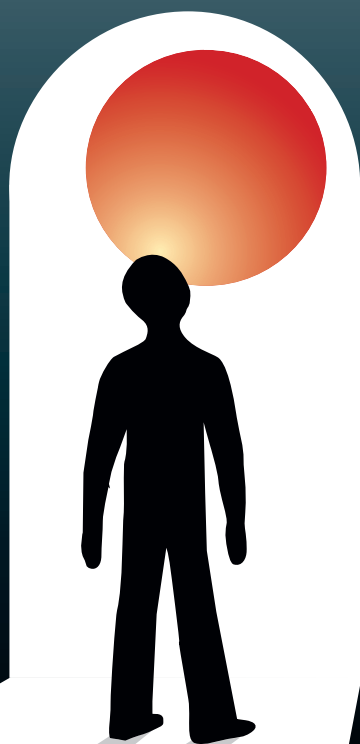


B I B L E K E Y S

The Gate to Life



**Includes
handy
pullout
*Words of
Spirit & Life***

B I B L E K E Y S

The Gate to
Life

B I B L E K E Y S

The Gate to Life

Lessons 1 to 5



THE GATE TO LIFE

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Welcome to *The Gate to Life!*

Before you begin the first lesson, please read this short introduction. It explains the purpose of *The Gate to Life* and how to use the lessons.

What is *The Gate to Life*?

The Gate to Life is a series of lessons with basic teaching from the Bible. Each lesson provides solid foundation stones for you to build your life on. *The Gate to Life* will teach you to use your Bible and to receive all that God has in store for you.

How to use *The Gate to Life*

- Always find the verses in your Bible.
- Mark the verses in your Bible.
- Have a notebook where you write your observations, questions and answers.
- Learn some verses by heart, at least those on the last page of each lesson.

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 learnt, God’s blessings become real to you.

The Gate to Life • Introduction

The sections and their symbols *(continued)*



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!

Welcome to "The Gate to Life", and God bless you!

Bible Abbreviations

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

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God is a Wonderful Father

About this lesson:

Welcome to this first lesson in *The Gate to Life*. Today you will learn basic Bible truths about God. All the answers to the questions are in the Bible – the Word of God that tells you all the truth you need.

Today's questions are:

- Who is God?
- What is God like?
- How can I know God?



1 Who is God?

God is the Creator

The Bible says: **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”**

There was a time when neither the world nor the heavens existed. There was no day or night, and there were no living creatures. The only living being was God himself.

But God wanted to create men and women and a beautiful world for them to live in. From nothing, he created everything. He just said: “Let there be light,” and light was created. When he had created the world, the time had come to create Adam and Eve, the first people.

God is the only God

There is just one God, the God of the Bible. **“The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”** However, people have always created their own gods and idols, although these are not like God. He can speak; they are mute. He can see; they are blind. He helps you; they do not.

Gen 1:1

Gen 1:3
(Read all of
Genesis
chapter 1!)

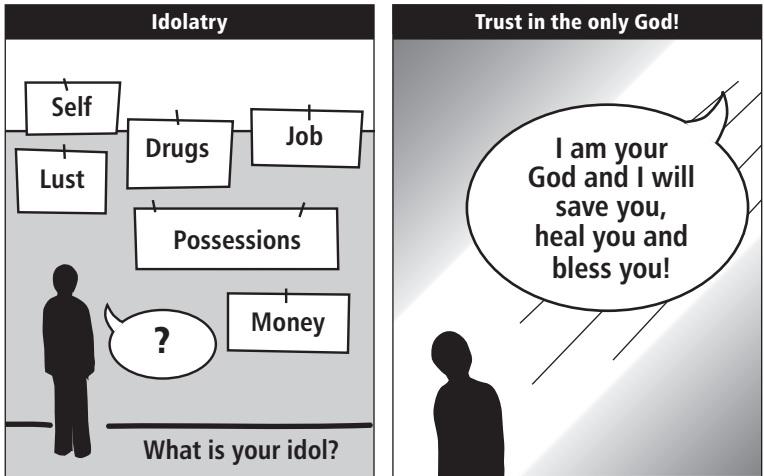
Deut 6:4

Ps 115:2-8
1 Cor 12:2



Who is God? (continued)

Maybe you do not trust in idols of wood, clay, or metal. But what is a god? It is *whatever* you put your trust in: your money, your social position, your traditions, your self. All of these are gods which we ourselves create. But God is *not* created by people, as idols are, or our other "gods". He created everything and he is our Creator and the only God.



An idol never gives you anything. But God loves you and gives you his best!

God is a Father

Luke 3:38

God is a wonderful, loving father. The Bible says that Adam was "the son of God". So God's relationship to us, descendants of Adam, is that of a father.

He does what a father does:

Ps 139:13-16

- He is your origin – even if not physically – and he planned that you should be born as you and not as someone else.

Matt 6:25-33

- He cares for you; he wants you to have food and clothes and to be secure.

Matt 6:26

Ps 8:3-8

- You are important to him! He considers you are worth more than other living things, and has given you dignity and the authority to rule over his creation.

- He loves you and is happy when you are happy.

- He longs to have fellowship with you every day.



2 What is God like?

The Bible says many things about God. The best way to find out more about him is to keep reading the Bible. Today you will learn a few important things about him.

God is good

1 John 4:8

God is good. He loves everyone. The Bible tells us that he *is* love! He knew about you, he loved you and had plans for you even before you were born. Therefore you can trust him. Before you think about something, he knows what you will think. The Bible is full of people who thank God for his goodness:

Ps 136:1

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures for ever." The book of Psalms is packed with such wonderful praise songs!

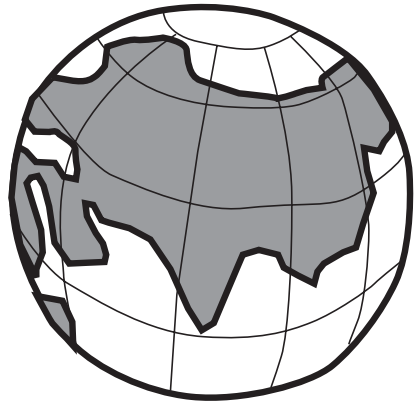
God is great

Isa 40:10-15

God is greater than we can imagine. Listen to the prophet Isaiah: **"Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens...? Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket."** This means that if you are a friend of God, a child of God, you have a very powerful father and friend. He is your refuge and strength, and he is always ready to help you.

Ps 46:1

Luke 10:19





What is God like? *(continued)*

God is holy and righteous

God is both holy and righteous. This means that he hates everything that is wrong and sinful. He created the world, and he knows how we can live in harmony with nature and with each other. We have no right to destroy this world or other people. Therefore God has given us laws to protect the world and human life, and to keep us from evil.

Deut 4:24

The Bible says that God is a fire: **“For the Lord your God is a consuming fire.”** No one can meet him and live, because all people are sinful. What does this mean? Does anyone have the chance to know God and live? Yes! Through Jesus Christ, God has created a way for us to live in fellowship with him, in spite of everything that is wrong in our lives. (This will be explained in the next lesson.)



3 How can I know God?

• Through the Bible

The most important source for our knowledge of God is the Bible. The Bible is God’s Word and it tells us everything we need to know about him. As God’s Word is taught, it gives light. Therefore, everything in these lessons is based on the Bible. The Bible tells the truth and we can rely on it.

Ps 119:130

• Through the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God. It was he who led you to start to study this course. He opens up the Bible to you when you read it, helping you understand it. “The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth.” From this day on you can pray:

John 16:13

Holy Spirit, open the Word of God to me so that I can understand it and grow in faith. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Congratulations!

You have studied your first lesson. Now here are things for you to do. **Bible Quest** helps you to discover the truth for yourself and to apply what you have learnt.

Bible Quest (continued)



Exercise 3: Read the very important story about the creation in Genesis 1–2.
Write your own summary here:



Exercise 4: God the Father cares for you. Below are Scriptures about personal needs and problems. **Highlight (or underline)** these passages in your Bible and write them down.

