

BORN AGAIN

TO SERVE

A study to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:12

Prepared by Jean Manning

Presented by Revival Ministries Australia

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INTRODUCTION

“I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake.” 1 John 2:12

“I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father.”

1 John 2:13 c

New believers know two things:

- Jesus Christ has forgiven their sins
- They now belong to the family of God, and He is their heavenly Father

These studies are to give a fuller understanding of what it means to be a child of God – born into this family of God that we call the church.

As we grow in this family we recognize that we have responsibilities towards God and towards the other members of this family – hence the title “BORN AGAIN TO SERVE”.

“I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one.” 1 John 2:13 b

“I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.”

1 John 2:14 b

In studying the word of God and letting the will of God take hold of us, we become like young men – strengthened in the faith as the word of God abides in us, and thus able to overcome the wicked one.

“I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning.” 1 John 2:13 a

“I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning.”

1 John 2:14a.

This is our goal: to know Him who is from the beginning, and to be as fathers, teaching and guiding, and nurturing the new believers in the family of God, enabling them to grow and serve in this family.

The apostle, Paul, writes: *“.....that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” Philippians 3:10-11*

I pray that as you study these notes, you will be drawn to serve both God and your brothers and sisters in Christ with the same love that Jesus had for us.

Your sister and fellow servant in Christ,

Jean Manning

“Show me Your ways, O LORD, Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.”

Psalms 25:4-5

Chapter 1
WHAT MUST I DO TO BE BORN AGAIN?

Session (A)

- Why must I be born again?
- What does it mean to be born again?
- What happens when I am born again?
- What must I do to be born again?
- What happens next?

Session (B)

- Baptism follows believing and repentance
- An understanding of water baptism
- The church spreads

Session A.
WHAT MUST I DO TO BE BORN AGAIN?

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with Him."

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"

John 3:1-9

WHY MUST I BE BORN AGAIN?

Jesus says that unless we are born again:

You cannot see the kingdom of God v.3

You cannot enter the kingdom of God v.5

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE BORN AGAIN?

The expression “born again” literally means to be “born from above”.

Jesus makes a clear distinction between

natural birth and spiritual birth.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh John 3:6

that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:6

The apostle John tells us:

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name John 1:12

The condition for this right to become children of God is to receive Jesus by His Spirit into our lives. On the basis of believing, we are then able to receive Jesus and thus be born again.

John 1:13 We are born:

but of God

not of blood

nor of the will of man

nor of the will of the flesh

That is, we are born from above or born again.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I AM BORN AGAIN?

Once I am “born again”, that is “born from above”, I am:

- Delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed into the kingdom of the Son of His love. Colossians 1:13

darkness

light

- It is no longer I who lives
I become a new creation. Galatians 2:20

FOR CHRIST

now dwells in

ME

- I do not sin because:
I cannot sin because I have been born of God. 1 John 3:9

His seed remains in me. 1 John 3:9

I guard myself from sin and the evil one cannot touch me.
But he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. 1 John 5:18

- I have love for others because I know God
Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

- I live in victory
For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. 1 John 4:5

➤ That which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:6

- I am a spiritual being

Jesus said:

- I now live in a supernatural realm (Ephesians 1) with
 - Every spiritual blessing from God v.3
 - Redemption through His blood v.7
 - Forgiveness of sins v.7
 - Revelation knowledge v.9
 - A supernatural inheritance v.11
 - Supernatural wisdom and knowledge of God v.17
 - Supernatural company because I am seated in Christ in heavenly places Eph.2:6
 - Equal access with all mankind to God the Father through Jesus Christ the Son Eph.2:18
- I am free because I have been born according to the Spirit

So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free. Galatians 4:31

- I become a child of God

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God John 1:13

We have already seen that to be born again means that we are born from above.

I am born again because God desires this.

Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. James 1:18

God desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Timothy 1:4

That is, we are born of the will of the Father. John 1:13

Session B

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE BORN AGAIN?

1. I believe in the name of Jesus Christ and
2. I receive Jesus into my life

John 1:12

Nothing can destroy my 'born again' relationship with God because it is based upon the word [incorruptible seed] of God which is totally reliable. By faith I receive the promise of God's word [the seed] and receive Jesus [the Seed] into my life.

