
WE BELIEVE

A
series
of lessons
condensed
from the
Declaration
of Faith

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PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE

WE BELIEVE is provided as a pre-membership and indoctrination curriculum to be used in Foursquare Gospel Churches. In thirteen lessons, a foundation is laid of how the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel began with the ministry of Aimee Semple McPherson, and what the Foursquare Gospel is. Lessons are then devoted to the impact this Gospel has in the life of a Spirit-filled believer and how it is worked out in the life of the Church.

The INTRODUCTORY LESSON lays a groundwork of understanding regarding the founder and history of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. The remainder of the lessons are grouped in three units:

- UNIT ONE: Jesus Christ (4 Cardinal Doctrines)
UNIT TWO: The Daily Christian Life
UNIT THREE: The Church

HOW THIS COURSE IS DESIGNED

THE LESSON

Each lesson begins with an overview page that lists the lesson's **STATEMENT OF FAITH, SCRIPTURES, LESSON AIM, WORD DEFINITIONS,** and **ADVANCE PREPARATION** suggestions for the teacher.

Lessons are written in outline form. You may teach from these pages or from the teacher's version of the Student Handout which is inserted following each lesson. To teach from the handout, study the lesson and then transfer any notes and scripture references to the handout.

You will see that scripture has been used extensively in these lessons. We encourage you to present these scriptures so that the students will be edified and realize how scripturally based the Foursquare Gospel is.

STUDENT HANDOUT

Each lesson has a Student Handout (located in the back of this book). The front of each handout provides the lesson outline for the student to write scripture references and notes. The backside of each handout offers a **Personal Application** section.

The **Personal Application** section on the handout is offered as a means to challenge the student to apply the Biblical truth presented in the lesson. In some cases, this section is used for lesson review.

A teacher's copy of the Student Handout, with any subjective answers to questions asked, is provided at the end of each lesson. Camera-ready copies of the handouts are provided in the back of this book for convenient reproduction and distribution. Copyright permission is granted on these handouts.

TEACHING THIS COURSE

1. Read through the lessons so that you will have a grasp of the entire course. Though some lessons suggest illustrations, you may have an idea you would like to use. Knowing this in advance will give you the time to prepare your ideas.
2. A WORD ABOUT LESSONS ONE, TWO, THREE & FOUR ... These lessons deal with the four cardinal truths of the Foursquare Gospel. Written into each of these four lessons is an explanation of the Foursquare flag, the Foursquare emblem, the Foursquare insignias and how these relate to the cardinal truths about Jesus. To better illustrate these applications, secure a Foursquare flag to display in the classroom. The flag, emblem and insignias are reproduced on the Student Handouts in the first four lessons. Supply red, gold, blue and purple colored pencils for the students to color in the flag each week.
3. AS A PRE-MEMBERSHIP COURSE...If this course is used to indoctrinate prospective new members, it will be necessary to have the supplies needed for membership at the end of the course (see the ADVANCE PREPARATION sections for lessons 11 and 12).

ORDERING INFORMATION

Foursquare Flags

The flag measures 3' x 5' (not including fringe). These dyed-nylon flags cost approximately \$ 50.00. Foursquare Flags may be ordered from:

Foursquare Bookshoppe
1100 Glendale Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
(213) 484-1103

Foursquare Flag Mini-Poster

The 11" x 8½" mini-poster is a full-color reproduction of the Foursquare Flag with a brief history and meaning. Order product FSO355D (approximate cost \$1.00) from:

Foursquare Publications
1910 W. Sunset Blvd., Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90026
(213) 484-0105

Scripture

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Lesson Aim

Our aim is to introduce the founder and explain the history of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, thereby, laying a foundation for the following lessons.

Word Definitions

foursquare - marked by boldness and conviction; forthright; firm; steady; unswerving. The name of our denominational movement.

emblem - a symbol or figure adopted and used as an identifying mark; an object or the figure of an object symbolizing and suggesting another object or an idea

insignia - marked, distinguished; a badge of authority or honor; a distinguishing mark or sign

Advance Preparation

1. If you have students that may not be aware of the impact that the ministry of Aimee Semple McPherson made, check at the local library in the newspaper archives to see if Aimee Semple McPherson held a tent campaign or revival in or near your city. If so, make copies of the newspaper clippings to show the class. This will help "bring home" the impact of Sister McPherson's ministry.
2. Secure a Foursquare flag, picture or plaque of the Foursquare emblem and insignias to be displayed in the classroom. Many churches display these items in the sanctuary or in an office. Arrange to have them in the classroom for the duration of the course.
3. Make copies of the Student Handout. If you did not encourage class registrations, make a few more copies than what you estimate attendance to be. You can adjust the number next week.
4. Will you be recording class attendance? If so, have attendance sheet ready.

NOTE TO TEACHER:

This lesson provides a quick overview of the life of Aimee Semple McPherson, a review of "The Vision of Ezekiel" which is a retelling of how the term "Foursquare Gospel" was given to Sister McPherson, and a look at where the next lessons will lead.

The purpose of this introductory lesson is to lay out a framework of how God orchestrated the life of Aimee Semple McPherson to lead this great Foursquare movement. The following 12 lessons then fill in this great picture of the Foursquare Gospel.

Introductory Lesson

I. AIMEE SEMPLE McPHERSON

Born in Ingersoll, Ontario, Canada, Aimee Elizabeth Kennedy was converted at the age of 17. Shortly thereafter she married Robert Semple, the young man who preached the salvation message to which she responded. They soon left for China to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Within months, Robert Semple became ill and laid down his life that resurrection life might be proclaimed. Aimee returned to America as a widow with her newborn daughter, Roberta Star. After a time, she married Harold McPherson. Just over a year later, Rolf K. McPherson was born.

Insistently, the call to preach was in her heart. Resisting it, wanting instead to live "a normal life," Aimee found herself increasingly restless. Sickness struck, and at the point of death, God pressed, "Will you go and preach?" Her answer was the beginning of a lifelong surrender, "Yes, Lord, I will go." Thereafter, her worldwide ministry resulted in unnumbered thousands of lives redeemed, miraculously healed, baptized in water and filled with the Holy Spirit. As she traveled from coast-to-coast and around the world, nightly crowds of thousands would come to hear the good news of the Foursquare Gospel!

It is a challenge for most of us today to comprehend the magnitude of the ministry of our founder, Aimee Semple McPherson. She did the seemingly impossible for a woman in the first half of the twentieth century. She absolutely refused to bow before the pressure of circumstances, but instead walked by faith, leaning on the arm of the Lord and listening to His voice. Mrs. McPherson relocated to Los Angeles, California in 1918 where a base for evangelistic work was established. Thousands would come to hear the gospel, see the power of God set people free, heal their blind eyes, and deliver them from the bondages of sin! Aimee's dream of a beautiful temple dedicated for the work of the Lord was realized when Angelus Temple opened in January of 1923. Radio station KFSG was opened in February 1924, making it the third radio station in Los Angeles. The good news of the gospel is still proclaimed today over the airwaves through KFSG. To better train the hundreds of men and women responding to the call of the gospel, L.I.F.E. (Lighthouse of International Foursquare Evangelism) Bible College was started. While pastoring, conducting a daily "Sunshine Hour" radio broadcast, writing, editing, publishing the Bridal Call magazine, and teaching in the Bible College, Aimee continued to oversee many administrative duties and preach many times a week. The basis for every part of her ministry was the truth, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

The secret of Sister McPherson's ministry was her unique ability, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, to make Jesus real to her audiences - to make Him so real that congregations recognized His wonderful presence in their midst, not just in theory but in actual fellowship. Her overwhelming desire was to lift up Christ that all men might be drawn unto Him. Mrs. McPherson wrote,

"Right at the outset, there was borne in upon me the realization that the methods so often used to impart religion were too archaic, too sedate and too lifeless ever to capture the interest of the throngs. And it was the hungry throngs that Jesus wanted, not the sedate, the lifeless few. So I developed methods which have brought hundreds of thousands to meetings who otherwise would never have come, and when we went on we left them singing, their hearts filled, not with me, but with God.

