

an ideal launching pad for pioneer believers

FIRM
IN THE
FOUNDATION

ten basic Bible study modules for new Christians

BARRY CHANT

By the same author

About Angels and You
Breaking the Power of the Past
Empowered by the Spirit
Gifts of the Spirit
Heart of Fire
Living in the Image of God
Praying in the Spirit
Straight Talk About Marriage
Straight Talk About Sex
The Return
The Spirit of Pentecost
This is Revival
Walking with a Limp
When We Step Out God Steps In

For Children

The Spindles Adventures
The Doom of Drakon
The Scion Factor

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Welcome to the family of God!

By committing your life to Jesus Christ, you have embarked on the most exciting, rewarding, fulfilling and challenging life you could ever imagine!

This booklet has been especially designed to help you understand the basic principles of your new Christian life and to help you make a great success of it.

Be assured that God wants you to succeed. He does not want you to be a failure. His plan is for you to be successful in living for him. In fact, by following Jesus Christ you have committed yourself to the greatest Achiever the world has ever known!

There are two important practices that you should begin to develop immediately to secure your new faith.

Regular Bible reading

You need to make a habit of reading the Bible every day. Here are some helpful hints about this—

- Choose a time and place where you are least likely to be interrupted—and a time when you are least likely to fall asleep! (The morning is usually best.)
- Use a good modern English translation like the New International Version, the English Standard Version or the Good News Bible.
- Begin by reading the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) which are primarily about the life of Jesus Christ. In this way, you will get to know Him better.

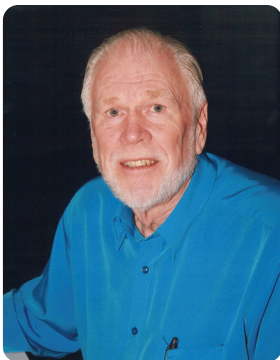
- Keep a Bible reading diary and take notes of what you read. See Module Four for more ideas about this.
- Read aloud if necessary to aid your concentration.

Regular Prayer

The second important habit is regular prayer. It is vitally important to pray every day—

- Again, choose a time and place that is most suitable.
- Pray in the position where you feel most at ease—sitting, standing, walking, kneeling.
- Pray aloud if necessary to aid your concentration.
- Keep a prayer diary and write down both your prayers and your answers to prayer.
- Talk to God as you would to a personal friend. Confide in Him. You don't have to use special language. Be yourself.
- Use the PRAY outline for prayer (see Module Five).

Again, welcome to God's family. As you work through the simple modules in this book, they will help you to become really FIRM IN THE FAITH!



Barry Chant

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MODULE 1

KNOWING YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

The following questions are all based on the gospel of John. The answers to the questions may be found in the verses given. These answers will help you to know you really are a Christian, a child of God. (Don't forget. Look for the answers in the Scripture references given. Don't guess!)

Read John chapter 3, verse 16

1. What was God's attitude towards the world?

2. What did God do to show this love?

3. What happens to those who refuse to believe (or trust) in God's Son?

4. What happens to those who do believe (or trust) in God's Son?

Read John 3:36

5. What do those who believe in Christ receive?

6. When does a believer in Christ receive eternal life?

Read John 1:12

7. What does Jesus give to those who receive Him?

8. If you have received Christ into your life, then, according to this verse, what can you now call yourself?

Note: In English, it sounds as though becoming a child of God is a gradual process. In the original Greek, however, the word 'become' is used in such a way that it means an immediate change. To receive Christ, is to become a child of God immediately!

Read John 1:13

9. To become a human child, one must be born of human parents. From whom does this verse say a child of God is born?

10. Two things happen when you receive Christ... Firstly, you receive something. You receive _____. Secondly, you become something. You become _____.

Below are several groups of statements. Only one in each group is right. Tick the one that you think is correct in each case.

