



*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,  
because He has anointed Me  
to preach the Gospel to the poor.  
He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted,  
to preach deliverance to the captives  
and recovery to the sight of the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”*

*Lk. 4:18-19*

*Jesus ~*

### Freedom - Healing - Restoration

A Bible based Christian discipleship program committed to helping men and women struggling with addictions, emotional scarring, and self-destructive behaviors.

*God's promise awaits you!*

## — Freedom from the Power of sin! —

*“If you abide in My [W]ord, you are My disciples indeed.  
And you shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free.  
Therefore if the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed!”*

*Jn. 8:31-32, 36 NKJV*

*Jesus ~*

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*“Strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.  
Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord; looking diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.” – Heb. 12:12-15*

**“To compromise on God’s Word is like inviting the devil home with you;  
to rob you blind and to beat you senseless!”**

– Glas –

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# Love

*“Can a woman forget her nursing child,  
and not have compassion on the son of her womb?  
Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you.  
See, I have inscribed you on the palm of My hands.”*

*Isa. 49:15-16*

*“I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint;  
My heart is like wax; it has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like potsherd,  
and My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.  
For dogs have surrounded Me; the assembly of the wicked has enclosed Me.  
They pierced My hands and feet; I count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.”*

*Ps. 22:14-17*

(Speaking of the crucifixion of Jesus the Christ)

WAIT! I thought love was all about those wonderful, exhilarating, passionate, head in the clouds, bluebirds singing, can climb the highest mountain, feel good feelings! What does a woman forgetting about her children, God remembering them and inscribing their names on His hands, and the horrific death of Jesus Christ have to do with love? Could my understanding of the definition of **Love** (What God calls Love) be incorrect? Oh Yeah! If I believe mans definition of love which is actually contrary to God’s definition. God’s love is totally “others-centered;” as for mankind, it is by no means a stretch of our imagination to see that through the ages our words and actions have shown our love to be self-centered... sometimes blatantly so, other times deceitfully secretive; yet none the less **STRINGS-ATTACHED SELF-CENTERED!**

For us to get the true definition of Love we need to look into God’s written Word, the Holy Bible; the Spirit inspired, immutable, infallible Word of God.\* Any other definition of Love which adds too or takes away from God’s definition, as written in our Bible, is a lie from the pit of hell. And I say that with absolute authority standing on God’s written Word.

\* There are many Bible translations, but through my own personal studies I have found that the King James and the New King James Bibles are quite trustworthy in maintaining the integrity of the original text of the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek Manuscripts.

## Love CONTINUED

***“God’s Word is the standard of judgment, not my knowledge of it.”***

– H. A. Ironside –

***“Forever, O Lord, Your [W]ord is settled in Heaven.”***

*Ps. 119:89*

***“The entirety of Your [W]ord is truth,  
and everyone of Your righteous judgments endures forever.”***

*Ps. 119:160*

***“You shall not add to the [W]ord which I command you,  
nor take anything from it, that you may keep the commandments  
of the Lord your God which I command you.”***

*Deut. 4:2*

***“Every [W]ord of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.  
Do not add to His [W]ords, lest He reprove you and you be found a liar.”***

*Prov. 30:5-6*

And let me share one more Scripture with you, I call it the exclamation point of God’s Word on the matter of His Word.

***“I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name  
for Your lovingkindness and your [T]ruth;  
for You have magnified Your [W]ord above all Your name.”***

*Ps. 138:2*

Folk’s, I believe that on Judgment day there’s going to be a whole lotta’ sorry, pitiful, scholars and theologians, Church board members and administrators; apostles, prophets and evangelist; pastors and teachers, etc., with heads hanging low standing before the Great Almighty... because they kept slicin’, and dicin’, twistin’ and contortin’ God’s written Word to their own means! May God have mercy!