"Our Lighthouses (churches) are ones of joy and not of solemn rite. We sing because we are happy in the Lord. Our worship comes from the inside of our hearts, not from the outside of our frock coats.

"Thousands of people come to the Temple every night, and other countless thousands listen over the radio, because the old-fashioned gospel is practicable and applicable to everyday life."

On September 27, 1944 God called His handmaiden to be with Him. The night before, she preached a message in the city of Oakland - the very same city in which she first received the vision of the Foursquare Gospel. A cycle had been completed, a plan had been fulfilled.

II. THE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL

(Taken from **The Foursquare Gospel**, compiled by Raymond Cox)

A. OUR HISTORY

The International Church of the Foursquare Gospel developed out of the evangelistic ministry of Aimee Semple McPherson. But while she became the founder of the movement, she would have been the first to repudiate the idea that she originated the Foursquare message. Though the Foursquare movement, like all other Pentecostal and Full Gospel organizations, commenced in the twentieth century, the Foursquare message began in Bible days.

The aim or goal is nothing less than to recover for the present day church all the benefits and blessings which crowned with glory, the apostolic church. The Foursquare Gospel, succinctly spoken, is man released from the hold of sin, redeemed to be all he was originally intended to be, empowered to offensively permeate this planet with resurrection life, and infused with the hope of the imminent return of the King.

It was in the uplifting of Jesus Christ as the answer to every human need that the very expression "Foursquare Gospel" originated. Sister McPherson had proclaimed the Foursquare message for about fourteen years before she suddenly grasped the term "Foursquare" to describe that gospel!

The inspiration came in Oakland, California, in late July 1922 during her final revival campaign in the United States prior to the opening of Angelus Temple in Los Angeles.

SEE THE BACK OF THE STUDENT HANDOUT, "THE VISION OF EZEKIEL" TO RECOUNT THAT NIGHT AS SISTER MCPHERSON TOLD IT.

When this phrase "Foursquare Gospel" was born, Sister McPherson was unaware how prominently the word "foursquare" appeared in the Scriptures. Further study showed that the expression begins in the Bible with the description of the foursquare altar in the book of Exodus in the Old Testament and ends with the surveying of the foursquare city in the book of Revelation in the New Testament.

Though the name was born in the white heat of Pentecostal revival in Oakland, California in 1922, the movement sprouted from the mighty move of God at Angelus Temple by which the Lord stirred the whole southland. But the message is milleniums older than either the name or the organization. The message is identical to that of Jesus and his apostles in the New Testament.

B. ORGANIZATION

The International Church of the Foursquare Gospel was incorporated in the State of California on December 30, 1927. Rolf K. McPherson became the second president of the Foursquare organization in 1944, diligently carrying on the work begun by his mother. After forty-four years of faithful service, Dr. Rolf McPherson, affectionately called "Doctor," retired as the President of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel on May 31, 1988. Dr. John R. Holland now serves as the president of this great Foursquare movement.

The Board of Directors has the governing power and duty to further its objectives and purposes, to control, supervise, and direct the general management of the corporate affairs. There is a Foursquare Cabinet which serves in an advisory capacity to the President and the Board of Directors. The Executive Council also serves as an advisory council to the President and Board of Directors in matters to be presented to the Convention Body. The Convention Body, together with the Board, has the power to make or amend the Bylaws of the corporation.

Several extension ministries are provided at a national level to assist the local churches in Christian education, youth, men's and women's ministries, insurance, and a range of other services. Our headquarter offices are located at 1910 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90026.

Each local church is a subordinate unit of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, Incorporated. The pastor of the church is appointed by the Board of Directors and is responsible for the spiritual and physical welfare of the church. To assist and advise him, there is a church council which is elected by the local church membership.

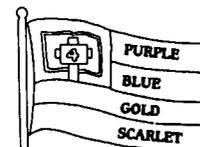
III. FOURSQUARE APPLICATION

A. CARDINAL DOCTRINES OF THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL

The four cardinal doctrines of the Foursquare Gospel — Jesus Christ the Savior, Jesus Christ the Great Physician, Jesus Christ the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ our Soon Coming King — are symbolized in the colors of the Foursquare flag, the four faces in the emblem and the symbols of the cross, cup, dove and crown in the insignias.

B. THE FOURSQUARE FLAG

Aimee Semple McPherson designed and sewed the first Foursquare flag in early 1931. It can be said that the sun never sets on the Foursquare flag, because it waves its message of the four-phase ministry of Jesus Christ around the world.



C. THE FOURSQUARE EMBLEM

The Foursquare emblem shows the four faces from Ezekiel's vision surrounding a four in a square planted on the Word of God. The four faces, as described in the paper, THE VISION OF EZEKIEL, represent the four phases of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These faces, forming the sides of the square encasing the Word of God, represent the "Foursquare Gospel" - planted firmly on the Word of God.



D. THE FOURSQUARE INSIGNIAS

The four insignias also represent this four-fold ministry of Jesus Christ. The cross represents Jesus our Savior who died on the cross. The cup represents the partaking of communion which we are instructed in scripture to do faithfully to remind us of the provision of healing accomplished by Jesus. The dove symbolizes the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The crown represents the Soon Coming King.



The flag, emblem and insignias will each be reviewed in detail in the next four lessons.

AN OVERVIEW OF LESSONS 1-12

Having given the framework of how God brought together the Foursquare movement, the remainder of these lessons will continue completing the picture by studying the foursquare ministry of Jesus Christ, the individual's ministry unto the Lord, and how we collectively minister together as His Church.

The following 12 lessons are divided into three units:

UNIT ONE will deal with the four cardinal doctrines of the Foursquare Gospel: Jesus Christ, the Savior; Jesus Christ, the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit; Jesus Christ, the Great Physician; and Jesus Christ, the Soon Coming King.

UNIT TWO deals with the Daily Christian Life: Three Aspects of the Christian Life (Sanctification, Faith and Moderation) are dealt with in Lesson 5; the next two lessons deal with Christian Disciplines - Prayer, Bible Study and Sharing Your Faith; Lesson 8 covers Characteristics of the Spirit-Filled Life, the Fruit of the Spirit and Gifts of the Spirit.

UNIT THREE will cover aspects of the Church, universal and local, including ordinances, missions, stewardship and membership.

NOTE TO TEACHER:

If membership will be offered at the conclusion of this course, inform the students of this opportunity at this time.

Scripture

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Lesson Outline

I. Aimee Semple McPherson



II. The International Church of the Foursquare Gospel

A. Our History

B. Organization

Incorporated _____ in Los Angeles, California on December 30, 1927 _____

Presidents:

First President was _____ Aimee Semple McPherson _____ (1927 to 1944)

Second President was _____ Rolf K. McPherson _____ (1944 to 1988)

Current President is _____ John Holland _____ (Installed May 31, 1988)

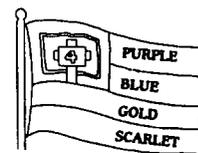
III. Foursquare Application

A. Cardinal Doctrine of the Foursquare Gospel

The four cardinal doctrines of the Foursquare Gospel — Jesus Christ the Savior, Jesus Christ the Great Physician, Jesus Christ the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ our Soon Coming King — are symbolized in the colors of the Foursquare Flag, the four faces in the emblem and the symbols of the cross, cup, dove, and crown in the insignias.