"I am born again of incorruptible seed through the word of God which lives and abides forever." 1 Peter 1:23

God had promised this Seed and the victory He would win, in the garden of Eden.

I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel. Genesis 3:15

To be born again means that I receive this victorious Seed [Jesus] into my life and live my life in the victory that He has won over sin and death.

A MAN IS BORN AGAIN IN THE GOSPELS

Read the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10

- Zacchaeus was curious to see Jesus (v.3)
- He received Jesus joyfully (v.6)
- He exhibited repentance by making restitution (8)
- Jesus announced that the faith shown by Zacchaeus brought salvation to his house (v.9)

To be born again, we are to be like Zacchaeus:

- **Wanting to know more about Jesus**
- Receiving Him joyfully into our lives
- Responding by faith to His words

WHAT IS NEXT?

Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Jesus says that once we believe we have eternal life.

Jesus says that we cannot see the kingdom nor enter the kingdom unless we are born again. John 3:3&5

He began His ministry by telling us to repent and believe for the kingdom of God is at hand.

Repent, and believe in the gospel. Mark 1:15

BAPTISM FOLLOWS

BELIEVING AND REPENTANCE

He who believes and is baptized will be saved. Mark 16:16

At the close of His earthly ministry Jesus told us how to enter the kingdom.

On the day of Pentecost, the crowd that had gathered was convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit. They cried out asking what they were to do.

Peter's reply showed them that baptism follows true repentance.

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

Coming to Christ and baptism go together.

Repentance

---->

coming to Christ

Baptism

Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit

I am fully born again and I am joined to the church of Jesus Christ!

AN UNDERSTANDING OF WATER BAPTISM

Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness.

Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. Matthew 3:15

His example is:

- **to tell us that baptism is an expectation of God**
- a preparation for public ministry

WE IDENTIFY WITH CHRIST THROUGH BAPTISM

A study of Romans 6:3-10

- v.3 we identify with His death
- v.4 we identify with His burial
- v.5 we are identified in the likeness of His death
in the likeness of His resurrection
- v.6 our old man was crucified with Him
- v.7 we are freed from sin
- v.8 we died with Christ
we live with Him
- v.9 He has conquered death
- v.10 He died to sin once for all
He lives to God

Through baptism we die to sin and enter fully into life with the risen Christ.

THE EARLY CHURCH GREW AS BELIEVERS WERE BAPTISED

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

Peter had preached that Jesus was both Lord and Christ. How then were the hearers to enter the Kingdom since they been party to His crucifixion?

Peter said:

The result? Church Growth.

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. Acts 2:41

THE CHURCH SPREADS.

(1) A man from Ethiopia hears the word and asks for water baptism.

See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized? Acts 8:36

This eunuch was prepared for ministry before he returned to his own country .

Through water baptism he was set apart as a “priest” of God and the gospel reached Africa. The only condition for this baptism is that he believes in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

If you believe with all your heart you may. Acts 8:37

His reply satisfied this condition for water baptism.

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Acts 8:37

(2) The Gentiles are accepted into the body of Christ.

Acts 10:44

When Peter preached in the house of Cornelius, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.

The Gentiles were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke with other tongues.

The Jewish believers were amazed.

Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? Acts 10:47

And Peter commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

Acts 10:48

The Gentile believers were added to the body of Christ.

ONCE WE ARE BORN AGAIN AND BAPTISED, WE BECOME PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST AND OUR NEW LIFE BEGINS.

Chapter 2

HOW DO I LEAD ANOTHER PERSON TO CHRIST?

• **ASSURANCE OF MY OWN SALVATION**

I speak of that which I know

- I know Jesus Christ myself
- I am in close relationship with Him
- I know what He has done for me
- I have an awareness of eternal states – heaven and hell
- I desire to see all men saved
- I am able to talk freely and with conviction about Jesus

Who do you say that I am? Matthew 16:15

Jesus asked His disciples:

Before we can lead another person to Christ we must be able to answer this question that Jesus asked His disciples.

You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Matthew 16:16

Peter's answer pleased Jesus.