1. Those who receive Christ

- ☐ Have eternal life
- ☐ Hope they have eternal life
- ☐ Have no guarantee of eternal life

2. Eternal life is

- ☐ Something you only get after you die
- ☐ Something that you actually possess in your heart right now

3. When you receive Christ you become

- ☐ A child of God
- ☐ A servant of God
- ☐ A more religious person
- ☐ No different

4. Upon receiving Christ, you become a child of God

- ☐ Gradually
- ☐ Immediately
- ☐ After you die

5. We know we are children of God because

- ☐ We feel emotions in our hearts
- ☐ The Bible tells us so
- ☐ Other Christians tell us so

Write in your own words what it means to become a Christian, a believer in Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

By faith you can be sure that you are a child of God—never forget this, and never let anyone deny it. You are now and forever part of God's family.

Let The Bible Speak

To know you really are a child of God, it would be helpful to read all of John chapter 3, perhaps several times. Then read 1 John 5:1-15 (note that John and 1 John are different books). This passage contains some exciting truths. Note especially verses 11 and 12. Ask God to help you understand as you read.

Practical

To help you learn the memory verse at the end of each lesson, it is a good idea to write the verse reference on one side of a small blank card and the verse itself on the other side. Carry these cards with you each day and test your memory regularly by trying to quote the verse from the reference only.

Memory Verse: (See if you can learn this verse by heart)

Yet to all who received him, to those who
believed in his name, he gave the right to
become children of God.
(John 1:12)

2

MODULE 2

BAPTISM — THE SIGN OF NEW LIFE

In this lesson, we shall look at the biblical teaching on baptism. This is a vital ordinance that can richly bless your life. Please read the Scripture passages indicated and look for the answers to the questions there. (Don't guess!)

Read Acts chapter 2, verse 38

These words are part of the first sermon preached in the early church. What is the first thing Peter says we must do to become a believer in Christ? (one word only) _____

1. What must we do after repenting?

2. Why should we repent (and be baptized)?

3. How many people does this verse command to be baptized?

4. In whose name should we be baptized?

Read Acts 2:41

5. How many people were baptized on this occasion?

6. How soon after hearing the gospel were they baptized?

7. Were these people baptized before or after they believed?

Read Acts 8:36-38

8. Where did Philip baptize the eunuch — in the pool of water or on the bank?

9. Do you think Philip completely immersed this eunuch in water? Why?

Read Romans 6:4

10. When you become a Christian your old way of life is finished. According to this verse, how do you think baptism by immersion shows this?

11. When you become a Christian you start to lead a new life. According to this verse, how do you think baptism by immersion shows this?

12. According to this verse, in what way is baptism by immersion similar to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

13. How you think your life will be affected when you are baptized? In what ways?

Below are several groups of statements. Only one in each group is right. Tick the one that you think is correct in each case.

1. Baptism is

- ☐ Only for some people
- ☐ For every believer
- ☐ An optional ceremony

2. Baptism is for

- ☐ Infants only
- ☐ Believers in Christ only
- ☐ Adults only

3. Baptism helps us to know

- ☐ That our sins are forgiven
- ☐ That we are religious
- ☐ That we understand the Christian faith

4. Baptism is by

- ☐ Sprinkling
- ☐ Pouring
- ☐ Immersion

5. Baptism signifies

- ☐ The death of the old life and the beginning of the new life
- ☐ Joining the church
- ☐ Turning over a new leaf

Conclusion

Imagine that you are Paul the apostle, at the time of his conversion, and that you have just heard the words that Ananias spoke to him, 'Now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name' (Acts 22:16.). What would you do? Perhaps you should talk to your pastor now about your baptism?

Let The Bible Speak

If you re-read Romans 6:4 and Acts 8:4-40, you will find that your understanding of baptism will deepen. Read also Colossians 2:12. Ask God to help you understand as you read.

Memory Verse: (See if you can learn this verse by heart)

Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

3

MODULE 3

RECEIVING THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead. When the Holy Spirit comes into your life, He gives you power—divine ability to live the Christian life. Once again, the answers to the questions are found in the passages indicated. These answers will increase your understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit in your Christian experience.

