

# TRINITY CHURCH

## *NEW BELIEVERS CLASS*

### **BEGINNING YOUR NEW LIFE**

Welcome to the Christian life! You are now a member of God's family because by faith you received the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. This has brought you into a wonderful and fulfilling relationship with God who created you. Receiving Christ as your Savior begins an eternal relationship with God. It is much more than just going to heaven when you die. Salvation is a gateway that begins your new life. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

You must understand that you have been saved FROM sin.

Everyone in the family of God is a sinner saved by God's grace. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."(Ephesians 2:8-9)

I know that you want to live for the Lord and become the best Christian that you possibly can. May this always be your desire!

There are many truths in the Bible that will greatly help you to live the life the Lord wants you to, which is the best you could possibly have.

### ***BEING "BORN AGAIN"***

A person who receives Christ as their Savior and receives eternal life begins as a new born baby in the Lord. Jesus told Nicodemus that to see the kingdom of God one must be "born again". (See John 3:1-19) This is called the "new birth", and means a person has become a new member of the family of God. You have much to learn about the Lord and now because you have received the new birth and have been sealed by the Holy Spirit of God you can learn about spiritual things of the Lord.

## **BEING SEALED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BEING BAPTIZED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

What does it mean that you are "sealed" by the Holy Spirit of God?

In Ephesians 1:13-14 it says “ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

You have now been marked and sealed by the Holy Spirit as one of God’s very own.

### ***Receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit:***

Jesus in Acts 1:5 told his disciples that within a short time they would receive the "baptism of the Holy Spirit". He said, "For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." (Acts 1:5) Jesus told them this just before he returned to Heaven. In Acts 1:4, He said that they were to wait until they had received the Holy Spirit. In Old Testament times, those who believed in God did not permanently receive the Holy Spirit. Now however, the Lord was going to do something new.

All believers would receive the Holy Spirit, who would be with them forever. In Acts 2:1 it is the account of the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit. All Christians since that day can now receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus earlier had promised the disciples that He would send them the Holy Spirit to guide them in their lives.

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:26)

Jesus also said, “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.”(John 16:13-14) The Holy Spirit is God, living within us. He, the Holy Spirit is God and is identified as the third

member of the God Head, made up of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, also known as the "Trinity."

### ***THE CHURCH IS BEGUN***

In Acts 2, when the Holy Spirit came, the Lord Jesus began the church. Everyone who has been saved since the Day of Pentecost, in Acts 2, became a member of the "Body of Christ". The Body of Christ is made up of all persons saved since Acts 2, until the Lord returns to take us to Heaven. The Bible uses the word "body" in the same sense as we do in referring to our human bodies. Our body is made up of all our body parts. All our body parts are referred to as one body.

The local church is made up of a group of Christians, who are in fact a part of the whole body of Christ. Some refer to this as the "Universal Church", because all Christians are in it. The local church however, which the Bible speaks the most about, is made up of a group of believers joined together in a small geographic location to serve the Lord. That is what our church is.

### ***NOW YOU ARE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE AND SPIRITUAL THINGS OF GOD***

The Holy Spirit begins teaching and instructing a person when they believe in the Lord Jesus and are saved.

"What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit." (1 Corinthians 2:12-14)

Paul further says, "What? Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19)

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE**

Because the Holy Spirit lives within us, He gives us the "new nature", which is the nature of God. We are now able to understand spiritual things because the Holy Spirit working in us helps us to do so.

### **THE OLD NATURE**

Before a person is saved they do not have the nature of God. They only have what the Bible refers to as the "old" or "carnal" nature. That is why we sin. Our carnal nature is the nature of rebellion and rejection of God which is sin. It came when Adam and Eve yielded to Satan's temptation and sinned.

Because a person who has not received Christ only has the old carnal nature he cannot please God. "Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God." (Romans 8:7-8) Note what else Paul said, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12)

Sin is the reason things in the world are not as they should be. God intended that mankind would live a peaceful, satisfying and abundant life. However, because of the present of sin, man has not done what God intended and sin has cause all the grief and sorrow we see today.

Sin is basically rebelling against God by not living as we should. Our loving Creator God wants the best for us. God's commandments are given to us so we would know what is best for us. It is the same thing that a loving parent does for their child. The parent instructs the child not to do certain things that are harmful and would hurt them. If the child rebels and does them they will be hurt. Sin, then is the destructive things which causes us harm.

One of the problems with sin is that it can give pleasure for a time. It is like the child who loves to play in the street. It is fun and because it is fun, a child each time it is allowed outdoors may go straight there. But although it is fun to be there it is a deadly place to be. Many of the vices we are so familiar with such as smoking, drinking, drugs and gambling (to name only a few) do give pleasure. However, the pleasure distracts us from the fact of their deadly effects.

As a child of God the Bible says to put away the destructive things out of your life. Paul told the Colossians to "mortify", meaning "put to death", sin within our

lives. (See Colossians 3:5-17) To the Romans he said, "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace."(Romans 6:12-14)

### ***THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK IN OUR LIVES***

Because Jesus now lives inside of us, we have the nature or desire to do as God wants from us. We now have the ability to live as we should and as God intended. We can overcome sin and the temptation that comes from our old carnal nature. Because God lives within us we can conquer sin in our lives.

