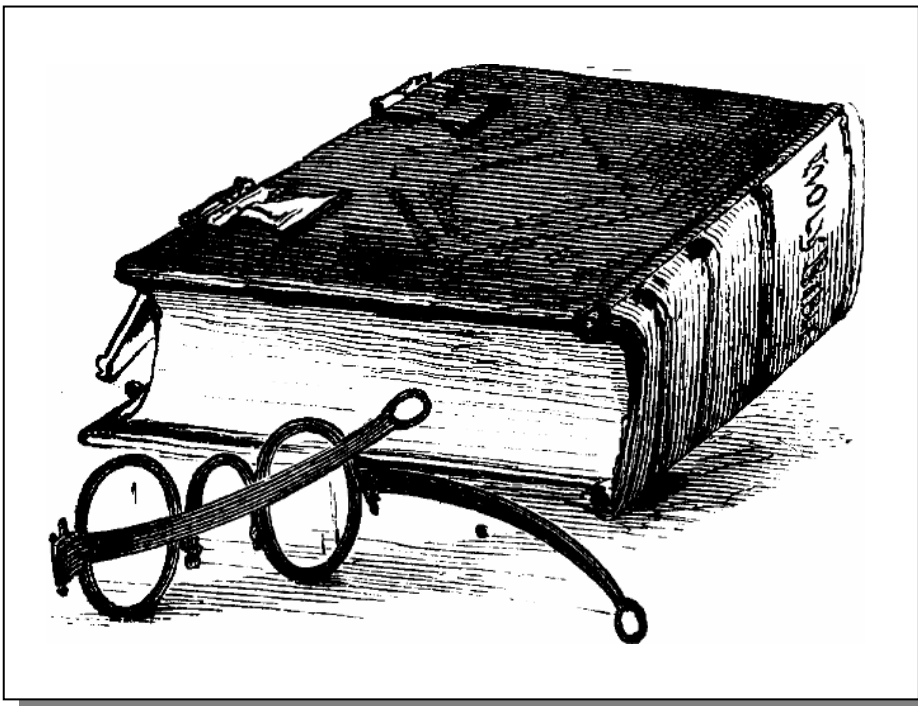


FOLLOW-UP SERIES

IN HIS STEPS



PART ONE

Assurance of Faith
Knowing the Bible
Church – The House and Family of Christ
Prayer – Conversing with God

Overview:

- I. Assurance of Faith
- II. Knowing the Bible
- III. Church - The House and Family of Christ
- IV. Prayer - Conversing with God

Study I: Assurance of Faith

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” (1 John 5:13)

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

A. Grounds For Assurance

1. Believers – joint heirs with Christ

- a. How do we become joint-heirs with Christ? (Romans 8:16,17)

.....

- b. What assurance is there in being an heir?.....

.....

2. The Faithfulness of God

- a. What are some things that will ultimately depart from this earth? (Isaiah 54:10)

.....

.....

- b. Why does God keep His covenant?

.....

.....

3. The Inward Witness of the Holy Spirit

- a. How do we know that we are God’s children? (Romans 8:15,16)

.....

.....

- b. What further assurance do we have from the Holy Spirit? (Ephesians 1:13)

.....

.....

4. Obedience to God’s Commandments

- a. How do we know that we know God? (1 John 2:3).....

.....
.....

- b. What assurance does Jesus give to His followers? (John 10:27-29)

.....
.....

5. Self-Examination

- a. How can we know that we are saved? (2 Corinthians 13:5)

.....
.....

- b. Am I an heir of God? Do I bear the characteristics of God’s children?

.....
.....

B. The Cultivation of Assurance

“Assurance of faith is cultivated. It is not acquired through special experiences such as dreams, visions or revelations. It is cultivated through the diligent use of the helps which God has given - His Word and prayer. In the proper use of these, an inner conviction and deepening knowledge assures the faith.”

- 1. In what ways can we ensure our election? (2 Peter 1:10).....

.....
.....

- 2. What are the fruits produced by this assurance? (Romans 5:1,2,5)

.....
.....

C. The False Hopes of the Unsaved

“ . . . hypocrites and other unregenerate men may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favour of God and estate of salvation, which hope of theirs shall perish . . . ” (Westminster Confession of Faith, XVIII:1)

- 1. What will happen to the hope of the hypocrite? (Job 8:13).....

.....

- 2. How is their hope described? (Job 8:14)

.....

- 3. Are they part of the true Church? (1 John 2:19)

.....