Peace:	John 14:27
Healing:	Ex 15:26, Matt 8:17, 1 Pet 2:24
Food and shelter:	Matt 6:25-33
Forgiveness:	1 John 1:9
Fear:	Isa 41:10
Joy:	Isa 61:3
Loneliness:	Matt 28:20
Strength:	Rom 8:11

Good!

Now it is time to take what we have learnt and practise it in real life.

Action Time



Faith expresses itself in Action (James 2:17)

In each lesson we will do something practical, because if you just read, speak or think, and never act, your faith won't work.



• Praise School

To praise and thank God is very important.

Now, learn how to praise him:

- ✓ **Lay aside** your books and your work.
- ✓ If you can: **stand** on your feet **or kneel** in reverence before God.
- ✓ **Lift your hands**, close your eyes, and begin to say: "Thank you God for...", and thank him, in your own words, for everything wonderful he has done.
- ✓ If you want to, use the words of Psalm 63:

***You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you...***

(Find it in your Bible. Then you can use Ps 23, Ps 91, Ps 150, etc.)

Do this at least **once a day** for the rest of your life. It is best to start the day praising God.

Set the alarm 15 minutes earlier tomorrow and spend that time praising the Lord! **He will not disappoint you.**

Praise Him together!

Try to join with other believers and start praising God together. Maybe you can do it regularly – it will change your life! (Acts 2:46,47)



Memo Time

Memorise and Speak God's Word

Each lesson concludes with Bible verses to memorise. Write them on a piece of paper, and read them many times each day – on the bus, during a break, or together with the family at a meal time.

**"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures forever." Ps 136:1**

**"This is love: not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning
sacrifice for our sins." 1 John 4:10**

Jesus is a Wonderful Saviour

About this lesson:

Welcome to the second lesson in *The Gate to Life*. We trust that God has been speaking to you through your Bible. He will surely continue to speak to you! The Holy Spirit is here to help you.

Today's subjects are:

- God wants you as his own child!
- Sin keeps you away from God.
- You can be saved through Jesus!



1 God wants you to become his child

God really wants you to be his child!

God is a wonderful father. He wants every man, woman and child to come to him and be saved. He wants to write your name in the Book of Life, and to give you eternal life. Then, even if you die today, you will be saved. The goal of today's lesson is that you should know, deep down in your heart, that God has accepted you. But first we must explain some Bible truths that will change your life!

God wants to save you from your enemy

God and you have an enemy. He is always opposed to God and his name is Satan. His name means accuser. Satan wants to stop you from becoming a free, happy and stable child of God. He comes only to steal and kill and destroy. But don't worry. God knows how to handle Satan. The victory has

1 Tim 2:4

Rev 20:15

Luke 10:20

John 11:25

John 10:10



God wants you to become his child *(continued)*

already been won by Jesus, and he has come to give you eternal life! This life is for everyone, including you. To make this clear, we will first explain how Satan got his grip upon human beings, then how you can become totally free from his power! Read through to the end and you will see what a wonderful solution God has for you!



2 In the beginning, everything was perfect

Gen 1:26,27
Gen 1:31
(Read all of Gen 1-2)

In the beginning, there was no sin. God created a man and a woman, Adam and Eve. They were the climax of all the wonderful things he had made. And he saw that it was very good!

He gave Adam and Eve complete freedom. He gave them a wonderful world and all their needs were met. They had happiness, health, a fabulous place to live and a garden full of fruit trees which they could enjoy as much as they wanted. And the best thing of all was that they had a deep, constant fellowship with God himself. Adam and Eve were God's children and his friends! The Bible tells us that God even took a walk together with them in the cool part of the day. Stop and imagine walking around in a beautiful garden – with GOD!



3 Freedom to do right and wrong

Gen 2:8

God leads you right!

I want you to choose Eternal Life!

Death Life

Deut 30:19

Gen 2:17

God is a wonderful father, and he likes his children to be free. Therefore he gave them free access to everything he had created on earth: to all the lovely trees and all the springs of water. He gave them authority to rule over the animals and to enjoy his creation. There was just one exception – they were not to touch the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This tree was special. If they ate from it they would

die eternally. God knew that it would destroy them, and he wanted to protect them.

This single, simple rule was all there was. But when you are given a rule, you have a choice. You can either obey or disobey. You can choose, but of course you must face the consequences of what you do. Now the sad part of the story begins.



Gen 3:1-6

4 Satan fooled them so that they sinned

Satan entered in the shape of a snake. He saw his chance! If he could deceive Adam and Eve, they would rebel against God! He lied to them about what God had said. He made them believe that they would be like God if they ate from the tree. He fooled them completely with a pack of lies. But something inside of them was hungry for the evil things he was speaking about!

This was exactly what God had wanted to prevent. Adam and Eve chose to forget everything God had done for them and told them. They obeyed Satan's voice instead of the voice of their wonderful father and friend. Their evil desire dragged them away. God did not want them to be forever bound in spiritual death, so he stopped them from eating of the Tree of Life. The fall into sin had become a fact, and it was a catastrophe.

James 1:14

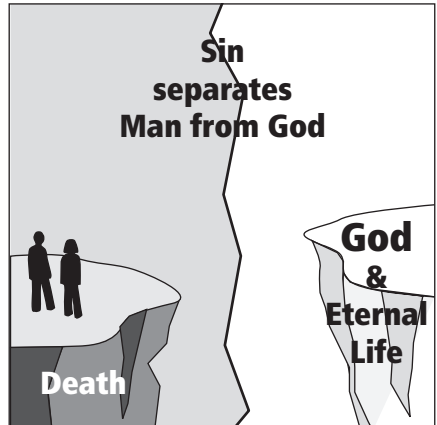


5 Separated from God

Immediately Adam and Eve had to leave all the wonderful things in the garden. **And, worst of all, they no longer had fellowship with God.**

Death came; not through their physical death, but through the death of the God-life inside them. It was like turning the light off. Satan's plan had succeeded: "After desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

James 1:15





Col 1:13,14

Separated from God *(continued)*



Eph 2:1,2

There were now two opposing kingdoms: God's and the enemy's. Since Adam and Eve had separated from God, they belonged to the kingdom of darkness. The Bible tells us: "You were dead in your transgressions and sins...when you followed...the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are

disobedient."

The superb life that God had given to Adam and Eve changed. Work became a struggle and it was hard to get food. Death started to rule. Eve's first son killed his brother because of envy. Soon all the thoughts of men became evil. They committed sexual sin; they were filled with pride. The epidemic of sin began to spread.

Gen 4:1-12



Rom 3:23 NLT

6 You and I have sinned

Since then, all the children of Adam – and that is all of us – have sinned. The Bible states it very clearly: "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." You feel it on the inside of you. You already know it. Because "all" means "all": every man, every woman, and every child. If we were left in that condition, we would die eternally, just as Adam and Eve did. But God is so good! Satan did not have the last word! God had a rescue plan, and the last word is JESUS!



7 Jesus – the Complete Solution!

What would God do now? He had lost his friends and children; Adam and Eve had left him. And they had brought all human beings under the power of darkness. God knew that they could not escape by their own power. And he knew that Satan had a grip on them because they had sinned.

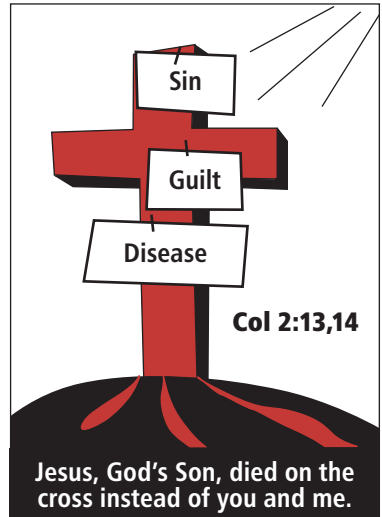
Just one way!

There was just one way to rescue people from eternal death. Someone must take their sin upon himself, and deliver them. And there was only one person who could do that: God's own Son, Jesus!

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Praise be to God! God gave his Son, and changed history. It became possible for us to have fellowship with God through Jesus!



Salvation

What God did through Jesus is called salvation. Jesus was innocent, but he died a terrible death in your place.