B. The Foursquare Flag

Aimee Semple McPherson designed and sewed the first Foursquare flag in early 1931. It can be said that the sun never sets on the Foursquare flag, because it waves its message of the four-phase ministry of Jesus Christ around the world.



C. The Foursquare Emblem

The Foursquare emblem shows the four faces from Ezekiel's vision surrounding a four in a square planted on the Word of God. The four faces, as described in the paper, THE VISION OF EZEKIEL, represent the four phases of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These faces, forming the sides of the square encasing the Word of God, represent the "Foursquare Gospel" - planted firmly on the Word of God.



D. The Foursquare Insignias

The four insignias also represent this four-fold ministry of Jesus Christ. The cross represents Jesus our Savior who died on the cross. The cup represents the partaking of communion which we are instructed in scripture to do faithfully to remind us of the provision of healing accomplished by Jesus. The dove symbolizes the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The crown represents the Soon Coming King.



THE VISION: A MESSAGE KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD

by Aimee Semple McPherson

One particular night, in the midst of the Oakland revival, God led me to speak on the prophet Ezekiel's vision, as recorded in the Book of Ezekiel, the first chapter, the fourth to tenth verses. Verse ten was dwelt upon at great length, as the Spirit spoke through me in revealing power. It reads:

"As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion on the right side; and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle."

Approximately 8,000 people filled the huge tent and, hundreds more crowded around the edges where the side walls were rolled up. People leaned forward in expectancy as God poured the message forth from my innermost being.

My own soul was awed as the Spirit painted in word-pictures the glorious account of that which Ezekiel saw.

In the clouds of heaven the prophet had beheld "a whirlwind, a great cloud, and a fire in-folding itself, and a brightness." Out of this phenomenon "came the likeness of four living creatures," moving back and forth across the skies with "the appearances of a flash of lightning."

Above the firmament that was over their heads Ezekiel saw "the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it." From his loins upward, and from his loins downward, he was clothed in the brightness of fire and round about the throne there was a rainbow!

This, explains Ezekiel, "was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord." So wonderful, so magnificent was the revelation, that the prophet could only repeat, "it was the appearance of the likeness of" some thing!

As I spoke, God revealed to the assembled multitude that the four faces typified the four-fold ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the face of the MAN we beheld that of the "Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief," the Savior of the world!

In the face of the LION we beheld that of the mighty Baptizer with the Holy Ghost and fire; Jesus is the "lion of the tribe of Judah." As a lion denotes strength and power, it is a fitting symbol for Christ as the Giver of the Holy Spirit.

In the face of the OX we beheld the Great Burden-Bearer, who "Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses." Jesus is the Great Physician and the Healer of our bodies.

In the face of the EAGLE we saw reflected a vision of the Coming King of kings, whose pinions would soon cleave the shining heavens as He returns to catch His waiting bride away!

A PERFECT GOSPEL! A complete Gospel for body, for soul, for spirit, and for eternity! A Gospel that faces squarely in every direction!

As the wonder - the power - the majesty of it cascaded o'er the battlements of glory, filling, flooding, enveloping my very being, the whole tent seemed enveloped as well—aquiver with the praise of God!

I stood there still and listened, gripping the pulpit, shaking with the wonder and the joy of it, then - "Why, why, it's the FOURSQUARE GOSPEL!" burst from the white heat of my heart.

Instantly the Spirit bore witness! Waves, billows, oceans of praise rocked the audience. Born aloft

upon the wings of a Holy Ghost revival, the term, "The Foursquare Gospel," which the Lord gave to me that night as vividly distinguishing the message which He had given me to preach, has become known around the world.



Statement of Faith

We believe Jesus Our Savior • is co-existent and co-eternal with God • was conceived by the Holy Spirit • born of the virgin, Mary • took upon Himself the form of man • bore our sins • provides forgiveness for sin • rose again on the third day • ascended back to heaven • is seated at the right hand of God • serves as the Mediator between God and man • makes intercession for us.

Scripture

"Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel" (Matthew 1:23).

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus who gave himself a ransom for all" (1 Timothy 2:5,6a).

"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).

Lesson Aim

Our goal is that class members will know in greater measure why man needs a Savior and how Jesus Christ qualified Himself as the Savior. Then we will look at how to apply to our everyday needs the ramifications of what Jesus accomplished on the cross.

Word Definitions

sin — missing the mark, denotes an act of disobedience

Savior — one who saves from danger or punishment

mediator — one that acts as a middle man between two individuals

intercession — praying on behalf of another

Advance Preparation

1. Have red colored pencils for the students to color in the Foursquare flag on the Student Handout.
2. Copy the Student Handout page — one per student.
3. Is the Foursquare flag displayed in the classroom?
4. Write the Word Definitions on a blackboard, flipchart, etc.

Jesus Christ, The Savior

INTRODUCTION

God created man (male and female) to rule over the earth (Genesis 1:26) and to fellowship with Him. His instruction to Adam was one of obedience (Genesis 2:16-17). Adam and Eve walked with God (Genesis 3:8) and there was no sin in them. When they chose to disobey God and ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they became sinful creatures and were therefore separated from God, because God, Who is perfect, cannot be one with sin. History records mans' attempts to bridge this gap of sin and once again be one with God. Since we are all descendents of Adam, it is impossible for anyone of us to please God (Romans 5:12-14; 8:8). Each one of us is a sinner and deserves death (Romans 6:23).

But, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son" (John 3:16-18, NIV).

Now, let us look a little closer at the results of the fall of man and the results of sin so that we can begin to understand why we need a Savior and how Jesus qualified Himself as our Savior.

I. MAN'S NEED

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12).

A. THE RESULTS OF THE FALL

- 1. The sinful condition of men is directly attributed to the sin of Adam (Romans 5:12).**
- 2. All men are guilty of sin (Romans 3:19).**
- 3. All men are captives of sin (Romans 7:23).**
- 4. All men are condemned because of their sin (John 3:18).**

B. THE RESULTS OF SIN

- 1. We are separated from God, dead in our sins (Ephesians 2:1, Colosians 2:13).**
- 2. The deeds of men are sinful (Romans 8:3-8).**
- 3. Our just reward for sin is death (Romans 6:23).**

Pretty bleak picture, isn't it? Man, in his sinful condition, has but one inevitable end, namely death. The righteous judgment of God upon sin is death. Being that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, death must fall upon every man. If this were the end of the matter, there would be no ray of light in the darkness of eternal doom. But, God's revelation does not stop there. He tells us that there is a way out from under this terrible condemnation.

II. GOD'S PROVISION

God's provision for sin is redemption through Jesus Christ!

A. JESUS CHRIST, THE PERSON

- 1. Son of God (Matthew 17:5, Luke 1:32)**
- 2. Conceived by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35)**
- 3. Born of a virgin (Isaiah 9:6, Luke 1:27)**
- 4. Became a man (Galatians 4:4)**

What Was The Object Of His Life?

"The Scripture declares that Christ came to die for the sins of man. But before He could die the sacrificial death which would atone for the sin of the world, He had to establish in human circumstances a righteousness that would fulfill the law, and thereby make the giving of His life a substitutionary atonement.

"The object, therefore, of his life **was to meet sin face to face and conquer it by His sinlessness.** When pressed by the leading teachers of His day and endeavoring to reveal to them His Diety, He said, *'Which of you convinceth me of sin?'* (John 8:46). He declared Himself to be the sinless Son of God and through the thirty years of His life demonstrated his claim by living without sin (Matthew 26:59-60, 1 Peter 1:18-19)."

— Aimee Semple McPherson

B. JESUS CHRIST, THE SAVIOR

1. He gave His life (Titus 2:14, John 3:16-17, Ephesians 2:13).

God so loved us all that He gave His only Son, Jesus, Who in turn gave His life for us. He took upon Himself our sins and the punishment of sin. He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto the death of the cross.

