

FOUNDATIONS ONE

GOD &
MANKIND

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OUTLINE OF LESSONS

FOUNDATIONS 1

LESSON 0	Why Choose God?
LESSON 1	Who is God?
LESSON 2	Man's Creation
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INTRODUCTION

“Man is homo religious, by 'nature' religious: as much as he needs food to eat or air to breathe, he needs a faith for living” - Philosopher Will Hardberg

1. Everyone has their own set of morals. Where do your morals come from?
2. Let the student think and answer this question on their own. Don't answer for them.
3. Finding the true God is important not only to our belief but also to our character and the way we act.
4. If there is a God, is it not important to find out who He is and what His definitions of morals are?

PROOFS OF THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

Man's Religious Nature

1. Everyone believes in something, even choosing not to believe is a belief in itself.
2. Everyone wants to know and believe in the truth.
3. If there is a God, should we not seek out which God is truly real?

Man's Moral Nature

1. What is an absolute?
2. What standards do we base our morals on?
3. What are the moral standards of the Christian God?

God Is Observable

1. If there is a painting there must be a painter.

The Purpose of Life

1. To fellowship with the Creator.

CONCLUSION

We all have morals, we all have beliefs, we search for truth and seek answers to the meaning of life. The God of the Bible offers all of these things, do you not owe it to yourself to seek out if He is the true and living God?

INTRODUCTION

Humanity is always in search for something to fulfill the deepest needs within them. “Men search for significance, and women search for security” (Dr. Larry Crabb). Thus, men and women everywhere pursue after material wealth, social status, relationships and various other things that would fulfill their needs for significance and security. These needs can only be found in God. Who is God?

Who is the real God?

1. We are created in God’s Image. *Genesis 1:2, 1 Corinthians 2:14*
 - a. Man was created with three parts, a body, a spirit, and a soul. *1 Thessalonians 5:23a*
 - b. The Bible sometimes uses the words “spirit” and “soul” interchangeably to mean “A person’s eternal being” because both the spirit and soul are the eternal parts of man (the body is temporary). That said, here are the traditional definitions of the words “spirit” and “soul”:
 - i. The soul is the part of someone that gives them passion and individuality. It includes their mind, their will, and their emotions. Souls are eternal and can not be quenched. They can be rewarded eternally in heaven or destroyed (tortured) eternally in hell. *Matthew 10:28*
 - ii. The spirit is the breath of God. The spirit is the “life” in someone, and for humans, angels, and God the spirit is eternal. Because the spirit is literally the breath of God, the spirit strives to be with God and communicate with God. It desires to be with God. *James 2:26, Ecclesiastes 12:7*
2. God is both a physical being and a spirit, He is full of emotion and passion, He has higher thoughts and a higher will.
 - a. God is a Spirit. He is an eternal being full of the breath of life. *John 4:24*

- b. God is also a physical being. He has arms, and hands, and eyes, and a mouth and other physical body parts like ours. *Matthew 4:4, Isaiah 51:5, Deuteronomy 11:12, Ezekiel 37:2, Acts 13:11*
3. His name is "I AM that I AM". *Exodus 3:14; John 8:58-59*
4. He alone is God, the true and living God. *Deuteronomy 4:35, 39*

The attributes of God

1. God is everlasting. *Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 40:28; Psalm 90:2*
2. God is omnipotent (unlimited power). *Matthew 19:26; Luke 1:37; Jeremiah 32:27*
3. God is infinite and omnipresent (present everywhere). *Psalm 33:13-14, 139:7-12; Jeremiah 23:23-24*
4. God is immutable (unchanging). *Malachi 3:6; Psalm 102:26-27; James 1:17*
5. God is omniscient (all-knowing). *Psalm 147:5; Acts 15:18; Job 28:24; Isaiah 55:9; Hebrews 4:13; Matthew 10:30; Isaiah 40:25-28*
6. God is holy. *1 Peter 1:15-16; Psalm 99:9*
7. God is just - fair and righteous. *Deuteronomy 32:4; Revelation 15:3*
8. God is love. *1 John 4:8,16; 1 Corinthians 13*
9. God is alive. *Deuteronomy 5:26; Psalm 115:4-7; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 17:5; 1 Thessalonians 1:9b; Acts 14:15*

Who created everything?

1. God created the universe and everything in it, including you and me. *Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3; Acts 17:24-28; Psalm 33:6-9*

Does God see me?