It was upon the faith that Peter expressed here – faith that came as a revelation from God - that Jesus said He would build His church.

Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. Matthew 16:18

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. John 7:38

It is out of a Peter-like faith, that is, knowing who Jesus is, that we are able to lead others to Christ. Knowing Jesus in this way will enable us to speak of Him with assurance. And Jesus has promised that the Holy Spirit will help us.

Jesus said:

What flows from our innermost being – our heart – will bring life to others.

The apostle Paul was able to say:

for I know whom I have believed 2 Timothy 1:12

Our goal is to introduce the One we know to another person.

Write out who you say Jesus is?

It is also important to be able to express clearly what Jesus has done for us. This is our personal testimony.

- What was I like before I met with Jesus and accepted Him as my Saviour?
- How did I meet Him?
- What happened when I met Jesus?
- How has Jesus changed my life?

No one can take from me what Jesus has done for me. Using the above guide, practise writing your personal testimony.

CHRISTIANITY IS A REVEALED FAITH

Being sure of your own salvation, you are now confident to lead another person to Christ. At some stage you may like to ask: “Would you like to know more about Jesus?” If the other one answers affirmatively, have them pray with you:

“Jesus, I would like to know more about you. Would you reveal yourself to me?”

Since Jesus has promised to reveal Himself to those who diligently seek Him, He delights to answer this prayer, and we have the freedom to lead another through the steps to receive Jesus as Lord.

He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
Hebrews 11:6

- **STEPS TO LEADING ANOTHER PERSON TO CHRIST?**
 1. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God Romans 3:23
 1. It is necessary to recognize the sin in his or her life and the need for a Saviour.

Be assured that Jesus came to seek and save the lost,

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

For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost.
Luke 19:10

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:17
and know that there is no condemnation from God for those who turn to Him.

2. Turn to God and confess sin.

sin

God

Lead in a simple prayer of repentance.

“I AM SORRY THAT I HAVE SINNED.”

3. Receive forgiveness by faith.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

This confession of our sins leads to forgiveness and cleansing.

For He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21

All shame and guilt are dealt with here.

There is an exchange at the cross as we confess our sin. Jesus, the sinless One, exchanges His righteousness (He is right with God because He has no sin) for our sin. He takes our sin; we receive a right standing with God.

Lead in a prayer of thanksgiving for this forgiveness and cleansing.

“THANK YOU JESUS FOR DYING IN MY PLACE AND FOR FORGIVING ME.”

4. Invite Jesus to come and be Lord of your life, to let His Holy Spirit come and live in you.

Lead in a prayer of surrender.

“HOLY SPIRIT PLEASE COME AND LIVE IN ME. I GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO RULE AND REIGN IN ME.”

With these three prayers:

please

Thank you
sorry

a person is born again and is ready to change. We are surrendering our self-will and giving Jesus the right to reign in our lives. Self diminishes and Jesus reigns.

believing

baptism

is followed by

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you Matthew 28:19

Jesus says:

Teaching the new believer about water baptism is a part of leading some one to Christ. It is the first step in “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”

USING THE ABOVE 4-STEP PATTERN, WORK IN PAIRS PRACTISING HOW TO LEAD ONE ANOTHER TO CHRIST.

Chapter 3
JESUS SERVANT OF GOD

- Fulfilling prophecy
- Jesus teaches about greatness
- Jesus - an example to us

- FULFILLING PROPHECY

Jesus declares his role as servant.

He said of Himself:

I am among you as the One who serves.

Luke 22:27

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.

Mathew 20:28

This was to fulfill prophecy.

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

Matthew 5:17

Jesus said of Himself:

JESUS FULFILLED PROPHECY AND GOD GLORIFIED HIM.

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. Acts 3:13

PROPHETIC PROMISES ABOUT GOD'S SERVANT

- Read Isaiah 42:1-4

Jesus is prophesied as the One who pleases God, is filled with the Spirit of God, and will bring justice to the nations. (The Gentiles.)

God says:

Behold! My Servant whom I uphold

v.1

My Elect One in whom My soul delights! v.1

I have put My Spirit upon Him v.1

He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles v.1

- Read Isaiah 49:5-6

The Servant will raise up the tribes of Jacob and gather Israel back to God. He will bring light to the Gentiles.