He hungered; He thirsted; He became weary; He suffered heartache, pain and sorrow. He was spat upon, mocked, scourged, scorned, rejected, despised and led up Golgotha to bleed. He died a cursed death on a Roman cross-tree, as a sacrifice for sin. This He did for us.

In giving His life, He completed the work of salvation. When Jesus uttered the words, "It is finished," He was not bemoaning the fact that His life was over, but was exulting in the fact that redemption's plan was finished and that the way back to God, for sinful man, was now completely open.

Jesus had now become our MEDIATOR. *"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus who gave Himself a ransom for all"* (1 Timothy 2:5).

2. He arose from the grave (Acts 1:3).

As a glorified, resurrected man, He arose the third day from the dead; was seen of man; and by many infallible proofs showed himself not only to be the Son of man, but also the Son of God.

3. He ascended into heaven (Acts 1:11).

As a glorified man He ascended into heaven from the Mount of Olives. This was also witnessed by others. He was taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight. As they looked up they saw two men dressed in white. *"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, Who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven"* (Acts 1:11, NIV).

The ascension of Jesus did not mark the ending of Christ's ministry. Today, He:

- sits at God's right hand (Mark 16:19)
- intercedes for those who believe (Hebrews 7:25-27; 1 John 2:1-2; 1 Timothy 2:5)

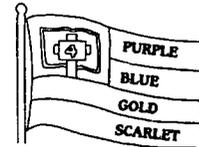
III. FOURSQUARE APPLICATION

A. CARDINAL DOCTRINE OF THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL

Jesus Christ the Savior is the first truth, or first cardinal doctrine of the Foursquare Gospel. Without belief in salvation, no one can enter into the Kingdom of God. It is one of the four basic doctrines of Scripture.

B. SYMBOLIZED IN THE FOURSQUARE FLAG

Across the bottom of the Foursquare flag, like a solid foundation, is the glowing scarlet (red). This represents the shed blood of our Savior, ever reminding us that Jesus shed His blood for us. We have salvation because of Christ's blood. The scarlet color represents the first cardinal doctrine, JESUS CHRIST, THE SAVIOR.



C. SYMBOLIZED IN THE FOURSQUARE EMBLEM



In Ezekiel, chapter 1, the author describes his revelation of Jesus which was depicted by the faces of four different creatures. The first face showed that of a man. Jesus, the man, was and is acquainted with the grief and suffering of the human race.

The Foursquare emblem shows as one of the four faces, that of a man which represents Jesus Christ as the Savior, the man Christ Jesus.

D. SYMBOLIZED IN THE FOURSQUARE INSIGNIAS

The cross is symbolic of Jesus Christ, our Savior who died on the cross to save those who will believe on Him. (See Matthew 1:21; John 3:16.)



Statement of Faith

We believe Jesus Our Savior • is co-existent and co-eternal with God • was conceived by the Holy Spirit • born of the virgin, Mary • took upon Himself the form of man • bore our sins • provides forgiveness for sin • rose again on the third day • ascended back to heaven • is seated at the right hand of God • serves as the Mediator between God and man • makes intercession for us.

Lesson Outline

I. Man's need

A. The results of the fall

1. The sinful condition of men is directly attributed to the sin of Adam
2. All men are guilty of sin
3. All men are captives of sin
4. All men are condemned because of their sin

B. The results of sin

1. We are seperated from God, Dead in our sins
2. The deeds of men are sinful
3. Our just reward for sin is death

II. God's provision

A. Jesus Christ the Person

1. Son of God
2. Conceived by the Holy Spirit
3. Born of a virgin
4. Became a man

B. Jesus Christ, the Savior

1. He gave his life
2. He arose from the grave
3. He ascended into heaven

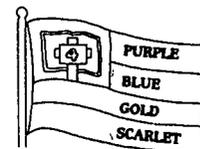
III. Foursquare Application

A. Cardinal doctrine of the Foursquare Gospel

Jesus Christ the savior is the first truth, or first cardinal doctrine of the Foursquare Gospel. Without belief in salvation, no one can enter into the Kingdom of God. It is one of the four basic doctrines of scripture.

B. Symbolized in the Foursquare Flag

The color scarlet represents the shed blood of Jesus



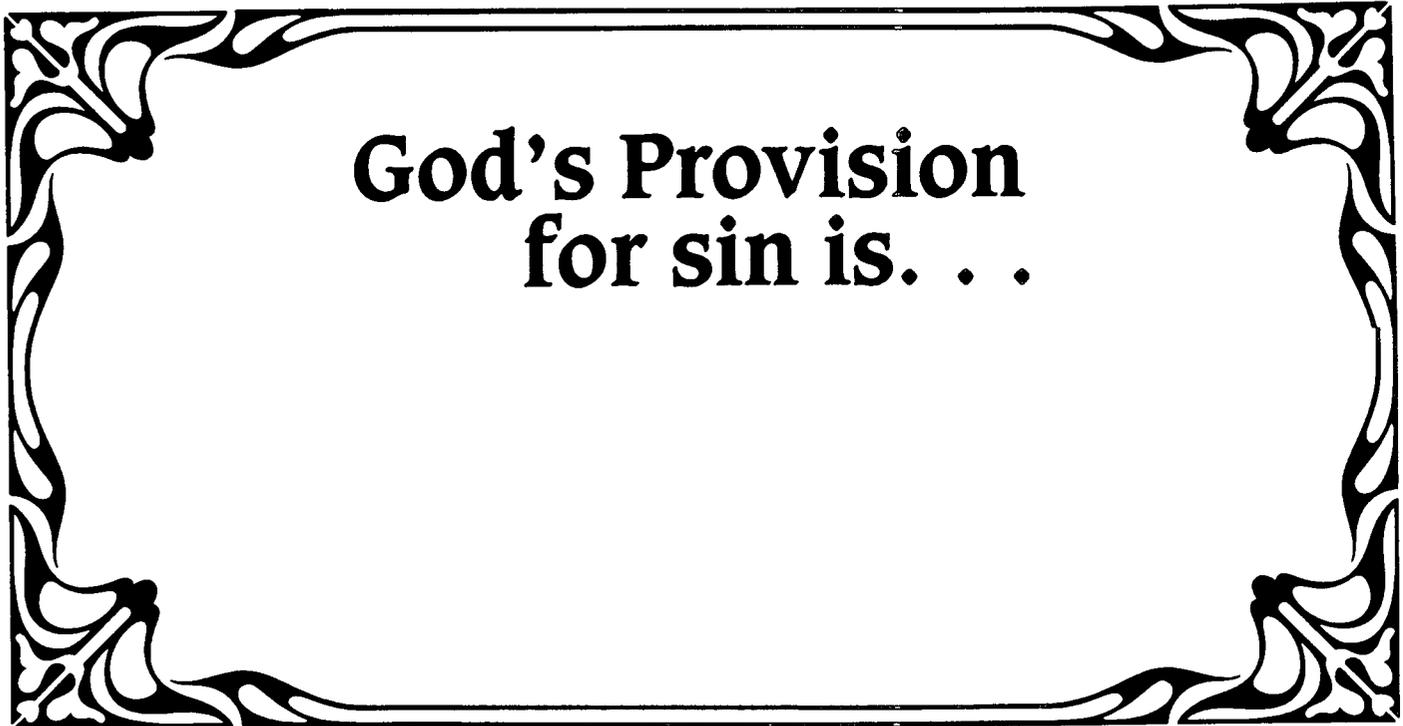
C. Symbolized in the Foursquare Emblem

The face of the Man represents the man Christ Jesus

D. Symbolized in the Foursquare Insignias

The cross symbolizes Jesus, who died on the cross





God's Provision for sin is. . .