Read Acts chapter 1 verse 5

1. These are words spoken to Jesus' disciples just before He ascended to heaven. What did He promise them?

Read Acts 1:8

2. What did Jesus say the disciples would receive when the Holy Spirit came upon them?

3. What is the result of receiving the power of the Holy Spirit?

4. What do you think it means to be a witness for Christ?

Read Acts 2:4

5. What was the first thing that the disciples did when they were filled with the Holy Spirit?

Read Acts 2:5-9

6. What do you think is meant by the phrase 'speak in other tongues'?

Read Acts 2:11

7. When the disciples spoke in tongues, what were they talking about?

Read Acts 2:38

8. Peter told the people to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. What did he tell them next?

Read Acts 2:39

9. Who did Peter say the promise of the Holy Spirit was for?

Below are several groups of statements. Only one in each group is right. Tick the one that you think is correct in each case.

1. When you receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, you also receive

- ☐ Power to witness
- ☐ Great excitement
- ☐ Overwhelming feelings

2. To witness for Christ is

- ☐ To preach a sermon
- ☐ To tell others what you know about Him
- ☐ To go to church

3. When the disciples received the Holy Spirit, they

- ☐ Praised God in languages they had never learned
- ☐ Kept very quiet
- ☐ Sang hymns

4. The Holy Spirit is promised to

- ☐ Ministers and priests only
- ☐ All believers in Christ
- ☐ The twelve apostles only

5. When you are baptized in the Holy Spirit you will know straight away because

- ☐ You may be more religious
- ☐ You may speak in tongues
- ☐ You may never sin again

Conclusion

The power of the Holy Spirit is available for you now! Why not talk to your counselor or pastor about it as soon as possible? They will be glad to help you and pray with you until you experience the fullness of the Spirit for yourself. Then you can live daily with the Spirit's help the way God wants you to!

Let The Bible Speak

The following five passages will help you to understand more about the Holy Spirit. Read them prayerfully now.

- Acts 10:44-48
- Acts 19:1-7
- Luke 11:5-13
- 1 Corinthians 12:8-11
- Galatians 5:16-25

Memory Verse: (See if you can learn this verse by heart)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. (Acts 1:8a)

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MODULE 4

READING THE BIBLE EFFECTIVELY

The Bible is the most valuable asset you have. You can develop no better habit than to read it every day! This lesson will help you to see how important the Bible is. Once again, you will find the answers to the questions in the Biblical passages given. Note: Don't be afraid to use the index in your Bible to find your way around. That's what it's there for!

Read 2 Timothy 3:16

1. The word 'scripture' in this verse refers to books of the Bible. What does this verse tell us about them?

2. This verse says the Bible is valuable or useful for four things. What are these four things?

Read 2 Timothy 3:17

3. What is the purpose of studying the Bible?

4. If you want to be a mature and effective follower of Christ, what do you think you should do with the Bible?

Read Psalm 119:9-18

5. How can you live a pure life? (v.9)

6. What did David, the writer of this Psalm, do with God's Word?
(v.11)

7. When David recounted God's commandments, how did he do it, silently or aloud?

Write down the words in v.13 that give you the answer.

8. How valuable was the Word of God to David? (v.14)

9. What promise did David make about God's Word? (v.16)

10. What prayer did David pray about the Word of God? (v.18)

Read Psalm 119:105

11. How did David describe the Word of God? Re-write this verse in your own words.

Below are several groups of statements. Only one in each group is completely right. Tick the one that you think is correct in each case.

1. The Bible is

- ☐ Totally inspired by God
- ☐ Partially inspired by God
- ☐ Not inspired by God at all

2. If we are to follow David's example, we should

- ☐ Read the Bible out aloud
- ☐ Read the Bible silently
- ☐ Have someone else read to us

3. The Bible is described as

- ☐ The Word of Man
- ☐ The Word of God
- ☐ The Word of Angels

4. To get the best out of the Bible, we should read it

- ☐ Every day
- ☐ Every week
- ☐ When you feel like it

Conclusion

Job declared that the Word of God was more important than his daily food (Job 23: 12). So we must, as it were, 'prefer the Bible to our breakfast'. It is a good idea to start every day by reading God's Word. Why not start today, by reading the four gospels? You can do this by reading them straight through just as you would read any other book. Then you can go back over them chapter by chapter so that you really get to know the life and teaching of Jesus.

Let The Bible Speak

Read carefully the whole of Psalm 119 and notice how almost every verse says something about the Words or Commands of God. Then read Luke 8:1-15 and see how the Word of God is like a seed to be planted. Does verse 15 describe you?