That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth v.6

- Read Isaiah 50:10

God calls the nation to fear the Lord and to obey His Servant
Who obeys the voice of His Servant? v.10

- Read Isaiah 52:13-Isaiah 53:13

Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.
Isaiah 52:13

These verses speak of God's Servant who will suffer for the sins of mankind.
God has said:

Jesus fulfilled these Scriptures and God honoured Him:

This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him! Matthew 17:5

This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 3:17

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT GREATNESS

- When His disciples were discussing greatness, Jesus said:

For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves. Luke 22:27

- He tells us that to become great we must become servants.

Whoever desires to become first among you, let him be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve

Matthew 20:27-28

JESUS – AN EXAMPLE TO US

- Read John 13:1-17 where Jesus washes His disciples feet.

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God. (v.3)

Jesus was secure in the knowledge that He belonged to God, the Father.

When we have this assurance of our eternal future, serving others is not difficult.

Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master. v.16

He said:

For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. v.15

If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. v.17

JESUS TEACHES THAT WHEN WE SERVE OTHERS WE SERVE HIM

- Read Matthew 25:31-46

In the parable Jesus invites into the kingdom those who have:

- Satisfied the hungry and the thirsty
- Welcomed the stranger
- Clothed the naked
- Visited the sick and those in prison

Jesus tells those who have done these things that:

Assuredly, I say to you, in as much as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.v.40

In a like manner He warns that those who do not do these things:

Inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me. V.45

Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. James 2:17

James tells us:

OUR CALL IS TO FOLLOW JESUS.

Let him follow Me

John 12:26

If anyone serves Me

And where I am, there My servant will be also.

If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.

*“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
Who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery
To be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation,
Taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in
appearance as a man He humbled himself And became obedient Even to the point of death,
Even the death of the cross.”
Philippians 2:5-8*

Chapter 4

SERVING AS PRIESTS OF GOD

- Who do I serve?
- How do I serve God?
- Serving as priests

WHO DO I SERVE?

For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.”

Luke 4:8

Jesus said:

The apostle, Paul, reminds us:

How you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. 1 Thessalonians 1:9

In Colossians 3

v.23

Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men

v.24

And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. Revelation 22:3

HOW DO I SERVE GOD?

- Without fear

John the Baptist's father, Zacharias, prophesied that we should serve Him without fear. Luke 1:74

He says that we will do this

In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. Luke 1:75

because we have been set free from sin.

- With a clean or pure conscience

The blood of Jesus sprinkles my heart and cleanses me from an evil conscience. Hebrews 10:22

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:4

- In the newness of the Spirit

Once he was born again, the apostle, Paul, recognized his need to serve in the Spirit.

But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter. Romans 7:7

- I serve with my born again human spirit

The apostle, Paul, testifies:

For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son Romans 1:9

- With reverence and godly fear

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. Hebrews 12:28

- I offer Him my body as a living sacrifice

This is holy, acceptable to God. Romans 12:1

This is my reasonable service. Romans 12:1

This includes the “sacrifice of praise to God, that is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name”. Hebrews 13:15

- Non-stop

John says that those around the throne “serve Him day and night in the temple”. Revelation 7:15

Anna (Luke 3:37) “did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day”.

WE SERVE GOD AS PRIESTS

God gave Moses a pattern to build a sacred tent (called the tabernacle) where the priests were to minister to God. He also gave Moses a pattern for the priests to follow that was a pattern of things to come.

In this God-given pattern the priests were required to offer sacrifices of praise, prayers, and worship.

Now when these things had thus been prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. Hebrews 9:6

TODAY WE ARE CALLED TO BE PRIESTS OF GOD MOST HIGH

- To offer praises to our God

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9

- To offer up spiritual sacrifices

You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5

WHAT ARE THESE SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES?