D. Hindrances To Having an Assurance of Faith

1. Look up the verses and fill in the blanks:

- a. Failure to _____ the Word of God (Psalm 119:42)
- b. Failure to _____ in grace and in the knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18)
- c. Friendship with the _____ (James 4:4)
- d. Failure to be _____ with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
- e. Failure to confess _____ (Psalm 32:2-5)

2. How can you have full assurance of salvation? Write in your own words:

.....

Someone says: "In my church some think that they are Christians, most of them hope so, some say so, and a few know that they are saved." There is no half-way mark. Either you are married or not. A person is either saved or not! Yes or no? If we are 'in Christ' then we ought to have the full assurance of salvation.

Summary: Assurance of Faith

<p>A. Grounds</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Believers - Joint heirs with Christ 2. The Faithfulness of God 3. The Inward Witness of the Holy Spirit 4. Obedience to God's Commandments 5. Self-Examination 	<p>A S S U R A N C</p>	<p>C. The Unregenerate</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deceive themselves (Job 8:13) 2. Their hope will perish (Job 8:14) 3. Are not part of the true Church (1 John 2:19)
--	---	--

A S S U R A N C E O F F A I T H

- B. Cultivation**
1. Use of God's Gifts: The Word and Prayer
 2. Making sure of our election
 3. Produce fruits

**O
F
F
A
I
T
H**

- D. Hindrances**
1. Failure to trust God's Word
 2. Failure to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ
 3. Friendship with the world
 4. Failure to be filled with the Holy Spirit
 5. Failure to confess sins

Study II: Knowing the Bible

“The Bible is the greatest traveller in the world. It penetrates to every country, civilised and uncivilised. It is seen in the royal palace and in the humble cottage. It is the friend of emperors and beggars. It is read by the light of the dim candle amid Arctic snows. It is read under the glare of the equatorial sun. It is read in city and country, amid the crowds and in solitude. Wherever its salvation message is received, it frees the mind from bondage and fills the heart with gladness.” - Dr. A.T. Pierson

A. What is the Bible?

It is a book consisting of 66 books, divided into Old Testament (39) and New Testament (27), written in 3 languages – Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. It involved more than 40 writers from all walks of life through 60 generations. It took a span of 1600 years (1500 BC to 100 AD) to be completed.

The message of the Bible is built around prophecy and fulfilment, the life and work of Jesus Christ. The Bible is written that men might believe and understand, love and follow Jesus of Nazareth.

- 1. Why was the Gospel of John written? (John 20:31).....

.....
.....

- 2. State the two main points that Paul delivered, according to the Scriptures, in 1 Corinthians 15:3,4.

.....
.....
.....

B. How Did We Get The Bible?

The 66 books were written by men who were inspired by God - prophets and scribes, Christ’s apostles and disciples, who were guided and moved by the Holy Spirit of God. Since God makes no mistakes these writings were therefore infallible and inerrant.

The writings were meticulously copied by hand from generation to generation, until AD 1450 when the invention of the printing press made it possible to publish the Bible in printed form.

- 1. Describe how the Scriptures came into existence, according to 2 Peter 1:21

.....
.....

- 2. How do we know that God’s Word (the Law) is perfect? (Matthew 5:18)

.....
.....

C. How Did We Receive the King James Version of the Bible?

The first complete translation of the Bible into English appeared in 1384 and is attributed to John Wycliffe and his school. This was followed by William Tyndale, who followed Luther’s example of giving his people the Scriptures in their mother tongue. Other editions like Coverdale’s Bible (1535), Matthew’s Bible (1537) were later superseded by the Great Bible (1539). In 1560 the Protestant exiles in

Geneva during the Elizabethan age produced the Geneva Bible. This version became the household Bible of English-speaking Protestants. But the English church leaders found the Geneva Bible unacceptable and produced the Bishops' Bible.

In 1611 all these English versions were superseded by the Authorised Version (King James Version), a work which proved so acceptable that it remained the Bible of English-speaking Protestants for three and a half centuries without any serious rival. But in the twentieth century, Protestant churches became engrossed in new English versions which came from men of Liberal and New Evangelical persuasions. Despite this, the King James Version still stands today as the version that is most faithful in its translation and consistent with historic Protestant Christianity.

1. What does 2 Timothy 3:16 tell us about the Scriptures?

.....
.....

2. How can the Bible benefit our Christian life?

.....
.....

D. Four Symbols Used to Represent The Bible

1. Why is the Bible likened to milk in 1 Peter 2:2?

.....
.....

2. Why do you think is the Bible likened to honey in Psalm 19:10?

.....
.....

3. What is the purpose of describing the Bible as a "light unto our path" in Psalm 119:105?

.....
.....

4. In what way is the Word of God "sharper than any two-edged sword"? (Hebrews 4:12)

.....
.....