2 Cor 5:21

Jesus did not have any sin, but he took yours on himself.

1 Peter 2:24

Jesus did not have any sickness, but he took yours on himself.

Jesus died to make you the freest, happiest and most fruitful person you could ever dream of!

Jesus died in your place. He did it to liberate you from the powers of darkness – **to move you from the Kingdom of Darkness to the Kingdom of Light!** Wherever Jesus went, he drove out evil spirits that tormented people with fear, uncleanness and sickness (Matt 8:16). Jesus is the same today! If you are bound by an evil spirit, he will deliver you now. Cry out: "Help me, Jesus!" Command Satan to leave you alone: "In the name of Jesus, I order you Satan to leave me alone! I claim protection through the blood of Jesus!" Now thank God for the victory.

When Jesus died, he made you free from every evil that resulted from Adam's sin:

*Read Isaiah
chapter 53*

- sin
- sickness
- evil spirits
- everything else that binds you!

Bible Quest

Here are things for you to do. They will help you to understand God's Word better.



Exercise 1: What is sin?

Sin is to disobey God. God tells us what is right and wrong in the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:3-17). In the spaces below, write down how each of them applies to you.

Ex 20:3. "You shall have no other gods besides me."

Ex 20:4. "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below."

Ex 20:7. "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name" (i.e. uses his name without due reverence).

Ex 20:8-10. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God." (NB: Believers mostly set aside Sunday as a special day for worship and rest.)

Ex 20:12 *NLT* (Eph 6:2,3). "Honour your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life."

Ex 20:13 (Matt 5:22). "You shall not murder."

Ex 20:14 (Matt 5:28). "You shall not commit adultery."

Ex 20:15 (Eph 4:28). "You shall not steal."

Ex 20:16 (James 4:11, Col 3:9). "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour."

Ex 20:17 (Luke 12:15). "You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour."



Exercise 2: The root of sin

There are other sins not listed above, but there is a common root for all sinful acts. What is this root? See John 16:9.

Therefore, to get rid of sin, one must first believe in Jesus Christ!



Exercise 3: Who is a sinner?

Read Rom 3:23 and write your answer.



Exercise 4: What is the result of sin?

Read Rom 6:23 and write your answer.

Bible Quest (continued)



Exercise 5: God forgives your sins

Through Jesus, you have forgiveness of sins. Hallelujah! Read the following Bible verses and underline the words **save, forgiveness, sins**:

Matt 1:21 (The name "Jesus" means salvation.)

"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."

Matt 26:28

"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Acts 10:43

"All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Acts 13:38

"Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you."



Exercise 6: God hates sin but loves the sinner

What happens when a sinner repents? See Luke 15:10.



Exercise 7: Jesus did everything for you, so that you can be saved

Read 1 Peter 2:24 *NLT* and fill in the blanks:

He (Jesus) personally carried our _____
in his body on the _____ so that we can be
_____ to sin and _____ for what is right.

John 1:29 says: The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Why is Jesus called the "Lamb of God"?

Read John 3:16 and write it below.
Memorise this verse!




Col 1:14


Action Time

Jesus died for you – and he can change your life!

The
Kingdom of
Darkness



**God's
Kingdom
of Light**



write your name:

**Today you can
begin a new life!**

Luke 15:20

Everything Jesus did, he did for you. God wants you to be saved, so that you will live with him. Jesus has completed 100% of all that must be done for your salvation.

Listen! God is now offering you a wonderful gift. You can become God's child! If you have prayed for salvation before, but were never really sure that you had received it, God wants you to know, deep inside, that you are his own child. At the same time, he wants to heal you. **God has been waiting for you all of your life!** And when you

come, he will not ask you a thousand questions! Just: "Do you want to receive this gift?" He wants to give you a wonderful new life – now!

Do this!

• Talk to God – he can hear you

Matt 7:7,8

God has promised in his Word that he will hear you when you talk to him, or, in Bible language, pray.

When you pray, he hears you. And he does what he has promised to do.

• Listen to God

Acts 16:31

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."

John 6:37

"All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."

Rev 3:20 NLT

"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."

Jesus is a Wonderful Saviour

You pray to God

FREEDOM FROM THE OLD LIFE

"Father, I come to you.

Thank you that you promise to move me from the Kingdom of Darkness to the Kingdom of Light.

I know I'm a sinner. I'm sorry. Please forgive my sin.

I leave my old life and step into new life with you!"

GOD ANSWERS

God answers YES!!!

Jesus "personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right."

1 Peter 2:24 NLT

"He forgave all our sins. He cancelled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross."

Col 2:13,14 NLT

You say out loud

CONFESS JESUS AS YOUR ONLY LORD

"From this day on, I confess that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is my only Lord. I leave all other gods, and I want to serve Jesus with all of my heart for the rest of my life!"

Signature

Date

GOD PROMISES

God confirms YES!!!

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Rom 10:9,10 ESV

"God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:12 NLT

You receive!

BEGIN TO THANK GOD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN TO YOU

• You have been saved

Say: "Thank you, Lord, that you have saved me from my old life of sin. Hallelujah!"

• You have been healed

When you got saved, Jesus also took your sicknesses! "You have been healed by his wounds" (1 Peter 2:24). Start to thank him for healing in your body!

Say: "Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you carried away my sicknesses on the cross. I receive healing from all diseases! Hallelujah!" (Matt 8:17).

• You have been set FREE

"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

Say: "Thank you Lord that I am absolutely free from every binding power! I am free indeed!!!"



Praise Time

Now praise God.

Thank him for all he has given you.

I praise and thank you for all you have done for me!

You are such a good God!

***Thank you that now I know that I am saved, and if I die tonight,
I know that I will go to be with you in Heaven.***

Hallelujah!

(God will help you find other words of love and thanksgiving.
Remember: Praise Time is Anytime!)



Memo Time

Memorise and Speak God's Word

Here is this week's Bible verse to memorise. Read it aloud many times.
Choose two other Bible verses from this lesson and memorise them.

**"If anyone (write your name _____)
is in Christ, he/she is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Cor 5:17**

You can be Filled with the Holy Spirit!

About this lesson:

The Bible says: “Be filled with the Spirit!” (Eph 5:18). This means that every follower of Jesus needs the Holy Spirit. When you receive the Holy Spirit you receive God’s power and your life will change!

Today’s subjects are:

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- Why you need the Holy Spirit.
- How to be filled with the Holy Spirit.



1 Who is the Holy Spirit?

Praise God! Now you are saved! You have received Jesus Christ by faith. This is the most important decision you will ever make. (If you wonder if you have been saved, review Lesson Two.)

When you received Jesus, something immediately happened to you, even if you didn’t feel anything. It takes a lifetime to discover all that is yours in Christ. Today you will enter into the marvellous world of the Holy Spirit; this is possible because you have received Jesus Christ and made him Lord of your life.

The Holy Spirit is God – and he works in you!

The Holy Spirit is God, and he plays a vital role in your life.

In the first three lessons, you learn about the whole Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. But living with God is much more than simply knowing about him. The Holy Spirit will help you to experience God and to stay

2 Cor 3:16-18
Matt 28:19



Who is the Holy Spirit? (continued)

close to him. He is already doing wonderful things in you; he has led you to Jesus, and without him you could never have confessed Jesus as Lord.

Following Jesus is not a series of intellectual decisions, but a spiritual lifestyle!

The Old Testament promises us the Holy Spirit



- Creation:** Gen 1:2
- Joseph:** Gen 41:38
- The 70 elders:** Num 11:25
- Gideon:** Judges 6:34
- King David:** 1 Sam 16:13
- Elijah:** 2 Kings 2:15,16
- Prophets prophesy:** Isa 44:3, Ezek 36:26,27, Zech 4:6
- Growing anticipation:** Mark 1:7,8

Gen 1:2

Let's start from the beginning! The Holy Spirit was there right at Creation. He is always present when God works mighty wonders. He was at work in the leaders of Israel and in the prophets. But for hundreds of years, prophets spoke about something even better. **They prophesied that the Holy Spirit would come upon all people**, men and women, even boys and girls. And God's Spirit would come and change our hearts and fill us with himself, and with love, faith and power. Wow! These were God's promises to us. And he fulfilled them through Jesus!