- Prayers
- Praise
- Worship
- Devotional reading of God's word
- Prayers for the sick
- Being filled with the Holy Spirit
- Listening for God's word
- Ministering communion (through the bread and juice)

WORKSHOP:

- (i) Read Romans 12:1 as a group, each person making a commitment of his or her body to the Lord. Spend time in prayer offering those parts of the body that are most rebellious (for example - the mind that loses focus, the tongue that speaks out of order, the appetites that rule).

- (ii) Read Hebrews 13:15

Using the following Scriptures and worshipful Psalms, "offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name".

- Revelation 4:8
- Revelation 4:11
- Revelation 5:9-14
- Revelation 7:12
- Revelation 11:17
- Revelation 15:3-4
- Jude 24-25
- 1 Timothy 6:15b-16

Encourage a flow into spontaneous worship to God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the blessed Holy Spirit.

Chapter 5

SERVING THE BODY OF CHRIST
WITH SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Gifts of the risen Lord
- Gifts of God, the Father
- Every believer ministers
- Character of the servant

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

There are differences of ministries but the same Lord.

**And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 1
Corinthians 12:4-6**

These gifts of the Holy Spirit, the risen Christ, and God the Father are given for the church of Jesus Christ to grow and come to perfection.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all. 1 Corinthians 12:7

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“THERE ARE DIVERSITIES OF GIFTS BUT THE SAME SPIRIT”

The apostle Paul wants us to know, understand and desire spiritual gifts.

Desire spiritual gifts

1 Corinthians 14:1

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant.

1 Corinthians 12:1

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are described in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10.

- Gifts of revelation.

God reveals His knowledge

to us

Discerning

of

spirits

The

word of knowledge

Words

of

wisdom

through:

- **Gifts of demonstration**

God demonstrates His power to us through:

faith

Gifts

of

healings

The

working

of

miracles

- **Gifts of communication. These are the prophetic gifts.**

God communicates with us through:

prophecy

Different kinds of tongues

The interpretation of tongues

These spiritual gifts are to benefit the whole body of Christ.

- They direct in the prayer meeting as God communicates through the prophetic gifts.
- They guide the counsellor in individual prayer counselling as God reveals words of wisdom and words of knowledge and enables the counsellor to discern the spirits.
- They demonstrate the power of God through healings, miracles, and a release of great faith in the power of God

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. 1 Corinthians 12:11

GIFTS OF THE RISEN LORD.

“THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF MINISTRIES BUT THE SAME LORD”

teachers

Ephesians 4:11 The risen Christ has given to the church:

pastors

prophets

evangelists

apostles

As those appointed by the Lord to these offices serve the body of Christ, we see:

- **the saints equipped**
 - ministry emerging
 - the body of Christ is encouraged and built up. Ephesians 4:12

The apostle and the prophet lay foundations (Ephesians 2:20) on which others build.

- The apostle speaks the doctrines of the Lord bringing revelation of the will of God to the body of Christ.

- The prophet speaks the word of the Lord bringing guidance to the church.
- THE evangelist goes out preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and brings the new believer in to the church.
- The pastor nurtures the new believer.
- The teacher instructs the believers in the word of God.

GIFTS OF GOD, THE FATHER

“And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.”

Read Romans 12:3-8

God gives these gifts at creation. This means that every member of the body of Christ has one or more of these gifts in their life. Because they are grace gifts each member of the body of Christ can call upon any one of the gifts as needed.

:6 we have gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us

WHAT ARE THESE GIFTS?

v:6 prophecy (insight)
v:7 ministry (being a servant)
v:7 teaching (imparting truth)
v:8 exhorting (encouraging)
v:8 giving (being generous)
v:8 leadership
v:8 mercy (loving concern)

HOW DO WE USE THEM?

in proportion to our faith
in our ministering (serving)
in teaching
in exhortation
with liberality
with diligence
with cheerfulness

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

1 Corinthians 12:27

We have all been given different gifts because the church is the body of Christ and each member has a vital part to play in the proper functioning of this body.

GOD HAS ASSIGNED ROLES IN THE CHURCH

And God has appointed these in the church; first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:28

Do we all have these gifts? No! However, they are within the body of Christ, that is, they are in various members of the church so that all may receive the benefit of them.