E. How to Study The Bible

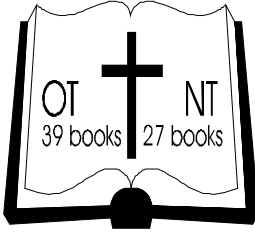
"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

1. Fine a suitable **place** where you will not be disturbed.

2. Set aside a definite **time** each day - at least 15 minutes to an hour for study. This demands self-discipline.
3. Begin each study by asking God to help you understand His Word. End each study with a thanksgiving **prayer**.

Read the Bible, **Study** the Bible, **Memorise** verses from the Bible and **Meditate** on the truths of the Bible!

Summary: Knowing The Bible

<p>The Bible Is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspired by the Holy Spirit • Infallible and Inerrant • Written that men might believe and understand, love and follow Jesus 		<p>The Bible Is Like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk for newborn babes • Honey • A Light unto my path • A Sharp two-edged sword
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find a suitable place • Set aside a definite time • Begin and end with prayer 	<p><i>“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.”</i></p> <p><i>(2 Timothy 2:15)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read • Study • Memorise • Meditate

Study III: The Church - The House and Family of Christ

“The Word of God tells us that Christ’s Church is glorious. Not only does history ascribe to it a past that is, in many respects, glorious, and does prophecy predict for it a glorious future, it is essentially glorious. The Christian Church is glorious in its very nature.” (R.B. Kuiper)

A. What is the Church?

The Church is the assembly of Christians and consists of all who have been called out of darkness into the marvellous light of God’s Son. A similar pattern of gathering may be traced back to the time of the Exodus, when the Israelites gathered to worship the Lord, as well as to the time of the Apostles, when the disciples met on every first day of the week to commemorate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ in worship.

1. Who is the head of the Church? (Colossians 1:18).....
.....
.....
2. Upon what foundation is the Church built? How strong is it? (1 Corinthians 3:11; Matthew 16:15-19)
.....
.....
.....
3. How did Christ establish the Church? (Acts 20:28)
.....
.....
4. What has Christ done for the Church? (Ephesians 5:25-27)
.....
.....

B. What Are The Marks Of The Church?

The marks of the Church on earth are: the faithful teaching of sound doctrine, the confession of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, the faithful proclamation of the Gospel, the use of the two sacraments (Baptism and the Lord’s Supper), the existence of godly leadership, the unity of brotherly fellowship in the exercise of faith and love, and the stress in missions.

1. State the four important activities in the Church (Acts 2:42) ...
.....
.....
2. Why does the Church need to preach the Word of God? (2 Timothy 4:2-4)
.....
.....

3. How can the Church remain faithful in its doctrine and practice? (2 Corinthians 6:14; Jude 3)

.....
.....

4. What was the commission that Jesus gave to His Church in Acts 1:8?

.....
.....

C. The Leadership of the Church

In the New Testament, pastors and elders were appointed to supervise the work of the Church and care for the people of God. One of the tasks of these leaders was to protect the Church from false and deceptive teachings. Positively, they were ordained to teach the members of the church sound doctrine, as well as to watch over their spiritual health.

1. Pastors

a. What kind of spiritual leadership did God promise to provide? (Jeremiah 3:15)

.....
.....

b. Why did God give these pastors/teachers to the Church? (Ephesians 4:11-16)

.....
.....

2. Elders

a. Who appoints the overseers or elders in the Church? (Acts 20:28)

.....

b. What is their responsibility? (Acts 20:28,29)

.....
.....

c. How should elders carry out their responsibilities? (1 Peter 5:1-3)

.....
.....

3. Deacons

a. What problem did the Church face in Acts 6:1,2?.....

.....
.....

b. What kind of characteristics did the chosen men need to have? (Acts 6:3)

.....
.....
c. What work were they assigned to do? (Acts 6:2,3).....

.....
.....
“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” (1 Peter 5:5)

D. The Responsibilities of a Christian in The Church

The Church is a body of people who are born again. It is more than an organisation: it is an organism. If one part fails to do its part, the whole structure malfunctions. Hence, every Christian has to be responsible in the role God has given to him as prescribed in His Word.

1. What should we not forsake, according to Hebrews 10:25?.....

.....
.....

2. What are Christians encouraged to strive for in the body of Christ? (Ephesians 4:2-4)

.....
.....

E. Why Go To Church?

1. **Worship**

The foremost reason to attend church is to worship God. God has sanctified the first day of the week (the Lord’s Day) for worship. Hence we must set it aside for this purpose.

In Psalm 122:1, why was the writer glad?

.....
.....

2. **Instruction in God’s Word**

The Church is a place where God’s Word is taught and disseminated through the sermon, Sunday School classes, and various fellowship group ministries.

a. What is the role of the church, according to 1 Timothy 3:15?