When You Read the Bible

Ask the following questions:

- What is the major theme of this passage?
- What does this passage teach about God? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- What are the key words in this passage?

- What lessons are there for me to learn?
- What promises are there for me to claim?
- What warnings are there for me to heed?
- What instructions are there for me to obey?
- What examples are there for me to follow?
- What examples are there for me not to follow?
- Which verse particularly speaks to me today? Why?

Memory Verses: (See if you can learn these verses by heart)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)

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MODULE 5

LEARNING TO PRAY

Along with Bible reading, prayer is the most useful habit you can develop. You should pray regularly—and at every opportunity. Once again, the answers to these questions will help you. Remember—don't guess! Look for the answers in the passages given.

Read Luke 11:1-13

1. Why did the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray? (v.1)

2. Write out the form of prayer that Jesus told His disciples to pray (verses 2-4). Use a separate sheet.

3. This prayer is commonly known as 'The Lord's Prayer'. It can be divided up into two sections—Praise and Petition (i.e. asking). Write down the first few words of each section.

Praise

Petition

4. Do you think that Jesus meant us to pray only these words or to use this prayer as a model or example of how to pray?

5. What is the main point of the story of the friend and the loaves of bread? (v.10)

6. Does the story mean that we also have to go on asking over and over again before God will answer? Why, or why not? (v.11-13)

Read Luke 18:1

7. How often does Jesus say we should pray?

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-2

8. In this passage we read the words 'first of all'. What does this tell us about the importance of prayer?

9. There are three different words used in this verse as well as the word 'prayer'. Write down all four words, and if you can, what you think each one means (Use a dictionary if you like).

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

10. For whom should we pray?

Read 1 Timothy 2:8

11. Where should we pray?

12. How should we pray?

Following are several groups of statements. Only one in each group is completely right. Tick the one that you think is correct in each case.

1. Prayer is

- ☐ Always appropriate
- ☐ Only for when you are in trouble
- ☐ Only for weak people

2. Prayer is

- ☐ Asking God for things
- ☐ Thanking God for things
- ☐ Both

3. We should pray

- ☐ Only in church
- ☐ Only in private
- ☐ Wherever we can

4. God answers prayer because

- ☐ We ask Him over and over again
- ☐ He is our loving heavenly Father
- ☐ We deserve it

5. The Lord's prayer

- ☐ Should be used word for word every time we pray
- ☐ Is a model of how to pray
- ☐ Should never be used word for word

Conclusion

When two people love each other, they delight to spend time together, simply getting to know one another better. That is what prayer is like. You should become used to spending time with God. Just talk with Him as a friend. Have your Bible open so that He can talk back to you. He will also talk to your heart—and as you pray more, you will get used to the sound of His voice.

Let The Bible Speak

Read the following passages about Jesus' prayer life—perhaps you will be helped in developing your own.

- Matthew 14:23;
- Matthew 26:36ff (ff means 'the verses that follow');
- Mark 1:35; Mark 6:46;
- Luke 3:21-22;
- Luke 5:16;
- Luke 6:12;
- Luke 9:18;
- Luke 9:28 and John 17:1ff

A Simple Pattern For Prayer

P = Praise God and worship Him

R = Repent of your sins, both of commission (wrong things you have done) and omission (right things you haven't done)

A = Ask God to meet your needs and the needs of others

Y = Yield to the will of God in your life

Memory Verse: *(See if you can learn this verse by heart)*

If you then, though you are evil, know
how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will your Father in heaven
give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!
(Luke 11:13)

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MODULE 6

USING THE POWER OF FAITH

Prayer, as we saw in our last lesson, is very important. But unless we pray in faith, we may pray in vain. This lesson will show you the phenomenal power of faith. Once again the answers to the questions are all found in the Scripture passages given. You should read the passages carefully and look for the answers there. Don't guess!