But earnestly desire the best gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:31

EVERY BELIEVER MINISTERS

- **Through love**

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Galatians 5:13

Jesus taught us that the greatest commandment is to love – God first, then our neighbour. Luke 10:27

We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. 2 Corinthians 6:3

- **With spiritual gifts**

The apostle Paul does not want us to be ignorant of spiritual gifts. There are diversities of gifts but the same Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:4

He tells us to desire spiritual gifts.

Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts. 1 Corinthians 14:1

Yet he reminds us that without love we can have many Spiritual gifts and be ineffective in ministry.

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 1 Corinthians 13:1

- With gifts of grace

-

(a) from God the Father

At creation God has given to every person gifts that motivate us to act, and He has given us grace that enables us to use these gifts to build up the other members of the body of Christ. Every member is to use these gifts to serve, and others in the body of Christ benefit as each member serves.

These are the gifts of God to every person. Each person can expect to have at least one of these gifts.

For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Romans 12:3-4

In teaching about these gifts, the apostle, Paul, exhorts us:

Let us use them.

Romans 12:6

(b) from the ascended (or risen) Lord.

Once we are born again, we are given grace that enables us to experience apostolic revelation in the body of Christ. The anointing of the Lord brings

revelation. The biblical foundations in our lives are laid according to His word and we come to maturity. In a like manner the church receives this apostolic revelation and grows.

Apostolic revelation can be experienced by every believer.

Read Ephesians 4:13-16

What are the results of apostolic revelation?

- We all come to the unity of the faith
- and of the knowledge of the Son of God
- to a perfect man
- to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ
- no longer tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine
- by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting
- but, speaking the truth in love
- may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ

In a like manner, every believer can hear the prophetic voice of God and grow. God continues to speak to His church. He gives dreams and visions as well as speaking to us from His word. Every member of the body can hear the voice of God bringing conviction of sin and direction to repent.

Jesus has promised to build His church (Matthew 16:18), so we can expect Him to guide us.

Every born again believer has experienced the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. So every believer has a testimony of Jesus to share with someone else. So every believer can do the work of an evangelist as God leads.

We are all able to be as a pastor to some one else. A pastor cares for other people. Once we are born again, “the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us” (Romans 5:5), and it is not difficult to draw alongside another person in a caring and loving way.

As we draw alongside in this way, we each have many opportunities to teach what we have learned of God.

So every believer ministers as the grace of God enables, and every believer has the opportunity to come under the influence of those appointed by the Lord to the offices or positions of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher.

The result is that the church will:

Grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ – from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:15-16

CHARACTER OF THE SERVANT

What should be the character of those chosen to serve?

Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. Acts 6:3

This is what we are to be like. It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to mature, to live and move using all the gifts that God the Father, the risen Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit have put within us, so that we will be people:

- of good reputation
- full of the Holy Spirit
- full of wisdom

Such men were chosen to “serve tables” in the early church. Acts 6:2

WORKSHOPS:

- From Romans 12:6-8 list the gifts that you know God has given to you.

In small groups affirm and encourage one another in these gifts.

- Refer to 1 Corinthians 12:8-10.

In small groups with the laying on of hands ask the Lord to release spiritual gifts to each person.

Pray for an increased desire to serve the body of Christ with spiritual gifts.

Chapter 6

THE PRAYING SERVANT

- Why pray?
- Praying for the saints
- Praying for those who preach and teach the word
- Praying for all men
- What happens to the prayers of the saints?

WHY PRAY?

The apostle, Paul, exhorts believers to:

“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.”

Colossians 4:2

- Read Colossians 4:11-12

Paul commends Epaphras, a *“fellow worker for the kingdom of God”*. (v.11)

A bondservant of Christ

Who is Epaphras?

Epaphras Always labouring fervently for you in prayers

Why does Paul commend him?

Why does Epaphras labour fervently for the believers in prayers?

That you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God

The Lord Jesus Christ is coming back for *“a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”*

Ephesians 5:21

As we, like Epaphras, have *“a great zeal for all the saints”* (v.13) *“labouring fervently in prayers”* (v.12), we will see the saints *“stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”*(v.12)

With all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord

Who are the saints?