## Love CONTINUED

### What is Love –

God is Love: *I Jn. 4:7-8; 15-16; I Cor. 13; II Cor. 1:3-5; Ex. 34:6-14*

**Agape** (noun) is a Koni Greek word meaning unconditional, sacrificial love/charity, goodwill. It was first used in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible written around the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C.. *Agapao* (verb) goes back even further to around 8 or 9 B.C.. During the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. the apostle John used *agape/agapao* prolifically throughout his sacred writings. e.g. John 3:16; ***“For God so loved (agapao) the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”*** In our Holy Bible the word’s *agape/agapao* have almost always been descriptive of God’s divine love.

- 1) Do you find, as a Christian, that your love for others has changed for the better?... How so?
- 2) Can we be selfish (self-centered) and love as God loves at the same time (I Thess. 5:19)?
- 3) Can God’s love ever fail us (Lam. 3:21-26; Isa. 41:10; Heb. 13:5)?

### God loves you –

He has said so: *Ps. 26:3; Isa. 63:7-8; Jer. 31:3; Jn. 15:9; 16:27; 17:20-23,26; I Jn. 4:10, 16*

- 1) Do you believe God loves you (*Rom. 3:3-4; Titus 1:1-2*)?
- 2) Can you think how God has personally shown you that He loves you? Explain.
- 3) How do you show God that you love Him?
- 4) When Jesus was praying to the Father, in John chapter 17:21, 23, why do you think He prayed:

***“[T]hat they may all be one, as You Father, are in Me, and I in You;  
that they may also be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.  
I in them and You in Me, that they may be made perfect in one,  
and that the world may know that You have sent Me,  
and have loved them as You have loved Me.”***

### God has shown you His love –

Through Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son:

***“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Rom.5:8***

*Jn. 1:1-5, 10-13; 3:16-17; Isa. 53:1-2; 50:4-5; 53:3-7; 50: 6-7; Heb. 5:7-9; Isa. 52:13-14; Phil. 2:1-9; Lk. 23:32-34; I Jn. 4:8-10, 19*

- 1) Does Jesus love everybody?
- 2) Does Jesus desire everyone to be saved (*Tim. 2:1-8; II Pet. 3:8-9*)?
- 3) Is forgiveness an act of love (*Rom. 5:5-8; I Pet. 4:8*)?
- 4) Did God just say that He loved us, or did He show us His love in Action and Word? Explain.
- 5) How do you think a Christian should love others (*Jn. 15:12; I Jn. 3:18*)?
- 6) Do you truly love others... no strings attached?

# God's gift of salvation

***“I am the way, the truth, and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through Me.”***  
Jn. 14:6

***Jesus ~***

***“For the wages of sin is death,  
but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.”***  
Rom. 6:23

***“Nor is there salvation in any other,  
for there is no other name under heaven given  
among men by which we must be saved.”***  
Acts. 4:12

***“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;  
old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”***  
II Cor. 5:17

A lot of Christians believe that salvation comes by just praying a short simple prayer, going to Church once a week and making a few positive changes in their lifestyle...

I've got some bad news for you if that's all you believe (but truly, it's the greatest news). Let me say it in 3 words,

**“Only Jesus saves.”**

## **Only God can give the gift of Eternal Life –**

Through Jesus Christ: *Jn. 3:16-18; Jn.1:12-13; Eph.2:1-10; Titus 3:4-8; Eph. 1:13-14; Jn. 10:27-30; I Jn.5:11-13*

- 1) Is any man able to earn God's gift of salvation?
- 2) Along with God's gift of salvation what other wonderful blessings do we receive (*Ezek. 36:25-27*)?
- 3) How does one know that they are saved (*Jn. 3:16; Rom. 10:9-10; Rom. 8:1-2; Ps. 119:89*)?
- 4) Can any one or any thing take away God's gift of our salvation (*Rom.8:38-39; Num 23:19-20; Jn. 10:27-29*)?