1. What must you do to receive this provision? (Based on what Scripture?)

2. **REDEMPTION** — In several places in the Word of God the word redeem is used in reference to **purchase**. Man has become the property of Satan, or more graphically said, man has become a slave to sin. In another place the thought of **ransom** is used. If one were to be kidnapped and held for ransom, he would be freed only when the ransom was met. If he were ransomed, he would be redeemed.

According to Romans 7:23 man is captive to sin. The Redeemer pays the purchase price of Man's deliverance by offering Himself. *"In whom we have redemption through his blood. . ."* (Ephesians 1:7).

What is holding you for ransom? To what have you become a slave? Unforgiveness? Habits? Lust? Legalism? **JESUS HAS RANSOMED YOU!** Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, has purchased you and ransomed you.

How can you be set free today? _____

PRAYER:

*"Dear Jesus, my Redeemer —
I realize that you not only died to save me from my sin, but that you want to redeem all areas of my life.
confess my sin of ("Insert what the Holy Spirit prompts) and ask now that you forgive me. I thank you for your
blood that cleanses me."*

"Thank you for setting me free today. Help me to walk in newness of life. In Jesus' Name! Amen."

Statement of Faith

We believe the Holy Spirit • is the third person of the Godhead • is omnipotent and omnipresent • convicts of sin and righteousness • draws sinners to the Savior • rebukes, pleads and searches out the hearts of mankind • comforts, guides and teaches • baptizes and endues with power.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a promise from Jesus • to endue believers with power • to glorify and exalt the Lord Jesus • to give inspired utterance in witnessing of Him • to foster the spirit of prayer • to equip the individual and the Church for soul winning.

Scripture

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).

"And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in languages they didn't know for the Holy Spirit gave them this ability" (Acts 2:4, TLB).

Lesson Aim

Our goal is to teach the person, work and ministry of the Holy Spirit, showing the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as a personal experience.

Word Definitions

Godhead — speaking of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit

omnipotent — unlimited power, ability, authority and influence

omnipresent — present in all places at all times

Holy Ghost — name for the third person of the Trinity; Holy Spirit

Comforter — One who walks alongside to help

unknown tongue — A language not learned but given as a gift by the Lord; a divine utterance

Advance Preparation

1. Have gold and red colored pencils for the students to color in the Foursquare flag on the Student Handout.
2. Copy the Student Handout page — one per student.
3. Where will students pray that want to be baptized with the Holy Spirit? Do you need to arrange for a prayer room?
4. Display the Word Definitions.

Jesus Christ, The Baptizer with the Holy Spirit

INTRODUCTION

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is the second of the four cardinal truths upon which the Foursquare Gospel is founded — Jesus Christ the baptizer with the Holy Spirit. It is of the most vital importance in connection with the spiritual life and service of every believer. In this lesson we will look at Who the Holy Spirit is as well as what His ministry is. We will deal with the specific topic of **the baptism of the Holy Spirit** toward the latter part of the lesson.

PLEASE NOTE: As we approach the topic of the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit, we should do so with a sense of inability to fully grasp the holy subject that is before us. In considering the person and work of the Holy Spirit, we are touching that which is very close to the heart of God. It is well that we use due caution in studying this subject, seeking ever the guidance of the Holy Spirit Himself. Several specific reasons for this need of caution might be mentioned:

- 1) The Holy Spirit never becomes visible. Because of this He can only be spiritually discerned. Natural wisdom can never comprehend Him.
- 2) So much that we know in relation to the Holy Spirit has to do with our personal experiences, and experiences are never safe guides from which to formulate doctrines.
- 3) Because of the fact stated above, it is so important that we keep very close to the Word of God in all our thinking concerning the work of the Spirit. Men's reactions to the power of the Spirit may differ, but the revealed truth of the Word never changes.

Now, get ready to be blessed and get excited as we study this wonderful, awesome Gift!

I. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

A. THE PERSON

1. The Holy Spirit is a member of the Godhead, or Trinity.

The three members of the Godhead include: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. *"For there are three that bear record in heaven; the Father, the Word (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one"* (1 John 5:7).

The Bible does not explain, but it does most certainly reveal the Trinity of the Godhead. It teaches that there is but one God, yet He has chosen to manifest Himself in three distinct personalities. That Jesus is a manifest personality is denied by none. It is a little harder to grasp the thought of the Father as a personality distinct from the Son, yet one with Him. But it is still more difficult for many to visualize the Holy Spirit as a definite personality. The reason for this is that we have been accustomed to thinking of personality in terms of corporality — that which has a body. Yet a moment's thought will lead us to realize that our own body is certainly not our personality. The real person, who we are, simply lives in and manifests himself through our body. Therefore, it should not be too difficult for us to accept the Holy Spirit as a personality, even though He has not been made manifest in a visible body of His own.

2. The Holy Spirit is a Person Who was sent to the world to remain with us forever after Jesus returned to heaven.

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you" (John 14:16-17, NIV).

Although we cannot see the Holy Spirit, He is a person. He has a mind, thus He possesses knowledge (Romans 8:27). He uses His mind to search out the deep things of God. He loves, thus He has feelings and emotions (Romans 15:30). He has a will (1 Corinthians 12:4-11) and He possesses power (Ephesians 1:18-20). Therefore, we should never refer to the Holy Spirit as a "thing" or "it" because He is a Person.

B. THE COMFORTER

The word "Comforter" comes from the Greek word "parakletos," which means, "one called along side to help" (see John 14:16).

C. THE TEACHER

The Holy Spirit is also referred to as One who Teaches. *"But the Counselor, The Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you"* (John 14:26, NIV).

II. WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MINISTRY?

A. IN REGARDS TO SALVATION

1. The Holy Spirit convicts men of sin.

Being that redemption and eternal life with God are only obtainable through faith in the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is understandable that the principal work of the Holy Spirit is to bring man to the place where he will believe on Christ and enter into the life obtainable only through such belief (see John 16:8-10).

2. The believer is born again by the Holy Spirit.

Being born again is the reception of the life of Christ in the human spirit (John 3:3-6). When a man is born again, the life which has been lost through sin is generated again and we say he is regenerated — he is born again (Titus 3:5). A born again Christian is literally one in whom the Holy Spirit dwells (Romans 8:9).

3. The Holy Spirit bears witness to the believer's sonship.

See Romans 8:16; Galatians 4:6.

4. The Holy Spirit baptizes the believer into the Body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13 teaches that every believer is made a member of the body of Christ — the Church — through an operation of the Holy Spirit which is called a baptism.

5. The Holy Spirit seals the believer.

When we are saved, God places His seal of ownership upon us. The seal of God's ownership of His saints is the presence of the Holy Spirit indwelling their hearts (Ephesians 1:13,14; 4:30).

B. SUBSEQUENT TO SALVATION

1. The Holy Spirit sanctifies the believer.

The word sanctification means to set apart and to purify. The Holy Spirit cleanses the heart of the believer. This is a progressive ministry and one which every Christian constantly needs. Just as a sinner cannot save himself, so a Christian cannot sanctify or purify himself apart from the Holy Spirit (see 2 Thessalonians 2:13 and 1 Peter 1:2).

2. The Holy Spirit transforms the believer into the image of Christ.

While we are reflecting the glory of the Lord so that others can see it, we are being changed by the operation of the Holy Spirit within our own lives (2 Corinthians 3:18).

3. The Holy Spirit bears fruit in the believer's life.

The fruit of the Spirit spoken of in Galatians 5:22,23 is a description of the characteristic of the Holy Spirit. This fruit manifests in the life of a believer as the result of the Holy Spirit living His life within the believer. This fruit is:

Love • Joy • Peace
Longsuffering (Patience) • Gentleness • Goodness
Faith • Meekness • Temperance (Self-Control)

4. The Holy Spirit strengthens the believer for greater revelations of Christ.

As we continue to renew our minds, the Holy Spirit makes known to us the glory of the Heavenly Father so that we shall be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:16-19).