Read Hebrews chapter 11 verse 6

1. How much can we please God if we do not have faith in Him?

2. What is necessary before we approach God?

3. What does God do for those who come to Him in faith?

Read Mark 11:22-25

4. Write down the command that Jesus gives in verse 22.

5. What two things are necessary before we can 'move mountains' (that is, do mighty works for God?—v.23)

6. Why do you think that many people who pray do not receive answers to their prayers? (v.24)

7. After we have asked in prayer, what must we then do? (v.24)

8. Faith is necessary for prayers to be answered. What else is necessary? (v.25)

9. Look at verse 23 again.. Which word in this verse shows that real faith is spoken out aloud?

Read Romans 10:8-10

10. Faith needs to be a matter of the heart. It also needs to be spoken aloud. Which words in verse 8 show this?

11. What two things must we do to be saved?

12. According to these verses, what must we confess—all the wrong we have done, or the faith we have in Jesus Christ?

13. Would you say that such confession of faith is negative or positive? Why?

Read Romans 10:17

Where does faith come from?

Read 1 John 5:4-5

How do we overcome the world?

Below are several groups of statements. Only one in each group is completely right Tick the one that you think is correct in each case.

1. To approach God, it is necessary

- ☐ To go to church
- ☐ To have faith in Him
- ☐ To go to a minister or priest

2. When prayers are not answered, it is usually because

- ☐ They are not long enough
- ☐ The right words are not used
- ☐ They are not prayed in faith

3. When we pray in faith

- ☐ We can be sure of an answer
- ☐ We must never be too hopeful
- ☐ God may or may not answer

4. What we believe

- ☐ Is only a matter of the heart
- ☐ Must be spoke aloud to be effective
- ☐ Depends on how good we are

5. To confess your faith means

- ☐ To confess all your sins and failures
- ☐ To ask God for help
- ☐ To declare aloud your trust in Jesus Christ

6. Faith

- ☐ Comes from the Word of God
- ☐ Is largely selfish
- ☐ Depends on how we feel

Conclusion

Real faith in God is based on the Bible, the Word of God, and must be confessed aloud. You have already declared that Jesus is your Lord and Saviour. If you need victory over temptation, or healing from sickness, or deliverance from demon powers, the same principle applies. Ask the Lord for it in faith and then confess your trust in Him that it will be so!

Let the Bible Speak

Re-read the passages of scripture given here until you know them well. Read also Matthew 17:14-21; Matthew 18:18-20. These will all help you to increase your faith in the Lord. Faith comes from the words of Christ!

Memory Verse: (See if you can learn this verse by heart)

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (Mark 11:24)

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MODULE 7

MEETING TOGETHER WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS

By now you are probably growing fairly well in your new Christian faith. If you are to keep on growing, you must have fellowship with other Christians. As usual, you will find the answers to the questions in the passages given.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

1. According to verse 12, what is a church like?

2. What are two important points that Paul makes about a body? (v.12)

3. How many believers are 'baptized' into the body of Christ? (v.13)

4. Do you think you can belong to Christ without being part of His body? Which words in v.13 answer this question?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-27

5. Explain in your own words the main point of what Paul is saying in this passage.

6. From v.27, do you think the phrase 'body of Christ' refers to the whole universal Church or to a local church? Why?

Read 1 Timothy 3:15

7. Write down the three phrases that Paul uses to describe a church.

8. What do you think is meant by the phrase 'household of God'?
(Note: Your translation of the Bible may use different words for this phrase, but its meaning will be the same).

9. What do you think is meant by the phrase 'church of the living God'? Note that the original word for 'church' means 'assembly' or 'meeting' or 'congregation'.

10. What do you think is meant by the phrase 'pillar and foundation of truth'?

Read Hebrews 10:25

11. What does this verse say about meeting together?

12. Why should Christians meet together?

Read John 13:34-35

13. Write down the 'new commandment' that Jesus gave.

14. What do you think it means to 'love as Jesus loved'? Write down as many things as you can think of.

15. How do people recognize the disciples of Jesus?

Below are several groups of statements. Only one in each group is completely right. Tick the one you think is correct in each case.

1. In the New Testament, the word 'church' means

- ☐ A building
- ☐ A denomination
- ☐ A body of believers

2. Membership in a local church is

- ☐ For every believer
- ☐ For those who feel like it
- ☐ For weak Christians only

3. To really love as Jesus loved, membership in a local church is

- ☐ Necessary
- ☐ Unnecessary
- ☐ Optional

4. According to Hebrews 10:25, Christians should meet together

- ☐ Regularly
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ Whenever they feel like it

Conclusion

To be an effective Christian, you should be actively involved in a local church, attending as regularly as possible and taking as active a part as possible.

