** actually includes all of time, not only that which follows the second coming. More precisely, eternity is outside of time. God himself is beyond time. Colossians tells us that Christ is before all things and that all things were created through him.

Col 1:16,17

Already and not yet

The kingdom of God is both “already now” and “not yet”. We have a taste of heaven even now, but something far better awaits us: “In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.”

2 Pet 3:13 NIV

How can we know that the kingdom of God is here already?

Forgiveness of sins and salvation are the primary sign of the kingdom of God. Jesus proclaimed, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” Those who respond to his invitation enter the kingdom of God immediately.

Mark 1:15

Miracles are signs of the kingdom of God, manifesting the conditions of heaven on earth. The greatest miracle of all was the incarnation. Mary conceived a child without the involvement of a man, and God became human. After starting his ministry, Jesus left a trail of miracles wherever he went – and this is God’s plan for the body of Christ today!

Matt 1:18

John 1:14

Luke 7:16-23

Life in the Holy Spirit is a foretaste of heaven. We “were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory”. We “have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come”.

Eph 1:13,14

Heb 6:4,5

In our Christian life, we are:

- **already** saved, our names are written in the book of life, we’re a part of the kingdom, enjoying the joy and miracles of the Holy Spirit, dead to our old self and raised with Christ;
- **not yet** free from the flesh, from sickness and physical death, conflicts, hardships and persecution.

One day – when we die or when Jesus comes to take us home to the Father – we will enjoy full freedom. Hallelujah, and hallelujah again!



Rom 5:12

Gen 3:24

1 The end of life

The Bible teaches that death entered the world when Adam sinned. Adam and Eve were expelled from paradise, and their bodies started to deteriorate. They were not yet physically dead, but even worse – they were spiritually dead.

We are all Adam’s descendants and heirs, and his sin

Eph 2:1,2 and the death it brings has spread like cancer to every human being: **"You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked**, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience." A person who is not saved is already spiritually dead because of their sin. But after that person dies, they will experience a "second death", a final and eternal separation from God.

*Rev 2:11;
20:6,14; 21:8*

Eph 2:5,6

For those who belong to Jesus, it's a different story altogether. When we were saved, God **"made us alive together with Christ** – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him"! We are alive in two ways: in body and in spirit. When we die, only our body dies, because we have already been spiritually resurrected. We are in Christ Jesus, so the second death has no power over us!

The death of a believer

John 11:25,26

Even though death is sad from a human point of view, and it's natural to mourn our loved ones, the death of a believer is not the end! Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

John 5:24

We will all die physically, but those who believe in Jesus will not die a second death. We have already moved from the kingdom of death to the kingdom of life: "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgement, but has passed from death to life."

1 Cor 15:55

For the believer, death is a victory, because life triumphs over death! "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

The death of an unbeliever

Mark 1:15

Jesus said, "Repent and believe in the gospel." Heaven is prepared for those who wish to be with Jesus, who repent and believe in him. The decision must be made in this lifetime. After death it is too late, and there's nothing that can be done about it. This is why it's crucial we make every effort to win people for Jesus.

The death of a believer is wonderful, but the death of an unbeliever is dreadful. It means an eternity without hope.

2 Thess 1:8,9 NIV

“He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.” This is by no means what God wants. “As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways.” God desires that everyone has the opportunity to come into his kingdom, so he sends us out with the good news about Jesus!

Ezek 33:11

1 Tim 2:4

After death, what?

1 Cor 15

John 5:28,29

1 Thess 4:16,17

There is much we don't yet know about what happens after death, but what we do know is that there'll be a resurrection of the dead. “Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgement.”

What does the Bible say happens while we wait for the resurrection?

2 Pet 2:9

Luke 16:19-31

Luke 23:43

2 Cor 5:8

Rom 8:38,39

- Unbelievers are imprisoned in the underworld, awaiting judgement; Luke describes this vividly in the story about the rich man and Lazarus.
- Believers await resurrection in paradise – a blissful place of comfort and security, with Jesus!



Matt 24:36

2 The end of time

The present era will come to an end one day, although we don't know when. Even Jesus said, “concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.” However, let's talk about what we do know from the Bible.