## Freedom from the power of sin and death

*“[K]nowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lust. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you.”*

*Rom. 6:9-14A*

One of the greatest struggles which many Christians find themselves in is battling to resist sin. I oughta’ know... I lost the battle a few years back and became a prodigal son (see *Lk. 15:11-32*). I say that to you with sorrow and shame in prayerful hope that you will not succumb to sin’s seduction but rather take heed to God’s Word which I share with you in these lessons. The allurements of sin become problematic when we take our eyes off Jesus and set our gaze upon the object of our temptation; ignoring the multitude of safe guards\* which our Lord has set up for us through His written Word. In ignoring these safe guards sin WILL take us out! Setting off a wave of frightful consequences that will surly sweep over family and friends, bringing a devastating and incalculable fall-out of suffering and sorrow! We have a choice, choose Jesus and live, or ...

### **Sin no longer has power over us –**

Continued freedom from the power of sin is ONLY through faithful obedience in Jesus Christ... NO COMPROMISE:

*I Jn. 5:4-5; Rom. 8:1-2; Jn. 8:31-32, 36; Jn. 14:21, 23; Gal. 2:20; I Pet. 2:24-25; Rom. 13:13-14; Rom. 12:1-2; Heb. 12:1-4; Prov. 1:20-33; I Pet. 5:5-11; Mt. 24:12-13; II Tim. 2:1-5; 3:12-4:8*

- 1) Is it possible to break the bondage of sin and death without faith in God?
- 2) Jesus said if we abide in His Word we are His disciples. What does “abide” mean and what does that have to do with overcoming sin?
- 3) What can happen when a Christian chooses to sin (*Jn. 5:1-16; 15:5-6; I Cor. 3:11-17; Rev. 3:11*)?

\* For God’s safe guards see back of this page.

# God's Safe Guard's

## The Basics

### Prayer

(personal and group -Ps. 5:1-3; Mt. 6-6; 14:23; Eph. 3:14-21; 6:18)

### Bible study

(personal, Church, and home group Bible study -Ps. 119:97-105,140; II Tim. 3:14-17)

### Fellowship

(Church and home and beyond - Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:24-25; Ps. 84)

### Discipleship

(be disciplined/mentored - Mk. 8:34-38; Acts 5:42; Col. 1:28)

### Evangelism

(share your new life with Jesus with family and friends, with neighbors, at work, etc. –  
Mt. 28:18-20; Lk. 9:59-60; Jn. 1:35-46)

## NEVER doubt God

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”*

*Prov. 3:5-6*

## Emergencies

(Don't take your eyes off Jesus!)

*“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond that which you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it”*

*I Cor 10:13 (see also II Cor. 10:3-5)*

### Pray

(where you are or take a walk in a private location or go for a drive and pray)

### Read God's Word

Call your mentor, your pastor, Church elder, or other mature brother/sister

Meet with your mentor, your pastor, or Church elder(s) (Eph. 4:11-16; Ja. 5:16,19-20)

Involve yourself in a work for the Lord (Phil.2:12-15)

*“As for God, His way is perfect; the [W]ord of the Lord is proven;  
He is a shield to all who trust Him.”*

*I Sam. 22:31/ Ps. 18:30*

# Called, Chosen, Empowered (Doing our Part)

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*“For many are called, but few are chosen.”*

*Mt. 22:14*

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, and with all your mind.*

*This is the first and great commandment.*

*And the second is like it:*

*you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

*On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”*

*Mt. 22:37-40*

*“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.  
Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”*

*Jn. 15:12-13*

*“Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but  
what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in  
like manner. For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things  
that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these,  
that you may marvel.”* *Jn. 5:19-20*

*“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in ME,  
the works that I do he will do also;*

*and greater works than these will he do, because I go to My Father.”*

*Jn. 14:12*

*“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me,  
and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”*

*Jn. 15:5*

*Jesus ~*

*“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ,  
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ  
reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has  
committed to us the [W]ord of reconciliation. Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ,  
as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be  
reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might  
become the righteousness of God through Him.”*

*II Cor. 5:18-21*

**Love God and love one another.** I hope by now that we each realize just how impossible that is without Jesus Christ being the First and the Last and the **All** of our very