Num 11:25

Ezek 2:2

Joel 2:28,29

Ezek 36:26,27

Jesus himself was filled with the Holy Spirit

The Bible clearly says that Jesus himself was not just born of the Spirit, but also filled and anointed with the Holy Spirit

Luke 1:35

THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES IN ME

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them... 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 2:4,39

Wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Cor 3:17 NLT

God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Rom 5:5

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Gal 5:22,23

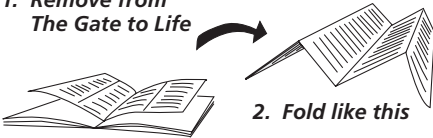
"The joy of the Lord is your strength."

Neh 8:10

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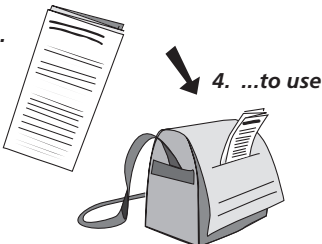
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from the book and fold as shown.

1. Remove from
The Gate to Life



2. Fold like this

3. Ready...



4. ...to use

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Words of Spirit & Life

God sends his Word to change your life and circumstances!

Jesus said:

"The words I have spoken to you – they are full of the Spirit and life."

John 6:63

This truth is powerful! God's Word expels darkness and frustration, and brings healing to sickness and pain. By trusting his Word, you open the way for God to enter your personal life, to change your life and circumstances by the power of his Word!

Words of Spirit & Life is a collection of Bible verses for you to apply to your life. In the first section, several verses have been changed into the "I" or "me"-form to help you personalise them. You can apply all verses to yourself in the same way. **Memorise them and trust that God stands behind his promises; he will do exactly what he says!**

- When you need assurance that God loves you, start with the first one: *What great love the Father has lavished on me, that I should be called a child of God! And that is what I am!*
- Say the Bible verses out loud and think about them. Let the words sink deep down into your heart.
- Meditate on them when walking along the road or sitting in a bus; talk about them with your family.
- Before long, these wonderful Bible verses will be yours, and you

will automatically think of them whenever you need them.

- God will show you that you can trust him: He watches over his Word to perform it. (Jer 1:12)

Receive God's Word – it will change your life!

GOD IS GOOD AND HE LOVES ME

What great love
the Father has lavished on **me**,
that **I** should be called a child of God!
And that is what **I am!**

1 John 3:1

God so loved **me**
that he gave his one and only Son,
so that **I** who believe in him
shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

God has loved **me**
with an everlasting love.
With unfailing love he
has drawn **me** to himself.

Jer 31:3 NLT

God showed his great love for **me**
by sending Christ to die for **me**
while **I** was still a sinner.

Rom 5:8 NLT

God is love.

1 John 4:16

The Lord is gracious and
compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.

Ps 145:8,9

I am convinced that
neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons,
neither the present nor the future,
nor any powers,
neither height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God
that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 8:38,39

When I'm weary and burdened,
I come to Jesus, for he says:
"Come to me,
all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and
learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy and
my burden is light."

Matt 11:28-30

Because of the Lord's great love
we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

Lam 3:22,23

"Though the mountains be shaken
and the hills be removed,
yet my unfailing love for you
will not be shaken
nor my covenant of peace be
removed," says the Lord,
who has compassion on you.

Isa 54:10

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

The Lord is my shepherd,
I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in
green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love
will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house
of the Lord for ever.

Ps 23

THE LORD IS MY PROTECTION

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
This I declare about the Lord:
He alone is my refuge,
my place of safety;
he is my God, and I trust him.
For he will rescue you
from every trap and protect you
from deadly disease.
He will cover you with his feathers.
He will shelter you with his wings.
His faithful promises
are your armour and protection.
Do not be afraid of the terrors
of the night,
nor the arrow that flies in the day.
Do not dread the disease
that stalks in darkness,
nor the disaster that strikes at midday.
Though a thousand fall at your side,
though ten thousand are dying
around you,
these evils will not touch you.
Just open your eyes,
and see how the wicked are punished.

If you make the Lord your refuge,
if you make the Most High your
shelter, no evil will conquer you;
no plague will come near your home.
For he will order his angels
to protect you wherever you go.
They will hold you up with their hands
so you won't even hurt your foot
on a stone.
You will trample upon lions and
cobras; you will crush fierce lions
and serpents under your feet!

The Lord says,
"I will rescue those who love me.
I will protect those who trust
in my name.
When they call on me, I will answer;
I will be with them in trouble.
I will rescue and honour them.
I will reward them with a long life and
give them my salvation."

Ps 91 NLT

I WILL NOT FEAR

"Don't be afraid, for I am with you.
Don't be discouraged,
for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you.
I will hold you up with my victorious
right hand."

Isa 41:10 NLT

"You will be secure under
a government that is just and fair.
Your enemies will stay far away.
You will live in peace,
and terror will not come near."

Isa 54:14 NLT

God is love...
Perfect love drives out fear.

1 John 4:16,18

Truly my soul finds rest in God;
my salvation comes from him.
Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

Ps 62:1,2

I AM SAVED BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

[God] wants all people to be saved and
to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Tim 2:4

"There is salvation in no one else!
God has given no other name under
heaven by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:12 NLT

Jesus says: "Do not be afraid.
I am the First and the Last.
I am the Living One;
I was dead, and now look,
I am alive for ever and ever!"

Rev 1:17,18

Anyone who belongs to Christ
has become a new person.
The old life is gone;
a new life has begun!

2 Cor 5:17 NLT

All who confess that Jesus is the Son
of God have God living in them,
and they live in God.
We know how much God loves us,
and we have put our trust in his love.

1 John 4:15,16 NLT

God's mercy is so abundant,
and his love for us is so great,
that while we were spiritually dead
in our disobedience he brought us to
life with Christ.

It is by God's grace that you have
been saved.

In our union with Christ Jesus he
raised us up with him to rule with
him in the heavenly world.

Eph 2:4-6 GNT

Since we have been justified
through faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have gained
access by faith into this grace in
which we now stand.

Rom 5:1-2

For [God] has rescued us
from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of
the Son he loves,
in whom we have redemption,
the forgiveness of sins.

Col 1:13-14

Now [God] has reconciled you by
Christ's physical body through death
to present you holy in his sight,
without blemish and free from
accusation.

Col 1:22

I AM BLESSED IN JESUS CHRIST

Since [God] did not spare even his own
Son but gave him up for us all,
won't he also give us everything else?

Rom 8:32 NLT

"If the Son sets you free,
you will be free indeed."

John 8:36

For I can do everything through Christ,
who gives me strength.

Phil 4:13 NLT

Praise be to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has
blessed us in the heavenly realms
with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Eph 1:3

My God will meet all your needs
according to the riches of his glory
in Christ Jesus.

Phil 4:19

You know the generous grace of
our Lord Jesus Christ.
Though he was rich,
yet for your sakes he became poor,
so that by his poverty
he could make you rich.

2 Cor 8:9 NLT

Jesus said: "Do not be afraid,
little flock, for your Father has been
pleased to give you the kingdom."

Luke 12:32

Jesus said:

"I am the resurrection and the life.
Anyone who believes in me will live,
even after dying.
Everyone who lives in me and believes
in me will never ever die."

John 11:25,26 NLT

No matter how many promises God
has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.

2 Cor 1:20

"Whatever you ask for in prayer,
believe that you have received it,
and it will be yours."

Mark 11:24

Jesus said: "I have given you authority
to trample on snakes and scorpions
and to overcome all the power of
the enemy; nothing will harm you."

Luke 10:19

The Spirit who lives in you is greater
than the spirit who lives in the world.

1 John 4:4 NLT

They triumphed over [Satan]
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony.

Rev 12:11

"[Jesus] took our sicknesses
and removed our diseases."

Matt 8:17 NLT

[Jesus] personally carried our sins in his
body on the cross so that we can be
dead to sin and live for what is right.
By his wounds you are healed.