Let the Bible Speak

Nine of the letters that Paul wrote were written to churches, or groups of churches (Romans to 2 Thessalonians). Read

Matthew 16:18;
Ephesians 1:22-23;
Ephesians 5:25-27;
Revelation 1:10-20

and learn all you can about Christ's relationship to His church.

Practical

- An important part of our fellowship is giving.
- God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).
- Jesus promised blessing for those who give (Luke 6:38) and so did Paul (2 Corinthians 9:8).
- Tithing (giving one tenth of our income) is a helpful basis for giving and God has promised to bless this, too (Malachi 3:10).
- Why not talk to your pastor about how you can best give to your church?
- Read 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9 about giving.

Memory Verse: (See if you can learn this verse by heart)

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another. (Hebrews 10:25)

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MODULE 8

RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD

One of the most important and fundamental Scripture concepts is what the Bible calls 'justification. This word has several meanings. It means:

- *Right standing with God*
- *Freedom from guilt*
- *Total forgiveness of sins*
- *Ability to do what is right*

Playing upon words, we can say that when I am justified, it is 'just-as-if-I'd' never sinned at all. The Good News Bible says that to be justified is to be 'put right' with God. This is another simple way of expressing it. If you read the Scripture passages given below and answer the questions you will have a basic understanding of what this vital concept means.

Read Romans 3:22-24

1. How do we get true righteousness? (v.22)

2. To whom is God's righteousness given? (v.22)

3. How does Paul describe the condition of people without God? (v. 23)

4. How do we know that righteousness (right standing with God) cannot be earned in any way? (v.24)

5. How are we justified i.e. 'put right' or 'made righteous'? (v.24)

Read Romans 5:1-2

6. What is the result of being justified i.e. made righteous or put right by faith? (v.1)

7. What do you think is meant by the first part of v.2?

8. Which word in v.2 indicates that once we are justified (put right with God) our position is secure?

9. What is the result of being given right standing with God? (v.2b)

Read Romans 8:1

10. How much guilt or condemnation remains for those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ?

Below are several groups of statements. Only one in each group is completely right. Tick the one that you think is correct in each case.

1. To be justified means

- ☐ To have right standing with God
- ☐ To be perfect
- ☐ Never to have done wrong

2. When you are justified you are free from

- ☐ All guilt and condemnation
- ☐ Condemnation for sins you didn't mean to commit
- ☐ All guilt feelings

3. To be justified means that

- ☐ You can never sin again
- ☐ If you do sin, you are free from condemnation through Jesus Christ
- ☐ You are free from guilt and condemnation only if you don't sin again

4. Romans 8:1 says that there is no condemnation for

- ☐ Those who never sin
- ☐ Those who have great faith
- ☐ Those who are in Christ Jesus

5. What do you think it means to be 'in Christ Jesus' (Romans 8:1)?

- ☐ To be in heaven
- ☐ To have faith in Him
- ☐ To live a sinless life

Conclusion

To understand what it means to be justified is one of the most important things you can learn. To know that no matter what you do—even if you fail—God still loves you and accepts you, is vital to relaxed, successful Christian living. It is all by His grace, that is, His love and good will towards us.

Let the Bible Speak

Read Romans chapter 4. Notice how this chapter tells us three things that do not justify.

- Good works (verses 1 to 8)
- Religious observance (verses 9 to 12)
- Keeping the commandments (verses 13 to 15)
and tells us the one thing that does justify,
- Faith in God's promises (verses 16 to 25)

Read also the whole of the book of Galatians— preferably in a modern translation like the Good News Bible, the English Standard Version or the New International Version.

Memory Verse: *(See if you can learn this verse by heart)*

Therefore, 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 his grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.
(Romans 5:1-2)

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MODULE 9

LIVING A HOLY LIFE

You have just completed a module on righteousness, by faith. This module pointed out that it doesn't matter what you do, you still have right standing with God. However, this does not mean you can do whatever you like. Once you have had your sins forgiven, it is important to live free from sin. This is what the Bible calls 'holiness'. Another word that means the same thing is 'sanctification'. To be holy is to be sanctified. Both of these expressions mean to be separate from sin. Once again, read the passages listed below and try to answer the questions from these passages—don't guess!