5. The Holy Spirit leads the sons of God.

What a privilege to be led by the omniscient, unerring guidance of the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit knows the way and will lead us in it if we will yield to His guidance (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:18; and John 16:13). He has sufficient power to take the believer successfully along the pathway of eternal life and will give that power to every believing soul (Ephesians 3:20).

C. IN CONNECTION WITH MINISTRY AND SERVICE

1. The Holy Spirit baptizes and infills, giving power for service.

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is a definite experience subsequent to salvation, whereby the Third Person of the Godhead comes upon the believer to anoint and energize him for special service. This experience is designated in the New Testament as the Spirit falling upon, coming upon, being poured out upon and filling the heart of the yielded believer in a sudden and supernatural manner.

a. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is the promise of the Father.

In Luke 24:49, Jesus says, "I send the promise of my Father upon you." This promise was fulfilled and continues to be fulfilled in the lives of believers today.

b. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is the gift of the Father and the Son.

If the baptism with the Holy Spirit is a gift, then it is free and cannot be worked for (John 14:16; 15:26; Acts 2:38; 5:32).

c. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is a command of the Lord.

The matter of receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit is not left to whim or fancy, but is a strict command of the Lord (Acts 1:4; Ephesians 5:18).

d. The purpose of the baptism with the Holy Spirit is that the believer may have power in his life.

Jesus promised, *"Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you"* (Acts 1:8).

- Power for Christian service (Acts 1:8, Luke 4:18,19; John 14:12).
- Power in the personal life (Galatians 5:16,17).
- Power for spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; 1 John 4:4).
- Power for ability, God-given ability to accomplish God-given tasks.

e. Evidences of the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is immediately evidenced by speaking in an unknown tongue (Acts 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:6). When you are filled with or baptized in the Holy Spirit, you will speak in a language you have not learned. The Holy Spirit will speak through you. We insist that every baptized believer will speak with tongues, but we do not seek tongues. Speaking in tongues is not the baptism with the Holy Spirit — it is the initial evidence, but not the only one. We seek the indwelling presence and power of the Spirit Himself.

All ministries of the Holy Spirit will be enhanced as a result of the baptism with the Holy Spirit because it is the Holy Spirit Himself evidencing His life through you. These evidences will include a greater passion for souls, a new power to pray, a greater power to witness, a love for the Word of God, the gifts of the Spirit being manifest, and Jesus Christ being revealed as never before!

The Pentecostal Baptism with the Holy Spirit is a definite experience in a Christian's life, but it is more than an experience — it is a **LIFE**. An experience is of little value if it does not leave a permanent impression on one's life. This is particularly true of the Baptism with the Spirit. A short season of spiritual ecstasy is very blessed while it lasts, but its value is questionable if it does not lead to a permanent possession of spiritual power. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit should — and does — lead into a Spirit-filled life. Paul admonished the Christians: *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit..."* (Ephesians 5:18). Literally he said, *"Be being filled with the Spirit."* This is to be a continuous experience. The book of Acts seems to indicate that there is one baptism, but many fillings.

— Quoted from **FOUNDATIONS OF PENTECOSTAL THEOLOGY**
Duffield & Van Cleave, L.I.F.E. Bible College
page 323

2. The Holy Spirit reveals and gives understanding of the Word of God.
(1 Corinthians 2:11-14).

Certainly there is none so able to teach us as the Holy Spirit, for the author of a book is better able to explain what he really meant by what he said than all the critics who might think they understood the writer's purpose (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21).

3. The Holy Spirit helps the believer to pray.

Praying in the strength and wisdom of the flesh is very trying and there are times we don't know how or what to pray. The Holy Spirit then anoints our hearts and minds and intercedes for us (Romans 8:26,27; Ephesians 6:18; and Jude 20).

4. The Holy Spirit gives power for preaching.

Effectual preaching of the gospel must be under the anointing of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5). The Spirit of God will anoint even the simplest words if given according to His will and purpose.

5. The Holy Spirit gives gifts.

In 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, Paul lists nine gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to believers to edify the Body of Christ, equip saints, and to exalt Christ. These gifts will be dealt with in detail in Lesson 8.

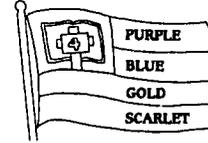
III. FOURSQUARE APPLICATION

A. CARDINAL DOCTRINE OF THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL

Jesus the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit is the second cardinal doctrine of the Foursquare movement. John the Baptist said, *"I indeed have baptized you with water; but He (Jesus) shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost"* (Mark 1:8).

B. SYMBOLIZED IN THE FOURSQUARE FLAG

Directly above the scarlet is the glittering gold, representing the person of the Holy Spirit, *"I saw (it) as the color of amber... as the appearance of fire..."* (Ezekiel 1:27). The gold color in the flag represents the fire of the Holy Spirit and this second truth of the Foursquare Gospel.



C. SYMBOLIZED IN THE FOURSQUARE EMBLEM



The second face seen in Ezekiel's revelation (Ezekiel 1:10) is that of a lion. The face of a lion in the Foursquare emblem represents Jesus Christ as the Baptizer with the Holy Ghost. It also represents Jesus Christ as the All-powerful One, the living, vital Son of the Living God. The lion represents power, mighty in strength. In Revelation 5:5, Jesus is called a lion, *"Behold, the lion of the tribe of Judah."*

D. SYMBOLIZED IN THE FOURSQUARE INSIGNIA

The dove is symbolic of Jesus Christ as the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit (see Acts 1:4-5). When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan river, Mathew 3:16 records that, *"the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him."* So it is today that the dove symbolizes the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon the yielded believer.



Statement of Faith

We believe the Holy Spirit • is the third person of the Godhead • is omnipotent and omnipresent • convicts of sin and righteousness • draws sinners to the Savior • rebukes, pleads and searches out the hearts of mankind • comforts, guides and teaches • baptizes and endues with power.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a promise from Jesus • to endue believers with power • to glorify and exalt the Lord Jesus • to give inspired utterance in witnessing of Him • to foster the spirit of prayer • to equip the individual and the church for soul winning.

Lesson Outline

- I. Who is the Holy Spirit?
 - A. The Person
 - B. The Comforter
 - C. The Teacher
- II. What is the Holy Spirit's Ministry?
 - A. In Regards to Salvation
 1. The Holy Spirit convicts men of sin.
 2. The believer is born again by the Holy Spirit.
 3. The Holy Spirit bears witness to the believer's sonship.
 4. The Holy Spirit baptizes the believer into the Body of Christ.
 5. The Holy Spirit seals the believer.
 - B. Subsequent to Salvation
 1. The Holy Spirit sanctifies the believer.
 2. The Holy Spirit transforms the believer into the image of Christ.
 3. The Holy Spirit bears fruit in the believer's life.
 4. The Holy Spirit strengthens the believer for greater revelations of Christ.
 5. The Holy Spirit leads the sons of God.
 - C. In Connection with Ministry and Service
 1. The Holy Spirit baptizes and infills, giving power for service.
 - a. Promised by the Father
 - b. Gift of the Father and the Son
 - c. Command of the Lord
 - d. For power
 - ... in Christian service
 - ... in personal life
 - ... in spiritual warfare
 - ... in ability
 2. The Holy Spirit reveals and gives understanding of the Word of God.
 3. The Holy Spirit helps the believer to pray.
 4. The Holy Spirit gives power for preaching.
 5. The Holy Spirit gives gifts.

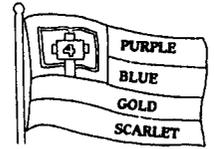
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A. Cardinal Doctrine of the Foursquare Gospel

Jesus the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit is the second cardinal doctrine of the Foursquare movement. John the Baptist said, "I indeed have baptized you with water; but He (Jesus) shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost" (Mark 1:8).