God's promise to the believer is that:

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

It should give us great encouragement to know we can overcome sin in our lives. It is a lifelong process as opportunity to sin is always present. But be sure that as time goes by, you will overcome the sins in your life through God's help. Each sin overcome and each temptation refused is but another step toward overcoming it. In time as you mature by living for the Lord, these sins that may give you so much trouble now will bother you very little.

We should then look at each temptation that comes our way as but an opportunity to advance one more step toward a happier and more fulfilling life. As we overcome each temptation as it comes we grow stronger and are better able to conquer it the next time it comes to mind.

### ***HAVING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF SALVATION***

Having the Holy Spirit helps us understand the Truths of the Bible and even helps us to better understand how we were saved. Few Christians begin their life in Christ knowing all the Bible teaches about Salvation. A person at first knows in

their heart they are sinners and in faith they reach out to the Lord, trusting in His promise to save them.

As time goes on you will learn more about God, the Lord Jesus and salvation. The Bible says, "Who is it he is trying to teach? To whom is he explaining his message? To children weaned from their milk, to those just taken from the breast? For it is: Do this, do that, a rule for this, a rule for that; a little here, a little there." (Isaiah 28:9-10)

These verses tell us that the principles (truths) of God are learned in time through study. We learn one principle and that helps us to learn another one. All the truths of Scripture are tied together and the more we read and learn the better we will be able to understand each truth. Having the Holy Spirit living within us gives the Christian a great deal of comfort. God is always with us and no matter what comes our way we know God, working through the Holy Spirit, will guide us through it. (Read Romans 8:28)

### ***A REVIEW OF THE THINGS WE KNOW ABOUT SALVATION***

1. A person must realize he is a sinner.

Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Before a person is saved, he must first realize he is a sinner and needs to be saved. We are born into sin and must be "born again".

2. A person must realize without salvation he will go to hell.

Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." This death is not only physical death, but spiritual as well. The Bible says, "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:14.) Had you died before trusting the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you would have experienced the second death, which is eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire. But praise the Lord, you will now never have to worry about Hell again, because God has saved you and given you eternal life. God promises, "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:15-16)"

3. A person must believe that Jesus died for them and rose again.

Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Do not forget that we as sinners were condemned, but Jesus was not! He is the Son of God who never sinned or could sin because He is God. He, God, came to this earth took our sins on Himself because we as sinners could not save ourselves. He died in our place and took our punishment. (See Isaiah 53, I Peter 2:24). He arose on the third day after conquering death, because He is God. (See 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Romans 5:18)

4. A person must confess Christ as Lord & Savior and receive Him into their hearts.

Romans 10:9 & 13 say, "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

You did not receive salvation because you started attending church or because you might have been baptized. It was by asking Jesus Christ, by faith, to come into your heart and be your Lord and Savior that saved you.

### ***YOUR ASSURANCE OF SALVATION***

Now that you are saved, God wants you to have the assurance that your sins have all been forgiven. You are not saved when you get to heaven, but you are saved right now and for all eternity to come. John 3:36 says, "He that believes on the Son has everlasting life..." "Has", means right now and "everlasting" means forever and forever.

Jesus died for all your sins, even the ones you have not yet committed. Yet, some Christians who lack in spiritual growth do not have this blessed assurance. John 10:28 says, that as soon as you received Christ into your hearts you were given eternal life and shall never perish. 1 John 5:13 says, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God." As Titus 1:2 says, we can know we are saved because God said it and He cannot lie.

Do not base your salvation on how you feel. Feelings can change from day to day, but God's word never changes (Matthew 24:35). A good feeling may be good, but it is not necessary to be saved. Did you know the Bible never says you must have a feeling when you get saved! You are saved because you have done what the Bible says and God has declared you as one of His children.

***There are some things which might cause you to doubt and not have the assurance God wants you to have.***

1. Always thinking about your past life can cause doubt. God has forgiven all your sins and has forgotten them. He also wants you to forget them. Forget the past! It is all under the atoning blood of Christ (Isa. 1:18, Psalm 103:12).

2. Wondering if God really received you causes doubts. When you come to the Lord with a desire to be saved and asked Him to save you, you can be sure He did, because God, who cannot lie, has promised to. Just take Him at His word. John 6:37 says, "...and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."

3. Basing your salvation upon feelings or emotion causes doubts. Don't forget - feelings change - but the Bible which is God eternal word never does. Read: Ephesians 2:8 and Romans 5:1 -- FAITH - Assures - NOT feelings.

4. Trust God: Live as He commands - you will have assurance.

- a. 1 John 2:3. Do you really want to obey?
- b. Rom. 7:15-25. A War is going on.

## MY TESTIMONY

I received the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior on \_\_\_\_\_  
(date, at \_\_\_\_\_ (location). Person/s who helped lead  
me to Christ were \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (names).

Write out Ephesians 2:8-9

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## QUESTIONS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR WALK:

1. Romans 3:23 tells me that all people are \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Romans 10:9 tells me I must confess \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I know I am saved because \_\_\_\_\_.
4. John 10:28 tells me God has given to me \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Name one thing that might cause you to doubt. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Can you overcome all sin in your life? \_\_\_\_\_.  
What verse teaches this? \_\_\_\_\_.
7. When did the church begin? \_\_\_\_\_.(verse, day or place)
8. Where does the Holy Spirit live? \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Can lost people live for the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_.  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Write down a good verse that teaches assurance of salvation? \_\_\_\_\_