1 Peter 2:24 NLT

You can be Filled with the Holy Spirit

Luke 4:1

Acts 10:38

1 John 4:17

John 14:12

(which means that the Spirit filled him and worked through him). And he was led by the Spirit, just as you and I can be!

We can never be what Jesus is because he is God. But he asks his followers to be like him. He even promised that we would do the same things he did – and even greater miracles. How? Through the Holy Spirit! This lesson will teach you how this happens.

Jesus and the Spirit

Jesus Born

- Conceived by the Spirit *Luke 1:35*
- Born of Mary *Luke 2:7*

Ministry in the Spirit

- Jesus grew in wisdom and stature for about 30 years
- Jesus baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit *Luke 3:21,22, 4:1*



Jesus gives the Spirit

- Ministry (three years) in the power of the Spirit *Acts 10:38*
- Promise to send the Spirit to us *John 16:7*
- Jesus dies and is resurrected *John 19–21*
- Jesus gives the Spirit *Acts 2*

Jesus promised to give us the Holy Spirit

John 16:5-7

John 17:26

Jesus said something remarkable to his disciples: "It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate (the Holy Spirit) will not come to you." Can you imagine anything better than being with Jesus in Israel all those years ago? Yet Jesus promised that through the Holy Spirit he will live **in us** all the time!

Luke 24:49

John 14:16

During his very last days on earth, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit: "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." It is clear that the Holy Spirit was vital for all that Jesus wanted his followers to accomplish after he had gone. Earlier, he had told them: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about." He also said: "In a few days you will be **baptised with the Holy Spirit.**"

Acts 1:4,5



2 Jesus baptises with the Holy Spirit

Zech 4:6

John 16:7

Jesus knew that without the Spirit working in his friends there would be none of God's power and God's kind of love. Without the Holy Spirit, God's plans for mankind would never be fulfilled. It is the same for you and me: we need the Holy Spirit to live the life God planned for us. Let's see what Jesus means by his promise to send the Spirit.

1. The Spirit will flow like rivers out of your inner being

John 7:37-39

Zech 14:8

Isa 12:3

Jesus always spoke boldly about the Holy Spirit, because he wanted people to know about him. When Jerusalem was full of people, he stood and cried in a loud voice about the Holy Spirit: "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, **rivers** of living water will flow from within him. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive." "Whoever" means anyone. Anyone who believes will experience the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. And you'll see the difference when he comes: powerful rivers of God's own life will flow out of you!

Acts 1:5

2. Jesus said: "You will be baptised with the Holy Spirit"

Matt 26:69-75

Acts 2:14

Acts 2:2-4

Acts 2:40,41

Acts 2:47; 6:7

Acts 3:1-10

Rom 5:5

Acts 4:32-35

Much of the New Testament was written in the Greek language. "To baptise", in Greek, means to "immerse", "dip down", "plunge". It can even mean "drown". Jesus wants you to be totally immersed in the Holy Spirit, so he is inside, outside and all around you. When this happens, you'll see a tremendous difference in your life. Look at the amazing change the Holy Spirit brought to Jesus' friends when they were immersed in him:

- Peter, who was once a coward, became a fearless witness! You can become one too!
- All of them began to speak in other tongues! You can too!
- The first little group of believers became a fast-growing church; new people were won for Jesus every day. You can win others for Jesus too!
- The same healing power that Jesus had was now in all his followers! It can be in your life too!
- Most important of all, thousands of believers began to live in God's love. They shared everything with each other, and helped one another in practical ways. The Holy Spirit brings

You can be Filled with the Holy Spirit

this kind of love into your life too! He is the promised gift of the Father to everyone who believes in Jesus, and he makes all the difference in the world!

3. The era of the Holy Spirit begins

Acts 2:2-4

The day the Holy Spirit came was a turning-point in world history. What had been promised hundreds of years before was now a reality. A new era had begun – the age of the Holy Spirit. And we still live in this age today. “Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house... **All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues** as the Spirit enabled them.” The Holy Spirit changed their lives, and through them the whole of Jerusalem was changed too. The love and power of the Holy Spirit was unstoppable! These life-changing events continued to happen – even outside Jerusalem. Cornelius and his friends and relatives, too, were baptised in the Spirit. Jesus sent the Spirit to them, exactly as he had done to Peter and the others. And it continues to happen!

Acts 10:44-47

4. The Holy Spirit is available now

Ever since the day the Spirit came, he has been available to the thirsty, as Jesus promised.

If you are thirsty, you drink. If you are thirsty for God, ask him for his gift of the Holy Spirit. Receive the Holy Spirit just as you received Jesus. Ask him to come into your life. The Spirit will come just as Jesus came! God shows no partiality! He shocked Peter’s fellow-preachers by giving the Holy Spirit to the least likely people, outcasts like Gentiles and Samaritans. The promise is for all, and includes you and me: “You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off.” Listen: “If you, 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!**” Everyone who asks, receives! That includes you. What a wonderful promise from God the Father! Praise God for His incredible love to us!

Acts 2:38,39

Luke 11:13

1 Cor 2:12

Bible Quest

What is the Holy Spirit like?

Jesus' last hours with the disciples were very special. During this time, he gave them his legacy, and this has much to do with the Holy Spirit. His legacy was not just for the first disciples, but also for you and me. Jesus tells us in John 14:15 to 16:16 what the Holy Spirit is like. Let's study this passage.



- ✓ First, read John 14:15 to 16:16 and underline the words "Spirit" and "Advocate". "Advocate" is another name for the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Secondly, list the things Jesus tells you about the Holy Spirit.



– Describe the Holy Spirit and say who he is:



– Write down what Jesus says the Holy Spirit will do:

You can be Filled with the Holy Spirit



✓ Thirdly, read the following verses and write down what happened when the Holy Spirit came on the disciples:

Acts 2:4 _____

Acts 2:17 _____

Acts 5:32 _____

Acts 7:55 _____

Acts 8:15-17 _____

Acts 8:29 _____

Acts 9:31 _____

Acts 10:44-46 _____

Acts 11:28 _____

Acts 13:52 _____

Acts 19:6 _____



3 Why you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Eph 5:18-20

The Bible says: "Be filled with the Spirit." And the first believers were all filled! But why do we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Let's ask ourselves some honest questions.

- **Do I love with perfect, unselfish love?**

Yes No

John 13:34

Love is the fruit of the Spirit. God's dream is that we all will be filled with his love. Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another." He will help you. He says that the Holy Spirit is the solution: "God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

Rom 5:5

Rivers of love will flow out of you! Paul describes this as the fruit of the Spirit.

Gal 5:16-26

- **Do I witness boldly about Jesus?**

Yes No

If you answered "No", then this will change when you let the Holy Spirit empower your life.

Acts 1:8

The Holy Spirit will give you boldness to share about Jesus. Jesus said: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses." If you answered "Yes", the Holy Spirit will give you greater boldness and increasing joy and power to win people for Jesus.

- **Do I fully understand the Bible and God's promises to me?**

Yes No

1 Cor 2:12

Eph 1:17,18

The Holy Spirit helps you understand the Bible and all God's promises: We have received "the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us." The Spirit of wisdom and revelation gives light to the eyes of your inner man. Without the Holy Spirit, you will never understand the plans and purposes of God.

You can be Filled with the Holy Spirit

1 Cor 12:7-11

- Do you have the spiritual gifts that Paul talks about? Do you heal others, have words of wisdom, or prophesy, or speak in tongues?

Yes No

1 Cor 14:1

The Holy Spirit is the one who gives these gifts to believers who are hungry for them. The Bible says: "Eagerly desire spiritual gifts." They are for you!

How did you score?

If your score was four "No"s, don't worry. There is a solution. God will turn your negative answers into positive ones! His solution is the Holy Spirit. Be baptised in the Holy Spirit and ask the Holy Spirit to fill you each day. The Holy Spirit is a wonderful friend. He is your Helper and Advocate. He is the one who leads you into all truth. The Holy Spirit will revolutionise your life as you allow him to have his way each day. But first you must be baptised in the Spirit. How can this happen? Read on.