1. Yes, God sees you and everything you do, He knows you and all your intentions. He understands you, all you have been through, all you are going through, all you will go through, and He loves you! *Proverbs 15:3; Psalm 139:1-16, 23-24; Job 23:10*

Our attitude towards God

1. We must worship Him. How? *John 4:24; Psalm 103:1*
 - a. We must worship Him in "spirit".
 - i. Our spirit is the part of us that connects with God. We must allow the innermost and eternal part of our being cry out to God. *John 4:24*
 - b. We must worship Him in "truth".
 - i. To worship God in truth simply means to worship Him with sincerity and according to His Word as written in the holy Bible, for His Word is Truth. *John 17:17; Ephesians 5:18-21*
 - c. We must worship him with our soul.
 - i. We must worship God with all of our heart, mind, passions, and strengths. *Mark 12:30, 1 Chronicles 28:9*
2. We must give Him glory. How? *1 Corinthians 10:31*
 - a. In our life, through all we do. *Colossians 3:23; Ecclesiastes 9:10a*
 - b. In the things we say. *Psalm 19:14, 63:3, 109:30, 119:171*

CONCLUSION

Now we know God is a GREAT God. Let us decide together to be serious about knowing more of Him and learning His ways! The way we will learn more about God is to continue to study His Word (which is the Bible).

INTRODUCTION

We have learned who God is, and all the things He can do. We also learned that in the beginning God created the earth and all that is in it. Let us find out more about His creation of man.

Who created man?

Genesis 1:26-27

1. God created man.
 - a. How did God create man? *Genesis 2:7, 18, 21-23; Revelation 4:11*
 - i. God formed man from the dust and breathed life into him.
 - ii. God formed woman from the man. *Genesis 2:18-24*
 - b. Why did God create mankind?
 - i. To take care of God's creation and rule over it. *Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15*
 - ii. For His glory. *Isaiah 43:7*
 - iii. To have a relationship with Him. *1 Corinthians 1:9; Leviticus 26:12*

Who is man made like?

1. Man is different from animals. *Genesis 1:24-26*
2. Man was made in the image of God. *Genesis 1:26-27*

- a. Man was made good. *Genesis 1:27, 31; 1 Timothy 4:4*

- b. Man was first made righteous and holy, as God is righteous and holy. *Ephesians 4:22-24*

- c. Man has a spirit. *John 4:24; Job 32:8*

- d. Man was made without the knowledge of good and evil. *Genesis 2:16-17, 3:5*

- e. Man was made with free will (the power & freedom of choice)
 - i. Man is given freedom of choice. With this freedom, man is given the responsibility to choose wisely. *Genesis 2:16-17; Proverbs 3:5-6; James 1:5*

- f. Man has a mind. *Isaiah 55:9; 1 Corinthians 2:16; Romans 11:34*

- g. Man has free will. *Psalms 40:8; Romans 8:27; John 6:38; James 1:5*

- h. Man has emotions. *1 John 4:19; Psalm 78:40; Deuteronomy 1:37; 1 King 3:10*

CONCLUSION

God created man in His image, we can learn a lot about God by looking at ourselves, but we must remember that God is perfect, and we are not... so our God-like attributes will always be flawed and incomplete.

INTRODUCTION

Man was created to live with God in the Garden of Eden. Today we will learn how that plan was distorted. We will learn from this lesson how the Devil will still try and use the same tricks to cause us not to do what God wants, and cause our fellowship and relationship with God to be broken. Read Genesis 2:15-17.

What questions/thoughts did Satan put in the heart of Adam and Eve that encouraged them to sin?

Genesis 3:1-6

1. Questioning God's Word. *Genesis 3:1*
2. Implying that God was lying. *Genesis 3:4*
3. Implying God is withholding good things. *Genesis 3:5*
4. Caused man to reason against God's Word. *Genesis 3:6*

What were the consequences of their sin?

1. Man's close relationship with God was broken. *Genesis 3:8-10*
2. Man was separated from God and began to experience fear, shame and guilt. *Genesis 3:7-10*
3. There was a physical consequence - the world was cursed through Adam and Eve. *Genesis 3:14-24*
 - a. Their sin brought in pain, suffering, death, and the necessity to work.