.....
.....

b. What did the Christians in Berea do when they were taught the Word of God? (Acts 17:10,11)

.....
.....

3. **Service**

Sincere worship creates a love in the Christian for serving God and His Church. This can be expressed in a spectrum of varied ministries like teaching in the Sunday School, leading, planning and organising activities of various departments, or even in helping in the physical arrangements of the such. What matters in all of this is the correct attitude. Service is rendered not for self-glory but for the benefit of the church members and for the glory of God.

How should Christians serve in the body of Christ? (Romans 12:3-11)

.....

.....

4. **Fellowship**


Warm fellowship can be compared to a heap of burning charcoal. As long as the pieces stay together, they continue to burn brightly; but pieces that are removed from the fire become cold quickly. The Church provides much opportunity for lively interaction, encouragement and support.

What should Christians be doing for one another, according to Galatians 6:2?

.....

.....

Summary: The Church

<p>The Church Is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assembly of Christians who worship Christ. • Headed, built, purchased, sanctified and cleansed by Christ. 		<p>Marked by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound doctrine • Confession of Christ • Gospel Proclamation • The Two Sacraments • Unity of faith and love • Missions
<p>Christians are responsible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Regularly • Strive to keep Unity in the Bond of Peace 	<p>Led by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastors • Elders • Deacons 	<p>Go to Church For:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship of God • Instruction from His Word • Service to God • Fellowship with Christians

Study IV: Prayer - Conversing With God

“He was a Christian and he prayed. He asked for strength to do great things, but he was given infirmity that he might do better things. He asked for power that he might have the praise of men: he was given weakness that he might feel his need of God” (selected)

A. What is Prayer?

Prayer is conversing with God. It is the outpouring of our heart to God. It is the voice of faith that offers up our desires to God for all things lawful and needful, with the humble confidence that we shall obtain them through the mediation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

- 1. What does God want us to do, according to Jeremiah 33:3 and Psalm 145:18,19?

.....
.....

- 2. List the things that may be included in prayer, according to the following verses:

- a. Psalm 29:2.....
- b. 1 John 1:9.....
- c. Colossians 4:2.....
- d. Ephesians 6:18.....

B. On What Basis Will God Hear Our Prayers?

- 1. To whom should we pray? (Matthew 6:6).....

.....

- 2. In whose name should we pray? (John 14:13,14).....

.....

- 3. Who helps us when we pray? (Romans 8:26).....

.....

The Divine pattern of prayer is to pray to God the Father, in the name of God the Son, with the help of God the Holy Spirit.

C. When and Where Can We Pray?

- 1. List the times when prayers were made according to the following verses:

- a. Psalm 88:1.....
- b. Psalm 55:17.....
- c. 1 Thessalonians 5:17.....
- d. Nehemiah 2:4.....

- 2. List the places when prayers were made according to the following verses:

- a. Matthew 6:6
- b. Acts 12:12
- c. Acts 21:5
- d. Acts 10:9

D. How Should We Pray?

1. What do we need to have, when we pray, according to Matthew 21:22? (see also Hebrews 11:6)
.....
2. What attitude should we have when we pray according to 2 Chronicles 7:14? (see also James 4:10)
.....
.....
3. What attitude did Jesus have when He prayed in Matthew 26:39,42? (see also Matthew 6:9,10)
.....
4. If our prayers are not answered what should we do? (Luke 18:1-8)
.....

E. What Are The Hindrances To Answered Prayer?

List the Hindrances to prayer mentioned in the following verses, and suggest how they can be overcome.

1. Mark 11:25.....
.....
2. Psalm 66:18.....
.....
3. James 4:3.....
.....

F. What Should We Ask For In Prayer?

List the things that were asked for in the following verses:

1. Romans 10:1
.....
2. Matthew 9:37,38
.....
3. 2 Thessalonians 3:1.....


.....
 4. James 5:14.....

.....
 5. Matthew 26:41

.....
 6. 1 Timothy 2:1,2.....

.....
 7. Matthew 5:44

Summary: Prayer

<p>Prayer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is conversing with God • Is desired by God from us. • Includes Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. 		<p>Basis of Prayer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To God the Father • In the name of God the Son • With the help of God the Holy Spirit.
<p>How to Pray:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With Faith • With Humility • According to God's Will • With Perseverance 	<p>Hindrances:</p> <p>Unforgiving Spirit</p> <p>Unconfessed Sin</p> <p>Praying Amiss</p>	<p>Things to Pray For:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salvation of the Lost • Labourers for God's harvest • Wisdom, deliverance • Kings, Enemies