B. Symbolized in the Foursquare flag

The color gold represents the fire of the Holy Spirit



C. Symbolized in the Foursquare emblem

The face of the lion represents Jesus Christ as the Mighty Baptizer

D. Symbolized in the Foursquare insignia

The dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit



Personal Application

1. Why did Jesus ask God to send the Holy Spirit? _____

Describe how the Holy Spirit works in and through your life.

2. I NEED YOU, HOLY SPIRIT!

As we studied the lesson today, did you find yourself silently crying out for the Holy Spirit to meet a need in your life? Think of one thing that you need today — maybe it is...

...Comfort (to face a hard situation, to fill the loss of a friend or relative, loneliness, hurt, disappointment)

...Counsel (on how to handle a situation or relationship)

...Power (to witness, to stand up for righteousness, to love, to forgive, or do what is right)

...Assurance (that God does really love you, that the Holy Spirit will continue to work in you)

...Or any other need that you have!

Write that need in the space provided below. Then, reviewing the lesson, find the Scripture that shows the Holy Spirit able to meet that need. Look up the Scripture and write it out.

Holy Spirit, today I need you to _____

Statement of Faith

We believe Jesus, the Divine Healer • heals the sick today • heals in answer to believing prayer and in accordance with His will • is the same today as He was in Bible days • meets the needs of the body, soul and spirit.

Scripture

"...for I am the Lord that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26b).

"Is anyone sick? He should call for the elders of the church and they should pray over him and pour a little oil upon him, calling on the Lord to heal him. And their prayer, if offered in faith, will heal him, for the Lord will make him well; and if his sickness was caused by some sin, the Lord will forgive him." (James 5:14-15, TLB).

Lesson Aim

Our goal is to teach the subject of Divine Healing according to God's Word and to show the believer that Divine Healing is for today.

Word Definitions

divine — God-like; heavenly

faith — a firm belief or truth in a person or thing

covenant — an agreement between two people

elder — a spiritual person appointed by the local pastor

Advance Preparation

1. To help the class focus in on the lesson, arrange for someone that has experienced a healing to share their testimony with the class. Someone in the class may have a testimony they want to share, too.
To insure a time limit, you might want to "interview" this person. Let the person know in advance what will be asked so they can be prepared to answer. As an "attention-getter," dress like a newspaper reporter (hat, microphone, etc.). Pretending you are skeptical of "divine healing," interview this person who has reported being healed by God! Then lead into the lesson by asking the question, "Does God really heal people?"
2. Have red, gold and blue colored pencils for the students to color in the Foursquare flag on the Student Handout.
3. Display the Word Definitions.
4. At the conclusion of this lesson we have included a sheet dealing with four DIVINE HEALING QUESTIONS that are most often asked. If time permits, you may want to review these questions in class. A copy of this sheet is also provided in the back of this book with the Student Handouts. Tear it out and make copies to distribute to the class.

Jesus Christ, The Great Physician

INTRODUCTION

Divine healing is the third cardinal doctrine of the Foursquare Gospel. One of the big factors in the growth and rapid spread of the Foursquare Church and the other Pentecostal movements is that of the preaching and practice of divine healing. We believe that it is the duty of the Christian Church to be very active, if not to take the initiative, in the prayer for the sick.

I. DIVINE HEALING DEFINITIONS

A. DOCTRINAL

The words, "Divine Healing" refer to the One Who heals. Jesus Christ, Who is divine (supreme or diety), and heals sick bodies in response to the prayer of faith. *"I am the Lord that healeth thee"* (Exodus 15:26).

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:3-5).

It is clearly stated that Jesus made provision for our health (wholeness) by shedding His blood and taking stripes upon His back. Therefore, we believe it is the desire of our Lord Jesus that we live in wholeness — body, soul and spirit.

Those who reject the doctrine of divine healing assume that Jesus healed only to prove His divine origin, or to manifest His supernatural power. In both cases, these are false assumptions. His healing ministry was motivated by a deep compassion for suffering humanity. He had a desire to restore people and to demonstrate His healing power.

B. SCRIPTURAL

There are several Greek words used in the New Testament for "healing." Let's look at a few so that we can see the scope of their definitions.

Therapeuō	—	to care for the sick, to treat, cure, heal (chiefly used in Matthew and Luke; John 5:10; Revelation 13:3)
laomai	—	physical treatment, made whole, spiritual healing (Matthew 15:28; Matthew 13:15; John 12:40; Acts 28:27; Hebrews 12:13)
Sōzō	—	to save, to make whole, saving from disease and its effects (Mark 5:23; Luke 8:36)
Diasōzō	—	to save thoroughly, to escape (Luke 7:3)

There are also three noun forms used:

Therapeia	—	medical service, care, attention
Iama	—	signified a means of divine healing; Divinely imparted gifts in the churches
Iasis	—	stresses the process as reaching completion, 'unto healing'

As we can see from these definitions, Jesus died to not only forgive us of our sins and heal our bodies, but to make us whole — to heal us from the inside out. Divine Healing, then, encompasses any healing touch of Jesus where healing is brought to our body, soul or spirit, instantaneously or progressively.

II. DIVINE HEALING DOCUMENTATION

A. OLD TESTAMENT

Healings took place in the Old Testament and divine healing was also prophesied by the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 53:4-5).

The Old Testament records proof of divine healing:

Elisha prayed for a dead child who was healed — 2 Kings 4:35

Naaman, the leper, was healed — 2 Kings 5:1-14

Hezekiah's life was extended 15 years — Isaiah 38:1-5, 21

David thanked God for healing — Psalm 103:3

B. NEW TESTAMENT

Numerous healings are found throughout the New Testament:

Matthew 8:5-13	—	The Roman Centurion's servant healed
Mark 1:40-41	—	A leper cleansed by Jesus
Luke 5:24	—	The man with palsy healed by Jesus
John 4:49-50	—	A nobleman's child healed
Acts 9:33-35	—	Ananias healed when Peter prayed
Acts 14:8-10	—	A crippled man healed when Paul prayed

Healings occurred as frequently in the book of Acts as they did in the Gospels. Since the Day of Pentecost, divine healing has been a normal manifestation of God's power.

III. DIVINE HEALING DIRECTIVES

A. DIVINE HEALING CONDITIONS

There are apparently two conditions, the fulfillment of which is necessary for the reception of healing, namely petition and faith. It is doubtful whether Jesus ever healed anyone without being requested to do so. If we have not, it is because we ask not. If we ask, we receive; if we seek, we find.

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering: For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord" (James 1:6-7).

"Ye have not because ye ask not" (James 4:2).

Two things can hinder God's bestowal of bodily healing — failure to ask, or failure to believe what we ask.

B. HOW TO PRAY FOR DIVINE HEALING

There are three clearly marked ways to pray for and receive divine healing (see James 5:13-18):

1. **Call for the elders of the church**, who augment and inspire the faith of the seeker, and whose prayers also avail much, to anoint with oil in the name of the Lord;
2. **Pray for one another**, confessing your sins to each other so that you may be healed;
3. **Call upon the Lord directly**, for the Lord has promised that if we shall ask anything in His name, He will do it. "Is any sick? Let **him** pray."

We also are instructed in Mark 16:18 that we are to lay hands on the sick. Notice that it does not require to anoint with oil or to pray. All it said is those who believe shall lay their hands on the sick in the name of Jesus. Jesus used this method in Matthew 8:15; Mark 6:5; 8:23; Luke 4:40; 5:13; 13:13. Today, when the believing one lays his hands on the sick in the name of Jesus, it is as though the hands of Jesus were laid thereon.