The knowledge of good and evil

1. Eating the fruit gave Adam and Eve the knowledge of good and evil.
 - a. This knowledge brought on shame. *Gen 3:7, 10*
 - b. God stopped being the moral standard, and man now had the ability to do what was right in his own mind. *Proverbs 21:2*
 - i. Doing what we think is good, or doing things our way, leads to death. Instead, we need to choose to do things God's way. *Proverbs 14:12*

What did God do for the man and woman when they realized their nakedness?

Genesis 3:21

1. How were they clothed before? *Genesis 2:25*
2. Man was shamed by his sin and nakedness and tried to cover his own nakedness. *Genesis 3:7*
3. Man's covering did not suffice, God had to make coverings for them. *Genesis 3:21*
 - a. God killed an animal and clothed them with its skin. The skin of the animal covered them.

What is the law of God for the forgiveness of sin?

Hebrews 9:22

1. Just as God covered man's nakedness by killing an animal, He required that an animal be slain for the forgiveness of sin.
 - a. It is only through the shedding of blood that sin can be forgiven.

CONCLUSION

Romans 5:12 says “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—”. The Bible says that all of us have sinned, there is no exception (Romans 3:23)! Only God can remove our sin, but He has provided a way for us to be forgiven and cleansed. We will learn more about that in the next lesson!

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INTRODUCTION

We studied in the last lesson how sin came into the world. Now let us take time to study what sin actually is. Why is sin such a problem in everyone's life?

What is sin?

1. Sin is going against the law of God. *1 John 3:4*
 - a. The Bible calls sin "lawlessness", "transgression" and "iniquity" *Isaiah 53:5*
2. Sin is knowing what is right and not doing it. *James 4:17*
3. Sin is going our own way. *Isaiah 53:6*

The nature of sin

1. Sin appears in two forms:
 - a. Sin in action (lying, adultery, etc.) *Exodus 20:1-17*
 - b. Sin in the heart. *Matthew 5:28; 1 Samuel 16:7*

Sin is present everywhere and is found in everyone

1 John 1:8-10; Romans 3:23

1. Every child is born with a nature to sin. *Psalms 51:5*
2. Sin is found in everyone. *Romans 3:23; Psalm 51:1-3; Isaiah 64:6*

Who is hurt when we sin?

1. Above all we offend God when we sin. *Psalm 51:4; Romans 1:18; Deuteronomy 25:16*
2. We hurt our fellow man when we sin. *1 Corinthians 6:8*
 - a. Eating or drinking something in their presence that causes them to sin. *1 Corinthians 8:13; Romans 4:15, 19-20*
 - b. Murder, false witness, adultery, and other sins of the like hurt others. *Exodus 20:13-17*

Can we ever be “good enough” without the help of Jesus?

1. Sometimes we think if we are a good enough person, that is enough for God to forgive our sins, but Jesus said that no one is good. *Romans 3:10-12*
2. No one can be free from sin's guilt on his own. *Isaiah 53:6; Romans 6:23*
3. Sin must be punished. *Romans 6:23*

The results of sin

1. Man is condemned and held accountable to God. *2 Corinthians 5:10*
2. Death. *Romans 6:23*
3. Separation from God (death). *Isaiah 59:2*
4. The second death, a spiritual death, known as hell. *Revelation 20:15, 21:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:9*

The answer to the problem of sin

1. Man is not able to take away the problem of sin. *Psalm 49:7*
2. The only way to forgive sin is through the shedding of blood. *Hebrews 9:22*

3. Jesus Christ shed His blood for us. *Revelation 1:5*

CONCLUSION

It is important for us to admit that we have sin in our lives! No one is so good that they can say they have never sinned (1 John 1:8). Now we see why we need God. We desperately need Him to free us from the sin that imprisons us. Jesus Christ is the only answer to our problem of sin (Acts 4:12; Hebrews 7:25).

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INTRODUCTION

In the last lesson we learned about the problem of sin. This lesson will focus on the solution to that problem. If the consequence of sin is death (spiritual and physical), then we need someone to save us from that consequence, otherwise we too will perish (die spiritually). However, 2 Peter 3:9 tells us that God is not willing for any to perish. So, God in His infinite mercy provided us with a Savior.

For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16, NKJV

Who is Jesus Christ?