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

1. What does this passage say about the wicked? (v. 9-10)

2. In v.11 Paul says that although some of the Corinthian Christians used to be 'wicked' or 'unrighteous', they are now...

3. How are people washed, justified and sanctified? (v.11).

4. Who is it that makes a believer holy (i.e. sanctified)? (v.11).

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

5. How does this passage describe a believer's physical body?

6. What do you think Paul means when he calls the body a temple of the Holy Spirit? (Think about the word 'temple' and why temples are normally built.)

7. If your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and the word 'holy' means separate from 'sin, what should you do with your body?

8. Paul says that our bodies have been bought with a price. What do you think that price was? (1 Peter 1:18-19 might help you to answer.)

9. Verse 20 of I Corinthians 6 ends by saying we should 'honour' or 'glorify' God with our bodies. How do you think we should do this?

Read 1 Peter 1:14-16

10. Rewrite v.14 in your own words.

11. In what things should we be holy? (v.15)

12. Why should we be holy? (v.15-16)

Below are several groups of statements. Only one in each group is completely right. Tick the one that you think is correct in each case.

1. 'To be holy' means the same as

- ☐ To be justified
- ☐ To be sanctified
- ☐ To be washed

2. To be holy actually means to be

- ☐ Made separate from sin
- ☐ Made perfect
- ☐ Made religious

3. The phrase 'temple of the Holy Spirit' is used by Paul to describe

- ☐ The human spirit
- ☐ The human body
- ☐ A church building

4. We are made holy

- ☐ By the Spirit of God
- ☐ By our own efforts
- ☐ By the church

5. Peter and Paul both tell us that the price paid to sanctify us (i.e. to make us holy) was

- ☐ The law of God
- ☐ The blood of Jesus Christ
- ☐ Our offerings and gifts

Conclusion

It is important to know that Jesus died, not only so that our sins could be forgiven, but also so that we could be kept separate (i.e. free) from sin. It is the will of God that we live holy lives—avoiding sin whenever we can. It is never right to sin! It must always be avoided.

Let the Bible Speak

Read Romans chapter 6. Here, Paul deals with the problem of people who thought that because they were justified, they could do whatever they liked (Romans 6:1). What answers does Paul give to this argument? Make a list of as many as you can.

Practical Hints

If you are not sure what is right and what is wrong, ask yourself the following:

- Can I do this in faith? (Romans 14:23)
- Can I do this with all my heart? (Colossians 3:23)
- Can I do this as if for the Lord? (Colossians 3:23)
- Is it beneficial? (1 Corinthians 6:12)
- Am I enslaved by it? (1 Corinthians 6:12)
- Does it hinder anyone else? (Matthew 7:12)
- Would I be ashamed at His coming? (1 John 2:28)

Memory Verse: *(See if you can learn this verse by heart)*

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

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MODULE 10

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

We have already covered some topics that will help you to overcome temptation. These are:

- *The Word of God*
- *Prayer*
- *The Holy Spirit*
- *Faith*
- *Fellowship*

You should look at some of these again. In this study we will deal with some further practical hints. Once again, there are some questions for you to answer from the Biblical passages given.

Read 1 Corinthians 10: 12-13

1. What does the warning given in v.12 mean?

2. Sometimes we think that we are the only ones to be tempted in a certain way. What does Paul tell us about this? (v.13a)

3. The most important words in v.13 are, 'God is faithful'. Write in your own words what you think this means.

4. This passage tells us two very important things that God will always do for us when we are tempted. What are they? (v.13b)

A. _____

B. _____

Read James 1:12-15

5. It is easy to complain when we are tempted. What word does James use to describe a person who is tempted or tried, and stands the test? (v.12a)

6. What promise is given to someone who succeeds in overcoming temptation? (v.12b)

7. Describe in your own words what happens when we are tempted. (v.14)

8. What is the result of giving in to temptation? (v.15)

Read James 4:7

9. What two pieces of advice does James give us in this verse?

A. _____

B. _____

10. What happens when we resist the devil? (v.7)

11. What does this suggest about the strength of a believer in Christ in relation to the devil?

Below are several groups of statements. Only one in each group is completely right. Tick the one that you think is correct in each case.