James 2:17

Action Time

Faith expresses itself in Action

If you only read, speak or think, and never act, your faith won't work! In this lesson, we ask you to receive what God promises you.

Acts 2:4

You will experience the same power that fell on the first people who were baptised in the Spirit: "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

1. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is for "All"

It says "**all**" were filled with the Holy Spirit. There were 120 people, men and women from different situations in life. You don't need special qualifications to receive the Holy Spirit. All you need is to have confessed that Jesus Christ is Lord.

2. "All were filled..."

Thank God now: "Father, I thank you that I am ready to receive the Holy Spirit because I believe in Jesus."

Acts 19:6

When you ask, you will receive. You don't need to wait, because the Spirit has already been given to you. Often in the Bible, a believer laid hands on the people who were hungry for the Holy Spirit. Immediately **they received and were instantly filled**. You received Jesus by taking a decision, not by feeling something. You said: "Jesus, I receive you as my Saviour." Do exactly the same with the Holy Spirit, and immediately you will be filled. Some people feel a powerful presence at once, others don't. But don't go by feelings. Trust God's promise. As soon as you ask the Father to give you the Holy Spirit, he will do it. You will begin to experience the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:13

Ask the Father now: "Father, I ask you to fill me with the Holy Spirit. I receive him now. Amen." Straight away begin to thank him.

3. "They began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them words to say"

Jesus had said that the believers would speak in new tongues, and that's exactly what happened. The Holy Spirit gave them a new language, which they had never spoken before. In the book of Acts, new believers received the Spirit and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. These gifts are for you, too!

Acts 19:6

1 Cor 14:1-5

✓ The gift of tongues is supernatural

When you speak in tongues you are speaking with your spirit, by the Holy Spirit who is within you. You are no longer speaking in any language that you know. You do not speak with your mind, but with your spirit. Just stop speaking in your own language and begin praising God with your spirit. It is like listening to the radio: you must switch off program 1 to be able to hear program 2. So switch off your own language. Stop speaking with your mind, and begin speaking in the Spirit, in tongues!

1 Cor 14:13-17

✓ You speak, not the Holy Spirit

When you begin speaking and thanking God, the Holy Spirit will supernaturally give new, wonderful words. Look again at the verse. It says: **THEY began to speak. YOU** must begin to speak. Unless you open your mouth and begin speaking, you can't speak any language, not even tongues! When you fill your lungs with air, and open your mouth to make sounds and begin to release your breath, the Spirit will give you the words. Release whatever words are easiest at first.

Acts 2:4

✓ The Holy Spirit gives the words!

Don't be afraid to speak wrong words. If you ask, you will have the Holy Spirit, and nothing else. And you will speak new, heavenly words!

Matt 7:9-11

✓ Start now!

Close your eyes, lift your hands, and begin praising God in new tongues. It will happen! Don't let the Devil steal this gift from you. The Devil is a liar. He may try to tell you: "You made it up yourself." But you know better: God is faithful to his promise! Speak in tongues every day, many times a day for the rest of your life. Some start with a river of words, others with a few simple syllables. That doesn't matter. The miracle has begun!

Dear brother/sister in Jesus Christ,

Praise God for the gift of his Holy Spirit! He will be your friend and advocate. Rely on him at all times, in every situation. He will fill you with God's love and power, and guide you along the best path for your life. You have entered into a wonderful relationship with the Holy Spirit. Each day, ask the Father to fill you, and keep being filled with him (Eph 5:18-20). This is just the beginning, but what a wonderful beginning!

You may find it helpful to study this lesson again. What you receive today will change your life forever!



Memo Time

Write the Bible verses on a sheet of paper, and read them many times each day – on the bus, during a break, or together with the family at a mealtime

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." Acts 2:4

"God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." Rom 5:5

God's Word – Truth that will Set you Free!

About this lesson:

True freedom comes through living by God's Word. God's Word is the Bible and it is already at work in you. The Bible shows you the truth that will set you free. This truth will change your life!

Today you will learn:

- What God's Word is.
- How it works.
- How it can set you free.



1 What is God's Word?

God's Word has already produced the best thing that could ever happen in your life – your salvation. This happened through the Word of God:

- You heard the Word about Jesus.
- You received the promise in the Word.
- You spoke according to the Word.
- God did exactly as it is written in the Word:

1 Peter 1:23-25

"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God."

James 1:18

The Bible says that you are born again through the Word. Can you see – God has already used the Word to save you? But this is just the beginning; you will live by the power of the Word for the rest of your life!



What is God's Word? *(continued)*

God's Word is the Bible – and the Bible is the Truth

God's Word is the Bible, the book that you can have and read. This is a wonderful gift. Jesus knew that he would not be able to remain with us and so he had a solution: "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples." Jesus' teachings are written in the Bible.

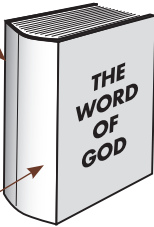
John 8:31

God breathed his life into the Bible

The Bible is no ordinary book. The Holy Spirit spoke through God's messengers, and they wrote down what he told them. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Tim 3:16,17

**New Testament
27 books**



The Book that God gave us

What is written in the Bible is God's Word. Through the Bible, God has spoken to people throughout history. God's powerful, liberating truth is revealed in the Bible. It will teach you and help you every time you open it!

**Old Testament
39 books**

What does the Bible consist of?

The Bible has two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament was available in Jesus' time, and the New Testament was written afterwards. It explains God's truth to us through the teachings of Jesus and his apostles. Every single word of it is true. But not only is it true, it is filled with the power of God. Jesus said: "Truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."

Heb 4:12

Matt 5:18

Let's summarise what we have learned so far:

- The Bible is the Word of God and it will never change.
- The Bible is the key to staying close to Jesus.

Isa 40:8

John 8:31,32



John 1:1; Gen 1:2
1 John 1:1

2 Jesus is God's Word

The Bible, God's Word, is more than a book. Jesus is the Word. He was present when God created the world.

When Jesus was born, God's Word became a tangible reality, in human form. Jesus is the Word of life: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life."

The Word comes into your home

When you let the Word of God into your home, your school, or your job – Jesus comes. He has something to say about every detail of your life. Imagine Jesus following you through a day: sitting with you, working with you, talking to you! This will happen as you let the Word fill your heart and mind. Jesus, God's Word, will walk with you! How? Through the Bible, where you find the life-giving words of Jesus.

Col 3:16

God's Word is Spirit and Life

The Bible is not simply a book of words. These words contain life, God's kind of life. But you must open the Bible and receive the truth. Only then will the truth start to live in you. If the Bible just sits on your shelf, it is still truth, but nothing will happen.

John 6:63

Jesus says: "The words I have spoken to you – they are full of the Spirit and life." The words of the Bible are different from all other words. They are Spirit – and the Spirit is God himself. This means that when you receive the words from the Bible, the Spirit of God starts to change you. God's own kind of life comes into you.



Ps 107:20

3 The Word begins to change you

Areas in your life that are touched by the Word will begin to change. If you are sick and you read what God says about healing, healing will come to you through the Word: "He sent out his word and healed them." Nothing else has such dramatic, life-changing power! So study the Bible, speak out the promises and remain in the Word of God.

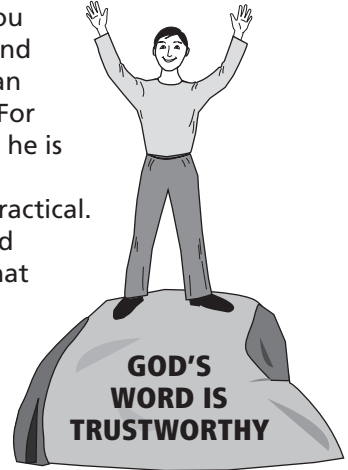


The Word begins to change you *(continued)*

God's Word: A firm foundation

Our world is transitory and everything is changing: all material things, ideas, systems and even knowledge. However, Jesus says: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." Therefore, God's Word is a firm foundation on which you can stand. "He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand." You can KNOW that God keeps his promises: "For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does."

Let's be practical, because God is practical. If you have a promise from God's Word for your situation, you can stand on that promise no matter how you feel or whatever people say. God's Word is even more solid than the ground under your feet. One day, that will disappear, but God's Word will last forever!