## Called, Chosen, Empowered (Doing our Part cont.)

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lives. We need just to glance back at our own personal history to see how selfish, unloving, disrespectful, envious, lustful, hateful, unforgiving..., SELF-CENTERED we really were (or maybe still are!). Oh I know, some will say to me, *“You don’t know how terribly difficult my life was, I deserved to be treated like a human being! I did what I did and I do what I do for a little peace, comfort and happiness!”* And no doubt you may have suffered through great pains and hardship, which sadly, you found no escape. Yet, when opportunity came for a little fleeting peace and self-gratification you took it! For a moment of sinful pleasure you became like your tormentors, driving spikes into the hands and feet of the **One** who came to save you.

***“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?  
There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,  
who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.  
For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free  
from the law of sin and death.”***

*Rom. 7:24; 8:1-2*

***“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.  
The Words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”***

*Jn. 6:63*

***Jesus ~***

I say again, without fully giving our lives to Jesus, it is impossible to abide in Him, to love others as He has commanded us to. But now, as Christians, as a new creation in Christ Jesus; we, of whom now indwells the Holy Spirit of the Lord God Almighty Himself; are more than conquerors, blessed with every Spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, and more than able to fulfill His will, to do our part! Glory to God in the highest!

***“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.  
And this is the victory that has overcome the world —  
our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world,  
but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”***

*1 Jn. 5:4-5*

This being true, for God cannot lie, what’s hindering us Christians from faithfully loving and abiding in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? From truly loving all others 24/7, anytime, every time as Jesus has commanded us? Why, after giving our lives to our Lord Jesus do we keep returning to our old ways repeating the same old sin’s over and over again? I am fully convinced it is because of these two things: **unbelief** and **selfishness**... The Christian’s kryptonite!

## Called, Chosen, Empowered (Doing our Part cont.)

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Listen dear ones; we will never have victory over sin, never be able to receive the fullness of God's love (much less be able to share His love) until we have surrendered our "ALL" to the One who gave us His "ALL," Jesus. For Jesus to be our Savior, we **MUST** unconditionally give ourselves over to His Lordship. This alone is abiding in Jesus Christ; this is truly loving Him and living in His will.

### Like Father like Son –

All Christians **must** abide in Jesus Christ in order to truly live the abundant life; to have the power and authority over sin, to fulfill His commandment to **L-O-V-E**: Jn. 15:1-15; Jn. 7:37-38; Eph. 6:10-29; Heb. 11:6; II Pet. 1:2-11; Phil. 2:1-11; Eph. 4:15-16; Jn. 14:12-15; II Cor. 9:8

- 1) Concerning sin, can we ever let down our guard, take one more bite (*Prov.26:10-11*)?
- 2) In *II Pet 1:2-11*, we are exhorted to be diligent, diligent, diligent; to do what and why?
- 3) Every Christian is exhorted do their fair share in the work of ministry, why?

### Walking in the Spirit –

Bearing Spiritual Fruit: Gal 5:16-25; Eph. 5:8-21; Rom. 8:5-18; Phil. 2:12-16  
Receiving Spiritual Gifts: I Cor. 12:1, 4-14; 13:1-13; Eph. 4:4-16

- 1) What are the fruits of the flesh and the fruits of the Spirit?
- 2) How does the fruit of the Spirit differ from the gifts of the Spirit?
- 3) Who are you walking with? How can you tell? Can those closest to you tell who you're walking with? (*Jn. 14:21;23; Jn. 13:34-35*)?
- 4) Why is abiding in God's Love so important to us individually, so important for our families, our Church, for our towns and cities, and beyond the beyond?  
(This is a broad question which will have many answers)

***“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God;  
and everyone who loves is born of God.  
He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.  
In this the love of God was manifested toward us,  
that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world.  
In this is love, not that we loved God,  
but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.  
Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”***  
*I Jn. 4: 7-11*

***“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God,  
and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” Jn. 17:3***

***Jesus ~***