1. When temptation comes, it is something that

- ☐ No one else experiences
- ☐ Some people experience
- ☐ Everyone else experiences

2. When we are tempted, God always

- ☐ Leaves us to our own resources
- ☐ Prevents us from being tempted beyond our ability
- ☐ Helps us where He can

3. Where we resist temptation, God promises us

- ☐ To help us next time
- ☐ Nothing at all
- ☐ A crown of life

4. If we resist the devil, he will

- ☐ Resist us
- ☐ Attack more strongly
- ☐ Run away from us

5. A believer in Christ is

- ☐ Weaker than the devil
- ☐ As strong as the devil
- ☐ Stronger than the devil

Conclusion

Temptation comes to every believer, no matter who we are. But the important thing to remember is that you are stronger than the devil and you can overcome him! God is faithful and He will always be with you.

Let the Bible Speak

Read Matthew 4:1-11.

See how Jesus refused to give in to the devil and how He used the Word of God to overcome him. This is how we 'resist the devil'.

Then read Romans 8:31-39. Notice how no matter what happens, we are 'more than conquerors' through Christ. You could also read:

- 1 Corinthians 15:57-58
- 2 Corinthians 2:14
- Ephesians 2:1-10
- Colossians 1:9-14

All of these passages describe the marvellous victory that is ours over sin—and all the works of the devil—through our Lord Jesus Christ. You will do well to read them closely and study them prayerfully.

Memory Verse: (See if you can learn these verses by heart)

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.
(I Corinthians 10:13)

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
(James 4:7)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations on completing *Firm in the Faith*.

By now you should be making really good progress as a Christian.

It is important to remember that living the Christian life is not something you have to do on your own. This is the whole point. It is not just turning over a new leaf or deciding to be a better person.

It is trusting in God to change you and give you new life. Then by faith in His promises and in the power of the Holy Spirit, you can do everything He asks you to do.

The Bible says:

“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires” - 2 Peter 1:3-4.

Several things stand out here.

1. We have everything we need to live a godly life
2. God himself has called us
3. He has given us great and precious promises
4. Through these we escape the corruption in the world

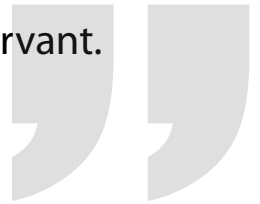
In other words, it is possible to live a positive, successful, upright life when we decide to follow Jesus. Failure is not an option!

Elsewhere the Scripture says that we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which He Himself has prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). Once again we have God's guarantee that he will enable us to live positively and confidently.

Being a Christian is not struggling and fighting to be a better person. It is simply living by faith in the promises of God and trusting in the power of the Spirit of God to bring us through.

So go for it in the name of Jesus! Stand firm in the faith you now have and enjoy living the abundant life Christ came to bring. In His strength you can do it. You can overcome all obstacles in Christ because he always leads us in triumph (2 Corinthians 2:14).

And one day, you will stand before the throne of God and hear His words of commendation, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord' (Matthew 25:21-23).



A note to pastors and counsellors

Firm in the Faith is a series of ten basic Bible studies especially designed for new Christians. They were originally written by Dr Barry Chant when he was leading a small suburban church. He saw the need for some basic, straightforward Bible teaching materials that would provide new Christians with the fundamentals of the faith in easily-understood units.

At that time, he was unable to find any materials that seemed to meet this need, so he wrote his own. *Firm in the Faith* is the result.

These studies are unique in that each one uses only a couple of Scripture passages so that the new believer is not hunting all over an unfamiliar Bible trying to find the relevant texts.

Also, the questions are so designed that competent counsellors can use the lessons successfully with new Christians and thus save pastors from having to handle all discipleship counselling themselves.

In summary, *Firm in the Faith* has the following features:

- Only essential scripture passages used
- Simple question and answer approach
- Ideal for discipling new Christians
- Ideal for busy pastors to help establish new Christians

These studies have been used in many churches over the years. Hopefully you can make use of them too.