The second coming of Christ

Matt 24:27,30,31

When Jesus came to this earth the first time, he was born a baby in a manger. When he returns, he will come in power to judge the living and the dead. This second coming of Christ will be visible to all: “For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man... **and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.** And he will

send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." What a day that will be!

Matt 24:36-39

1 Thess 5:2,3

2 Pet 3:10

When will he come? Nobody knows except the Father. It will be **unexpected and sudden**. "For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape." There are signs to watch for, but no one can predict the time.

Judgement

2 Cor 5:10

We will all be judged. "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil." Everyone will be judged according to their deeds, but believers have already been judged in Christ and will not come under judgement for their sins a second time. "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgement, but has passed from death to life."

Rom 14:10

John 5:24

Rom 6:22,23

Phil 2:12

Phil 2:13

Rom 8

Rom 10:9

Does this mean that believers can live carelessly and carry on sinning? By no means! We need to continue working out our salvation "with fear and trembling". But we do this as new creations in Christ. We have been justified by grace and stand in grace. God is at work in us through the Holy Spirit! None of us will be perfect in this life, but as we continue walking in obedience to God, we will become more like Jesus.

In the end, it all boils down to this: have you received Jesus as your personal Saviour, placing your faith and trust in him? Each of us will be judged on the basis of how we answer that question.

A new heaven and a new earth

Luke 21:33

2 Pet 3:10,13

Rev 21:1-5

The Bible teaches that after the day of judgement, heaven and earth will pass away. "Then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed." Instead, there'll be a new heaven and a new earth – God will make everything new! Heaven will come to us, and God himself will make his dwelling among his people. What do we know about this wonderful place?



3 Two destinations – heaven or hell

Heaven

The book of Revelation contains some beautiful descriptions of what awaits us:

Rev 7:15-17

“Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Rev 21:4

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.”

Rev 22:1-5

“Then he showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.”

Phil 3:20,21

This is your future – and what a glorious future it is, the inheritance of every believer in Jesus! “Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body.” Rather than being a place of clouds and floating spirits, as some may imagine, heaven will be filled with real people who know and recognise each other. Our resurrected bodies will be full of glory and strength, and they will never perish. We will “shine like the sun” in the kingdom of our Father, and we will be in the presence of Jesus forever.

1 Cor 15:42-44

Matt 13:43

Hell

Matt 25:41

What does the Bible say about hell? First, hell is a place where people will be cut off from God, and this ultimate separation is the worst punishment of all. Second, hell is described as a place of fire. It was originally prepared for the devil and his angels, but people who have rejected Jesus will end up in the same place. Jesus' story of Lazarus and the rich man gives us an idea of the torment of hell: "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame." Why does God want us to know about hell? To warn us! John the Baptist and Jesus both preached this message. Jesus even included it in his final speech!

Luke 16:24

Matt 3:2,12;
8:11,12

Mark 16:15,16

1 Tim 2:4-6

God does not want a single sinner in hell. He wants everyone to be saved – this is why he sent Jesus! God ***"desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ***ransom for all."***

Populating heaven – the great assignment

Mark 16:15,16 NIV

Jesus' last words to his disciples, before ascending to his Father in heaven, were, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." Our great assignment is to preach the good news to everyone, everywhere – every man, woman and child. May God give you a sense of urgency to do what he has called and equipped you to do!

Acts 1:8

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Congratulations on completing the BibleKeys course!

Glory be to God for his Holy Spirit,
who teaches us all things.

Now go and put into practice what you have learned.
God bless you!

Bible Quest



Exercise 1: What will happen when you die as a believer in Jesus?



Exercise 2: What happens when unbelievers die?



Exercise 3: Describe heaven.



Praise Time

Praise him for all you have learned and that he has made you his witness, even to the ends of the earth!

Praise him for the greatest gift of all: that your name is written in heaven!



Memo Time

Memorise and Speak God's Word

**“To him be glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations,
for ever and ever. Amen.”**

Eph 3:21

B I B L E K E Y S

The Christian **Life**

The Christian Life is the sixth book in the BibleKeys series.

God has called you to a life of holiness. In these final lessons we look at the practical implications of living a holy life, and then at the glorious future that awaits us – with Jesus forever!