1. He is God's only begotten Son. *John 3:16, 18; 1 John 4:9*
 - a. The word begotten means "to procreate (reproduce) as the father".
 - i. As believers we are called the children of God. *Malachi 2:10; Galatians 3:26; 1 John 3:2*
 - ii. Christ is the only 'begotten' child of God, meaning God Himself was not just the Heavenly Father, but also the physical Father. *John 1:14, 3:16; Matthew 3:17*
 - b. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, impregnated by the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:30-35*
2. He is God.
 - a. He is equal with God and is, Himself, God. *John 1:1, 5:18-19, 8:58; Colossians 2:9; Philippians 2:6*

- b. He is one with Father God. *John 10:30, 14:10*
 - c. Through Him everything was created. *John 1:1-3, 14*
3. He was fully man.
- a. He had flesh and blood. *John 1:14; 1 Timothy 3:16; 2 John 1:7*
 - b. He was tempted in the same ways we are tempted. *Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:15-16*
4. He never sinned and lived a perfect life. *Hebrews 4:15*

What did Jesus do while He was on earth?

1. Jesus was born around the years 0-5AD.
- a. He was born of the virgin Mary, in a stable, in the small Jewish town of Bethlehem. *Luke 2:4-7*
 - b. He was greeted after His birth by wise men who came bearing gifts, they recognized Him as King.
Matthew 2:1-2
2. Jesus spent much of His life teaching. His teachings include:
- a. Give to and help the poor, homeless, sick, & imprisoned. *Luke 4:18-19; Acts 10:38; Matthew 25:31-46*
 - b. Love your neighbor as you love yourself. *Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31*
 - c. Love God above all else. *Matthew 22:37-38*
3. Jesus performed many miracles, these include:
- a. Healing the blind. *John 9:1-7*

- b. Healing the crippled. *John 5:3-9*
- c. Raising the dead. *Mark 5:35-42*
- d. Walking on water. *Matthew 14:22-29*

The importance of Jesus' death

1. Jesus never sinned so He did not deserve death. *Hebrews 4:15*
 - a. The consequence of sin is death, as we learned earlier. *Romans 6:23*
 - b. Jesus was the only adult who has ever lived who did not sin. *Romans 3:23*
2. Jesus chose to die. *John 10:15-18*
 - a. He could have stopped His own death. *Matthew 26:53-54*
 - b. He knew that this was God the Father's will for Him. *John 12:27*
 - c. Because Jesus He had no sin, He did not have to die (which is the consequence of sin). *Romans 5:12*
3. He fulfilled many prophecies in His trial and death.
 - a. Compare: Isaiah 50:6 with Matthew 26:67 and Isaiah 53:12 with Mark 15:27.
4. Jesus died as a sacrifice for our sins. *Ephesians 1:7; Isaiah 53:4-6; 1 Peter 2:24*
 - a. The forgiveness of sins requires a sacrifice. *Hebrews 9:22*
 - b. Jesus was called the Spotless Lamb, the perfect sacrifice. *1 Peter 1:18-19*

- c. Through His death, He took the punishment that we deserve. *Galatians 3:13; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:6-8*
 - d. How could Jesus take the punishment for our sins? Is that just?
5. This is what Jesus did for us! He paid the “ransom” for our sin, he took the penalty for the crime.

How did Jesus die?

1. Jesus was crucified by Roman soldiers. *John 19:23*
 - a. Some of the Jewish leaders did not like His teachings, and plotted to kill Him. *John 11:45-48*
 - b. They arrested Him, presented Him to the Sanhedrin and demanded His death. *Matthew 26:57, 59*
 - c. To appease the crowd, Pilate handed Jesus over to be flogged and crucified. *Matthew 27:24*
2. Right before He died, Jesus chose to forgive.
 - a. He forgave the thief on the cross next to Him. *Luke 23:42-43*
 - b. He asked forgiveness for all of those who killed Him. *Luke 23:34*

Jesus rose again!

1. Three days after Jesus’ death, He rose from the grave! *Matthew 28:5-7; Luke 24:5-8*
 - a. This fulfills Jesus’ own prophecy to His disciples that He would rise again. *Matthew 20:17-19*
 - b. We do not serve a dead God, but rather a living God!

What power does Jesus Christ have today?

Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:19-22

1. Jesus has the power to heal sickness. *Matthew 8:14-16*
2. Jesus has the power to force out demons. *Matthew 8:16*
3. Jesus has the power to forgive sins. *Mark 2:5-12*
4. Jesus has the power to answer prayer. *John 14:13-14*
5. Jesus has the power to keep us from falling. *Jude 24-25*

CONCLUSION

Jesus Christ was sent to free us from the bondage and consequences of our sin! John 3:16 and 2 Peter 3:9 teach us that God doesn't want anyone to die (spiritually), but He wants all of us to have life everlasting. We can have forgiveness and freedom from sin through Jesus!

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REPENTANCE, SALVATION, & WATER BAPTISM

FOUNDATIONS 1 | LESSON 6

INTRODUCTION

We know that we have all sinned (Romans 3:23), and we know that the punishment for sin is death (spiritually, this means Hell) (Romans 6:23). Is there any way to be saved from such a consequence?

What is Salvation?

1. Salvation means to be forgiven of our sins.
 - a. Because of our sins we are separated from God and we deserve to go to Hell. *Isaiah 59:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 21:8*
2. If our sins are forgiven, we are saved from Hell. *Mark 16:16; John 3:3*
 - a. God is loving and willing to forgive, so if we can get our sins forgiven, all of them, then we can be saved from Hell.
3. Jesus' name ("Yeshua" in Hebrew) means "to rescue", "to deliver", "to save". (Wikipedia, "Yeshua Name")
 - a. Jesus came to save the world, to forgive them of their sins. *Matthew 1:21*
 - b. Salvation comes through Christ alone, it is only through Him that we can get to heaven. *John 14:6; Acts 4:12*

What must we do to be Saved?

Romans 10:9; Acts 3:19

1. Believe in our hearts that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by God. *Acts 2:24, 13:30*
2. Confess with our mouths that Jesus Christ is Lord

- a. Jesus Christ wants to be the Lord of our lives
 - b. We must choose to confess Him as Lord, He will not force us. *Isaiah 1:18-19*
 - c. Jesus being Lord of our lives means we listen to Him and do what He asks of us
3. Repent from our sins. *1 John 1:9*
- a. To 'repent' means to turn away from. We must turn away from our sins. *Acts 3:19-20*
 - b. This does not mean that we can never sin again, but rather that we never want to sin again
 - c. This also means that we do everything we can to stop sinning. *Acts 26:20b*
 - d. Our flesh wants and even desires to sin. *Romans 7:15-24*
 - i. We must ask Christ to help us repent, to overcome the flesh.

What helps us to repent?

- 1. God's kindness and goodness *Romans 2:4*
- 2. Godly sorrow over our sin *2 Corinthians 7:10*

When should a person be saved?

- 1. Right now. Today is the day of salvation! *2 Corinthians 6:2*
- 2. Procrastination is dangerous. *Proverbs 27:1, 29:1*
- 3. The Holy Spirit is pleading now. *Hebrews 3:7-8, 15; 2 Peter 3:9*
 - a. God is not willing that any should perish. *2 Peter 3:9*

- i. His angels even rejoice over one sinner who repents! *Luke 15:10*

What will Jesus do for those who trust in Him and receive Him into their hearts?

John 1:10-13

1. Save them from Hell. *John 5:24*
2. Give them a more abundant life. *John 10:10; 1 John 5:12*
3. Protect them from dangers. *Isaiah 54:17; Psalm 91:7*
4. Give them peace. *John 14:27*

Assurance of Salvation

1 John 5:11-13

1. If you have believed the Words of Jesus and followed them, (believed in your heart, confessed with your mouth, and repented from your sins) you are saved and that's it! *John 5:24*
2. Don't ever base your salvation on how many good things you have done or will do. Salvation comes through Christ alone. *Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5*
3. The moment you receive salvation, you are a new person (a new creation)! *2 Corinthians 5:17*
 - a. Becoming a child of God is not just adopting Christian beliefs for your life. It is to become a disciple (follower) of Christ. A devoted disciple who gives his all to serve the Lord of his life.
 - b. Check yourself: If you have found a new love and compassion for all of mankind, you are saved! If you still have hate in your heart that you are not willing to fight against, repentance and true salvation is needed. *1 John 2:3-11*