Matt 24:35

Ps 40:2

Ps 33:4

Matt 7:7

John 15:7

Examples of standing on God's Word

Let God's power come into your life!

The apostle Paul says: The message of the cross (where Jesus died for you and me) is the power of God to us who are being saved. Wow! The very message about the cross is filled with the power of God.

- If you feel guilty and cannot forget things you once did, even though you have asked God's forgiveness, remember what Jesus did on the cross and declare: **"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."**
- If you feel lonely and think that no one cares about you, remember what happened on the cross and say: **God has sent the Spirit of his Son into my heart and I can call God my "Dear Father". I am no more a slave but a son of God.**
- If you are sick and need God's help, remember what Jesus did on the cross for your healing and say: **By his wounds I have been healed.**

1 Cor 1:18

1 John 1:9

Gal 4:6,7

1 Peter 2:24

You heard what Paul says above – the very message about the cross is God's power! This power will come into your life when you claim God's promises and trust him to change your life according to his Word.

God's Word brings direction

Ps 119:105

Often, we need direction. We wonder what we should do and where we should go. God's Word is a lamp to your feet and a light for your path! The Bible has something to say about every aspect of life. The more you study God's Word, the more help and direction you will receive. God will teach you – through his Word – how to lead a life of love and power in his wonderful presence.

Bible Quest



Exercise 1: Below are some Bible verses which describe the Word of God. Look them up and write down what they say:

2 Sam 22:31 _____

Prov 30:5 _____

John 17:17 _____

Heb 4:12 _____

Phil 2:16 _____

Ps 119:103 _____

Bible Quest (continued)

Ps 119:130 _____

John 6:63 _____



Exercise 2: List three areas where you need God to change you or your circumstances:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Now go to the leaflet "Words of Spirit & Life" and find a Bible verse for each of the areas you have listed. Note the verses below and trust what God says. Stand on his promises!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Action Time

How can God's Word affect your life and your home? Through your speech! When you speak God's Word in faith, the power of God is released and miracles happen. Therefore, if you remind yourself to speak God's truth, your life will never be the same again.

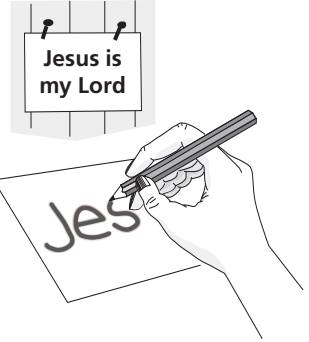
1. Fill your home with God's Word

Prov 4:20-22

Hang Bible verses on your walls. Carry memory verses in your purse or wallet – use them as bookmarks. Remind yourself of the truths in God's Word, for example: I am a new creation in Christ Jesus, I am healed by the wounds of Jesus, etc. The more of God's Word you sow into your life, the more your faith will grow.

2 Cor 5:17

1 Peter 2:24



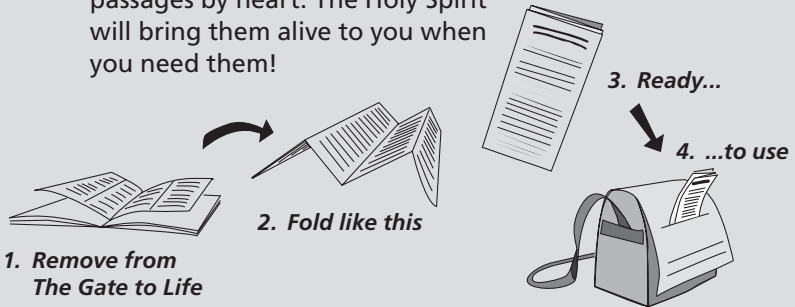
2. Use your leaflet "Words of Spirit & Life"

This is the handy pullout in the centre of *The Gate to Life*. Put this little leaflet in your Bible, your pocket, or bag. It contains basic, but very powerful Scriptures.

How to use "Words of Spirit & Life"

1. Remove it from the centre of the book and fold it so the pages appear in the right order.
2. Carry it with you.
3. Say the Bible verses out loud. Your faith and the confession of your mouth will change your life. Soon you will know many Bible passages by heart. The Holy Spirit will bring them alive to you when you need them!

Rom 10:9,10





Memo Time

Memorise and Speak God's Word

Write the Bible verses on a sheet of paper, and read them many times each day – on the bus, during a break, or together with the family at a mealtime.

**“The word of the Lord
is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.”**

Ps 33:4

**“Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will never pass away.”**

Matt 24:35

Your New Life!

About this lesson:

Faith in Jesus Christ is not mere words; it is a totally new and different kind of life. The tremendous power of God and the blessings that come with the Gospel of Christ are yours, not just when you first believed, but as you continue to LIVE the life God has given you.

Today you will learn about:

- Your new life in Christ.
- The steps you need to take to make it a reality in your life.



2 Cor 5:17 *NLT*

Col 1:13

Five pillars for your New Life

"Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" Hallelujah! This is true indeed. When you received Christ, God moved you from the Kingdom of Darkness to the Kingdom of Jesus.

Even if you don't feel it, you are now in a new kingdom. Imagine a person who changes citizenship from one country to another; he may not feel any different until he starts to enjoy the benefits of his new citizenship. Only then will his change of identity be evident. The same is true for you! In this lesson you will begin to learn how to live in this new kingdom. Let's look at five important truths: baptism, fellowship, Bible study, prayer and worship, and sharing your faith.



Acts 2:14-41

Acts 2:37,38

1 Baptism

When Peter preached his first message on the day of Pentecost, people were deeply convicted and wanted to change. The message had called for repentance and faith, and the people asked: "'What shall we do?' Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ



Baptism (continued)

Acts 2:38,41
Acts 8:38

for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” This clearly shows the steps they took to become citizens in the kingdom of God. First, they took a step of repentance – they turned from their sins and turned to God. Second, they were baptised – immersed in water.

What is baptism?

Matt 28:19

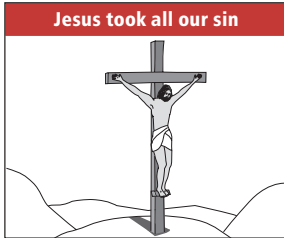
The command to baptise comes directly from Jesus himself: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Rom 6:3,4

Through baptism you identify with Christ’s death and resurrection – you die to the old life and are resurrected to abundant, new life in Jesus! Paul teaches: “...all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death. 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.”

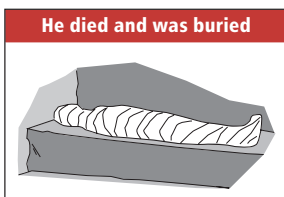
Baptism reflects three things that happened to Jesus

2 Cor 5:21



1 Jesus took all of our sin and punishment on himself. He was condemned to death for us. “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

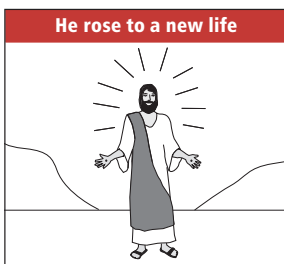
Rom 6:7



2 When Jesus died and was buried, he broke the grip and power of sin, “because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.” Jesus was now ready for resurrection!

Rom 8:11

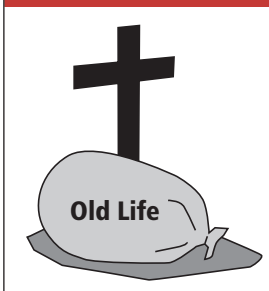
Heb 7:25



3 On the third day, Jesus was resurrected! He was made alive by the Spirit. Now he is seated in heaven at his Father’s right hand and lives to intercede for those who come to God through him.

Your baptism reflects these three stages

Your old life under sin



Eph 4:22-32

1 Thess 1:9

Luke 9:23-25

1 **The cross**

The cross symbolises death to your old life in the Kingdom of Darkness. This means:

- You leave your old lifestyle of selfishness.
- You leave your old “gods” – things that have ruled over you.
- You choose to follow Christ for the rest of your life. You shut the door to the old life behind you and step into the new.