Those who are sanctified

In Christ Jesus

Called to be saints

1 Corinthians 1:2

But the end of all things is at hand: therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. 1 Peter 4:7

PRAYING FOR THE SAINTS

- Read Ephesians 6:18-20

The apostle, Paul, encourages us to pray unceasingly for:

- All the saints
- Those who preach the word of God

How do we pray for the saints?

✓ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints
v.18

- always
with supplication in
the Spirit
being watchful
persevering

PRAYING FOR PREACHERS AND TEACHERS OF THE WORD

How do we pray for those who preach and teach the word?

And for me, that utterance may be given me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel v.19

For which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
v.20

for utterance
for revelation in teaching
for boldness

PRAYING FOR ALL MEN

- Read 1 Timothy 2:1-3

The apostle, Paul, exhorts us to pray for all men everywhere.
intercessions

Supplications

We are to make:

giving of thanks

prayers

For:

all men

kings

all who are in authority

Why are we to pray for others?

Who desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth v.4

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Father v.3

That we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence v.2

Jesus warned His disciples.

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. Matthew 26:41

A prayer-less church becomes apathetic and will not be fruitful.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS?

- Read Revelation 5:8

As golden bowls full of incense
How are the prayers of the saints described?

- Read Revelation 8:3-4

They ascended before God from the angel's hand

What happens to the prayers of the saints?

WORKSHOP:

Using the following Scriptures pray in small groups for:

(A) All believers.

Ephesians 1:15-19

Colossians 1:9-14

Philippians 1:3-6

(B) Those who preach and teach the word of God.

Ephesians 6:19-20

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Colossians 4:2-4

(C) Make a list of people you know who are not saved and pray for them by name.

(D) Pray for those in authority in your district, town, state, government.

LOOK UP OUR WEBSITE:

www.revivalministries.org.au

You will find :

1. ***Current newsletters*** and previous ones; you can read the newsletter on the net, receive it by email or by post.
2. All of our manuals are advertised and some are fully published on the website. Copies of manuals can be ordered [donation appreciated to cover costs]
4. Information on **current events, ministry schools, ministry trips** etc.
5. Reports on **overseas ministry**: RMA sends teams to **Myanmar, India, Philippines, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Central Congo and Mauritius.**
And much more!

SHILOH SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

is based at the SHILOH Centre in Toowoomba but can travel anywhere.

Short Term Training Schools [2 weeks in duration] are held at least twice yearly, at SHILOH Centre. The short term training provides a means for many saints to be equipped and released into fruitful ministry. Schools are held in other centres on request.

Apostolic/Prophetic conferences hosted every few months with recognized apostles and prophets ministering.

Monthly Training Days held on Saturdays 10am to 5pm. Teaching the apostles doctrine. Occasional guest ministries to teach and train.
Leadership gatherings held on Fridays prior to Monthly Training Day.

Weekly Teaching Sessions to open up the scriptures, bringing revelation with line upon line teaching of the Word.

Discipleship Courses to encourage new believers to become full on disciples, through reading scripture, recording what the Lord is saying, memorising verses, praying for the lost and witnessing to their faith.

Bible Research Classes teaching use of concordances, message preparation, preaching and teaching practice.

TEACHING / STUDY MANUALS AVAILABLE

1) *The Word and the Spirit*; 2) *Prayer a Way of Life*; 3) *Foundations of Our Faith*; 4) *The Power of Prayer*; 5) *This Gospel Must Be Preached*; 6) *Steps to Revival*; 7) *Strategy to Reach the Nation*; 8) *The Glory of the Lord shall be revealed*; 9) *Let us go on to Perfection*; 10) *And He gave some to be Apostles...*; 11) *The Cross to the Glory*; 12) *Planting the Church*; 13) *I will Build My Church*; 14) *Faith in Practice*; 15) *Leadership in the Last Days*; 16) *The Spirit and Power of Elijah*

Youth and Young Christians: **1) *Prayer Attack*; 2) *Foundations of our Faith for Youth*;**

3) *Born again to Serve*; 6) *Heroes of the Bible*

Children's Manuals: **1) *God Talk*; 2) *Joseph, Jesus and Me***

"Walking in Our Inheritance" a book by Paul Galligan