Water Baptism

1. What is water baptism?
 - a. The word baptize (“baptizo” in Greek) literally means “to immerse...to submerge...to make clean with water”. (Strong’s Concordance G907, “Baptizo”)
 - b. Likewise, to be baptized means to be submerged in water.
 - c. Water baptism symbolizes our death to ourselves, and resurrection in Christ. Romans 6:4
 - i. Basically, you’re saying, “I give up living for myself and now I live for Christ!”
2. Jesus Himself was baptized in water Matthew 3:16
3. Jesus commanded water baptism Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:16
4. Biblically, everyone who would get saved would be baptized Acts 2:37-41, 8:12
 - a. In Jesus’ time, almost all towns were centered around a river or along a lake. The river was used for everything from washing clothes to bathing. When someone got baptized, the whole town would see, so this made it a public declaration of faith.
5. Baptism generally happened directly after salvation Acts 8:34-38
 - a. It can be fun to have huge baptism services where your family and friends can watch you get baptized, however, don’t let scheduling and planning stop you from being baptized or baptizing others. If a new convert is ready and willing, baptize them right away!

CONCLUSION

There is no one who does not need to repent. No sin is too great that it cannot be forgiven, and no sin is too small that it doesn't need salvation. Today is the day for salvation. Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven, He is our salvation, and in Him alone can man be saved. Confess with your mouth, believe with you heart, and repent from your sins and then you are saved. If you haven't already prayed the salvation prayer or something like it, and you would like to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, pray something like this right now:

“Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your love. Thank You for sending Your Son to die for my sins. Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God and that You died for my sins. I believe that God raised You from the dead and that You are alive today! With Your help, I choose to turn my back on all my past relationships, activities, mindsets and habits that were wrong in Your sight and make You the Lord of my life. Forgive me and help me to live my life for You and for Your Glory! Thank you, Lord. In Jesus' Name, Amen!”

As a believer in Jesus Christ, we are commanded to be baptized in water. If you have never been baptized in water, choose to obey right now.

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INTRODUCTION

What does living a Christian life look like? Do we just say a prayer, ask Jesus into our heart, and then go back to normal, everyday life? In this lesson will we discuss what a Christian life looks like, and what living a life of repentance means for you!

Die to yourself and take up your cross

Luke 9:23-24; Mark 8:34-35; Matthew 10:38-39, 16:24

1. We are to die to ourselves daily. *Luke 9:23*
 - a. When we are baptized, it is symbolic of dying to ourselves and living for Christ. *Romans 6:2-4*
 - b. Dying to ourselves means denying the cravings of the flesh. *Romans 12:2, 13:14; Galatians 5:24*
2. We are to “take up the cross daily” and follow Him
 - a. To take up the cross means to daily sacrifice yourself for the sake of others, and for Christ.
 - b. To completely surrender your life to God and His will for you.

Ask for forgiveness daily

1. Jesus Christ died so that all of your sins would be forgiven. *Acts 10:43; 1 Peter 2:24*
 - a. They are separated as far as the east is from the west. *Psalms 103:12*
 - b. They are forgotten by God. *Isaiah 43:25*

2. Jesus still wants us to ask for forgiveness, daily. *Psalm 139:23; 1 John 1:8-9*
 - a. Asking for forgiveness is part of the Lord's prayer. *Luke 11:1-4*
 - b. We must ask God to search our hearts. *Jeremiah 17:9; Psalm 139:23*

Live your life as proof of your repentance

Acts 26:20

1. We must love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. *Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27; 1 John 4:19*
2. We must have fellowship with other believers. *1 John 1:7; Hebrews 10:25*
3. We must confess our sins to God. *1 John 1:9-10*
4. We must keep God's commandments. *1 John 2:3-5*
5. We must love everyone. *1 John 2:9-11; Ephesians 5:2; Matthew 5:44*
6. We should not love the things of the world. *1 John 2:15-17*
7. We must do good deeds. *1 John 3:18; James 1:22, 2:18*
 - a. We are not saved by our good deeds, but our good deeds prove our salvation. *James 2:18*

CONCLUSION

To be a Christian means to die daily to ourselves, to continually repent of our own sins, to desire a relationship with Christ and to strive after God and His desires. It means fellowshiping with other believers, loving God more than anything else, and following His commandments. None of us are perfect, but as Christians we live a lifelong journey to strive after perfection (Matthew 5:48), until one day we are with Christ in heaven.

INTRODUCTION

If you just won the lottery, who would you tell? Most likely, everyone! You would hardly be able to hold in your excitement! Christ has given us more than any lottery ever could, should we not be so excited that we tell everyone? Our testimonies show our excitement, and joy that we have in and through Christ.

What is a testimony?