The old life dies in baptism



Rom 6:6

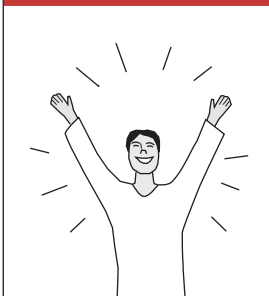
1 Peter 2:24

Rom 6:7

2 **The grave**

You go down under the water, and your old life is buried. It’s as dead as a body in a grave! The power of sin is destroyed, the slavery to sin is broken, “so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness.” Anyone who has died has been freed from sin. This death is your freedom!

New life in joy and victory



2 Cor 5:17

Col 2:12

John 11:25,26

Eph 1:19,20

3 **The Resurrection**

You come up out of the water to a new life. Baptism expresses the miracle that happened when you were saved. You are a new creation.

You are raised with Christ and made alive with him because you believed. You have passed from death to life. His supernatural resurrection power is yours!

Jesus wants you to be baptised

Mark 16:16

Acts 2:41

Rom 10:9,10

Eph 2:8,9

Jesus says: “Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” This means that every believer should be baptised in obedience to Jesus. Baptism alone does not save you; you are saved only as you believe and confess that Jesus is Lord. Baptism is an outward confession of your new life in Christ. So, if you have



Baptism *(continued)*

not yet been baptised in water, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, this is a necessary step for you to take. Do it and you will be wonderfully blessed!



2 Church: fellowship with other believers

The lifestyle of the first believers was radically changed: "Those who accepted Peter's message were baptised, and... they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." A believer is never alone; he can always have close fellowship with God. But there is more: all believers are united, linked together as close as parts in a body. There are no walls between us, because we have a new focus, Jesus. We love each other, because Jesus first loved us.

Acts 2:41,42

Matt 28:20

1 Cor 12:12,13

1 John 4:19



Acts 2:44-47

Acts 4:32-35

1 Cor 11:23-26

To the first believers, this love was real and practical. They met together daily, often in homes. They shared their possessions, so there were no needy persons among them. There was

great joy as they gathered to pray, to praise God, and to break bread together. And the people around them liked them.

Look what happened as they lived their lives in close fellowship, centred on Jesus: people were saved daily!

This is what you need, too: close fellowship with others who believe. Ask God to put you together with others who praise him with joy, and where God's power is present to save, heal and deliver. If you can, open your home to fellow believers. Begin to express the love of God, and others will be attracted to him.



Acts 2:42

3 The Bible: your daily food

The first believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, which is found in the Bible. They gathered together to listen and learn, and they shared with others what they had received.

The Word of God is like food. A baby needs food very often. So do you! "Like



1 Peter 2:2

newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation." A believer grows in strength and faith, as he receives God's Word and lives by it.

Let nothing hinder you from taking time every day with the Bible. Read and study God's Word. Underline and memorise particular verses and passages that speak specifically to you. If you spend much time with God, you will grow in his likeness. Share with others what you learn, and you will be a blessing to them!



Acts 2:42

Acts 2:47

4 Prayer and worship

The first believers devoted themselves to prayer. And they praised God together. This is part of the believer's new lifestyle.

Prayer is a way to have fellowship with the Lord. You can pray about things that are on your heart, speaking to God as you would speak to another person. You can also pray in tongues, which is your spirit talking to God in words you don't understand. There is more about this in Lesson Three.

1 Cor 14:2,15

The first believers prayed together, and left us an example to follow. Jesus himself gave a special promise about the prayer of agreement: "If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together in my name, I am there among them." Prayer in agreement with others is powerful!

Matt 18:19,20
NLT

Prayer changes circumstances

When believers in Jesus truly pray in unity, their prayers will change circumstances. It will be the same for you!

Acts 12:5

When Peter was in prison, the church earnestly prayed to God for him. He was in an impossible situation, sleeping between soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. Yet God delivered Peter miraculously in answer to prayer. You, too, can see God's power released to change impossible situations, as you pray.

Acts 4:24-31

In another instance, when the authorities threatened the first believers and tried to stop them from preaching, "they raised their voices together in prayer to God... After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken.



Prayer and worship *(continued)*

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." God gave them what they needed – boldness!

Our God is great and wonderful, and worthy of our praise and adoration! Take time to gather together with others to praise and worship him. Sing joyful praises to your God, and proclaim that he is good, and wonderful, and just! Whenever you praise God, something happens in the unseen world: God's presence comes. Where there is praise and worship to God, the Lord is given his rightful place, and he comes to rule and to show his power! "You are holy, enthroned on the praises of [God's people]."

2 Chron 5:13,14

Ps 22:3 NLT



Acts 2:41,47

Acts 4:32,33

Acts 5:12-16

5 Telling others about Jesus

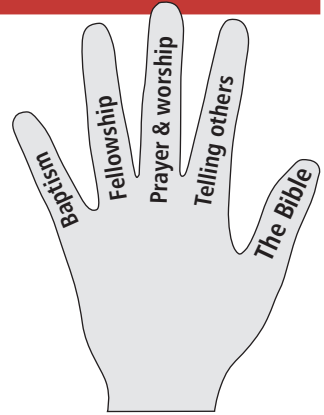
The lifestyle of the first believers achieved wonderful results. They joyfully gathered in homes to praise God, and people were saved daily! They lived in love and unity, and preached with great power. God performed miracles, and "more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number." Can you see the wonderful outcome of living close to God and to one another? In this atmosphere, it was easy to say to a neighbour: "Come to my home and meet my friends." He (or she) met not only the friends but Jesus, too. This can be your lifestyle! When you share what you have received from God, you will have the immense joy of seeing others being brought from death to eternal life. The more you share, the stronger you will grow in the Lord.

Congratulations!

You have studied your last lesson in "The Gate to Life" series and you have done well. What you have learned will affect the rest of your life! Every once in a while, take an hour and go through this foundational series again.

Bible Quest

Just as the hand has five fingers, you have now learned about five key areas that you need to act on and to make a part of your life. The first, baptism, you only take once, but the others are for your daily life as a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.



Exercise 1: Baptism

a) Study these Bible passages on baptism, then answer the questions:

- Matt 28:18-20. Who gave the instruction to baptise?

- Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, 18:8. What is required before a person is baptised?

- Acts 8:36-38. Describe the procedure for baptism.

- Acts 16:14,15,30-34. How did the families respond to the message of salvation?

- Acts 16:34. What emotion did faith and baptism inspire?

b) Read Romans 6:1-14 and write a brief summary in your notebook.



James 2:26

Action Time

Faith without deeds is dead. Here is a simple 5-point program to help you put the contents of this lesson into practice:

1. **Fellowship:** Find a church or fellowship of believers, where the Bible is taught and people love Jesus wholeheartedly. Faithfully join together with other believers.
2. **Baptism:** If you have turned from your sins and believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, there is nothing to stop you being baptised. Ask the church leaders – or a fellow believer – to baptise you.
3. **The Bible:** Begin and end your day with Bible reading. Start with Matthew, then Acts. Then just keep reading. For the Old Testament, begin with Genesis and Psalms. Note down what God speaks to you. Expect him to speak to you every day!
4. **Prayer and worship:** "Pray continually." Pray about everything, on your own and with your family members. Start and finish your day with prayer. Pray with other believers as often as possible. God hears your prayers and will answer you!
5. **Tell others about Jesus:** Share the Good News of God's love and power. Begin with your family and friends. Start today!

Acts 8:36,37

1 Thess 5:17

***Your exciting new life in Jesus Christ
has begun. Hallelujah!***

Memo Time

Memorise and Speak God's Word

Here is a Bible verse to memorise. Read it aloud many times! Choose two other Bible verses from this lesson and memorise them.

**"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Cor 5:17**

The Gate to **Life**

Discover vital truths from the Bible, and take the first essential steps in getting to know God!

The Gate to Life has five lessons with basic teaching from God's Word, the Bible. This powerful book holds the keys to righteousness and happiness for everyone, impacting both this life and life after death.

The Gate to Life is self-instructive, but it can also be used in groups.