1. A testimony, as defined by Google Dictionary is “A formal written or spoken statement, esp. one given in a court of law.”
 - a. It is a statement, given under oath, by an eyewitness.
 - b. Hearsay does not count in court (I.E. giving a statement about what someone else said happened).

Testimonies given in court are always personal.
2. A Christian testimony, like a legal testimony, is a statement you make about your own experiences with Christ.
 - a. Our testimonies should always be about what Christ did for us, not someone else.
 - i. While statements and stories about other believers can be powerful and moving, they do not hold the same power as your own personal testimony.

What should our testimonies be about?

1. Your testimonies can be about any experience you have had with God, pointing the listener back to God.
 - a. Share about how Christ saved you.

- i. Often times the word testimony is used to specifically mean the testimony about when you were saved. *1 Timothy 1:12-17*
 - ii. It should include how you learned about Christ, when you got saved (date or age), and how you became a changed person after being saved. *2 Corinthians 5:17*
- b. Your testimonies can also be about what God has done for you. *Mark 5:19*
- i. How he has blessed you in different ways.
 - ii. Miracles that God has done for you, such as healing or financial blessing in a time of need.
Psalm 77:11, 105:5, 143:5
- c. Your testimonies can also revolve around what God has done through you.
- i. How God has used you to help others
 - ii. Remember to give the glory to God, and not yourself. *Romans 16:27; 1 Peter 4:11*
2. Basic Testimony example: “God is so good! I have been praying that God would help me with finances, and today I got a promotion at work. I have been working really hard for that promotion, but there are so many other candidates for the job, it was unlikely I would ever get it. God really came through for me!

Why should we share our testimony?

1. To see other people get saved. *1 John 1:2-3*
 - a. People are encouraged by our testimonies, use it as an evangelism tool.
2. Because Jesus commands us to. *John 15:27; 2 Timothy 1:8*
3. Our eternal salvation is proven by it. *Matthew 7:21-23, 10:32-33; Mark 8:38; Malachi 3:16-17*

- a. If we are ashamed to confess and proclaim Christ, He will deny that He knew us when we come before God in our final judgment.
4. To defeat the Devil and his demons. *Revelation 12:11*
 5. To encourage other believers.

How to testify about how Christ saved you*

1. Your testimony of salvation should be a bridge to the Gospel
 - a. Your testimony should be designed to move someone's heart to listen to the Gospel, but it is not the Gospel itself! The goal of the testimony is simply to help us bridge to the Gospel!
2. Your testimony about your salvation should include the following three parts:
 - a. What your life was like before Christ. (Were you angry, troubled, addicted to drugs, etc.)
 - b. How you became a Christian.
 - c. What has happened in your life since you became a Christian? (Joyful, peaceful, forgiving, etc.)
3. Don't make it too long, if written it should be about 1 page, spoken less than 5 minutes.
 - a. If it's too long, people won't have patience to listen
4. Be sure to tell it in an interesting manner.
 - a. This is the story of how Christ saved you, you should be excited and happy about it!

5. Salvation Testimony Example: “Before I knew Christ I was really having a hard time with... and I would constantly cause trouble by.... my life was just a mess. But when I got saved Jesus changed me, now I don’t have problems with... and Jesus has restored the area of my life I was struggling with! Jesus can do the same for you!”

How to testify about what Christ has done for/through you*

1. Share about a problem (In your life or someone’s life that God changed through you)
 - a. Sickness, finances, marital problems, sin problems, etc.
2. How Christ solved that problem.
3. Victory Christ has given since then.
 - a. Freedom from alcoholism, overcoming a bad temper, finding a way to forgive someone, etc.
4. Victory Testimony Example: “You know my mom has been struggling with cancer. I have prayed for her every night, but last week I prayed in person and God told me He would heal her. Praise God, yesterday the doctors could not find any cancer in her body!”

** These points are adapted from “T4T: A Discipleship Re-Revolution” by Steve Smith with Ying Kai, pgs. 52-53*

CONCLUSION

Start testifying right now! Your testimonies are powerful and put the devil to shame, use them often. The Holy Spirit will help you testify and give you boldness (Acts 1:8). Tell your friends what God is doing and be excited! He saved you from death and sin, and changed your life, never be ashamed of that, boast in the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:31)! Whether sharing a testimony as a bridge to salvation, or as encouragement to other believers, always give God the glory for what He is doing.