There are also times when fasting must be joined with prayer. Isaiah 58:6,8 talks of God's chosen fast that produces specific results. Verse 8 then reads, *"...and your healing will quickly appear."*

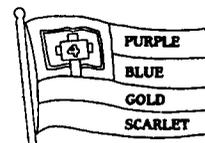
IV. FOURSQUARE APPLICATION

A. CARDINAL DOCTRINE OF THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL

The truth that Jesus Christ is the Great Physician is the third of our four cardinal doctrines of the Foursquare Gospel. Without Him one cannot receive divine healing for his body. We must first recognize Christ as the Great Physician, *"by whose stripes ye were healed"* (1 Peter 2:24).

B. SYMBOLIZED IN THE FOURSQUARE FLAG

Third from the bottom, next to the gold, is the shimmering blue of divine healing. Blue was the color used for the Robe of the Ephod of the High Priests' garments. The blue in the Foursquare flag reminds us that in Jesus, our High Priest, we may have health for our body, soul and spirit. He provided it all. *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree...by whose stripes ye were healed"* (1 Peter 2:24).



C. SYMBOLIZED IN THE FOURSQUARE EMBLEM



The third face that Ezekiel saw in his vision was the face of an ox (see Ezekiel 1:10). How is the Lord compared to an ox? It is the characteristics of the ox and the symbolism of what that means rather than the ox itself. Of all the creatures known to man, the ox is the most wonderful type of the burden-bearer — the patient, faithful, unfaltering, sacrificial burden-bearer. In this way the scriptures reveal Christ as the one who is *“the same yesterday, and today, and forever”* (Hebrews 13:8), bearing our burdens and carrying our sicknesses. Jesus is the Great Physician and the Healer of our bodies, who, *“Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses”* (Matthew 8:17).

D. SYMBOLIZED IN THE FOURSQUARE INSIGNIA

The cup is symbolic of Jesus Christ the Great Physician. At the Lord's Last Supper as recorded in Mathew 26: 26-38, Jesus instructs us to partake regularly of *“His body and His blood”* symbolized in the communion bread and cup. As we drink of the cup and eat of the bread, we are aware that Jesus gave his life that we might have eternal life and health.



NOTE TO TEACHER

If time permits, review with the class the questions posed on the sheet titled DIVINE HEALING QUESTIONS.

DIVINE HEALING QUESTIONS

1. "WHY DO THE GODLY SUFFER?"

It seems contrary to what we just read in this lesson, doesn't it? We do not pretend to know fully the secret of suffering, but we do know that healing and divine health are conditional blessings just as forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life are conditional blessings. In order to be saved, one must meet the conditions of salvation which are faith in and surrender to the Lord. Many apparent professing believers are such only in appearance, having not complied fully with the conditions. Likewise, in order to receive healing one must meet the conditions of faith and asking.

There are also some cases of sickness, such as that of Job's, in which the Lord permits a temporary trial of sickness in order to make one more patient with others who suffer, to bring out a maturity of character not otherwise possible, or to use one's healing for His glory. We must not question the wisdom of divine providence in our trials, but we may continue to seek healing on the grounds that Christ purchased healing for us on the cross.

Let's also not forget that Jesus suffered. It is impossible for us to imagine the full extent of our Lord's suffering. We know that at the whipping post He was beaten with the Roman scourge until His back was one solid bruise; we know that He was compelled to carry His cross upon that bruised back; we know that He was nailed to the cross and crowned with a crown of thorns. We know that He was left until He died suspended by His nail pierced hands and feet. All this we know, but how much He suffered mentally and inwardly as a result of sin, injustice and rejection we can never know. We can be sure from the words of Isaiah that He became acquainted in His ordeal at Golgotha with every kind and degree of sickness and suffering possible to the human body.

It is not our purpose merely to describe the shameful suffering inflicted upon Jesus, but rather to point out that He, to whom we go in prayer, is completely familiar with all our pains, sickness, anguish, oppression and crushing. When Christ is moved with compassion toward us frail beings, it is with a compassion derived from having experienced, Himself, all that we experience.

2. "IS SICKNESS THE RESULT OF SIN?"

Sickness is indirectly the result of sin, but not always necessarily the direct result of sin in the individual's life. Had there been no sin there would be no sickness nor pain. But with the fall came the curse and the fact of universal suffering. We now often suffer pain, sickness, or war without having committed a grievous sin. Inasmuch as the curse covers all nature, all are subject to its consequences, whether saints or sinners. Much sickness comes from natural causes such as disease germs, weather, food, and accident. Therefore, we do injustice to many of God's servants when we assume that all sickness and calamity are the direct result of the individual's sin or disobedience, although it is the result of sin, as a natural consequence of disobedience.

This does not mean, however, that God is the author of sickness. Satan is directly the author of sickness. God permits sickness, as in the case of Job, but He does not send it. Satan cannot go farther in the infliction of sickness than God permits. God may temporarily permit the affliction of His people, but when the trial has served its purpose, God sends deliverance in the form of bodily healing. God's deliverance is sometimes delayed, but ultimately, deliverance seems to be the will of God for those who believe.

3. "DOES JESUS HEAL TODAY?" or more specifically, "WOULD JESUS USE ME TO MINISTER HEALING?"

What does the scripture say?

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my father" (John 14:12).

"These signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast our devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17-18).

4. "WHAT ABOUT SPIRITUAL HEALING?"

Jesus taught us to pray: *"Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one"* (Matthew 6:13 — Literal translation). Obviously, God's highest good for us is to be delivered from the evil one. Now we are entitled to deliverance because it is purchased for us by the atoning work of our Redeemer. He came to destroy the works of the devil, the principal of which are sin and sickness. *"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil"* (1 John 3:8).

Christ taught that those who are bound by Satan, by any spirit of infirmity, ought to be loosed from their bonds. In Luke 13:11-16, we see the urgency in which Jesus moved to deliver the woman from her infirmity caused by a spirit of Satan or a demon spirit. Many scoff at the idea of evil spirits, but Jesus certainly believed in them, and He was the omniscient Son of God who knows more about the invisible influences at work in this world system than any philosopher, psychologist, scientist or physician knows. Only Christ's work of redemption prevails against the work of Satan; therefore it is urgent that true believers invoke the name of Jesus against sin and disease making manifest the victory of Christ.

Statement of Faith

We believe Jesus, the Divine Healer • heals the sick today • heals in answer to believing prayer and in accordance with His will • is the same today as He was in Bible days • meets the needs of the body, soul and spirit.

Lesson Outline

I. Divine Healing Definitions

A. Doctrinally

B. Scripturally

1. Therapeuō

2. Iaomai

3. Sōzō

4. Diasōzō

II. Divine Healing Documentation

A. Old Testament

B. New Testament

III. Divine Healing Directives

A. Divine Healing conditions

1.

2.

B. How to pray for Divine Healing (James 5:13-18)

1. Call for the elders of the church

2. Pray for one another

3. Call upon the Lord directly

IV. Foursquare Application

A. Cardinal doctrine of the Foursquare Gospel

The truth that Jesus Christ is the Great Physician is the third of our four cardinal doctrines of the Foursquare Gospel. Without him one cannot receive divine healing for his body. We must first recognize Christ as the Great Physician, "by whose stripes ye were healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

B. Symbolized in the Foursquare Flag

The color blue represents the Robe of the Ephod

C. Symbolized in the Foursquare Emblem

The face of the ox represents Jesus Christ as the great burden bearer

D. Symbolized in the Foursquare Insignia

The cup symbolizes the communion cup - provision of healing

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Consider the following statement. Re-write it in your own words answering these two questions: Is it scripturally correct? (See Isaiah 53:5) What does faith have to do with salvation and healing?

IF I'M NOT HEALED BY HIS STRIPES, THEN I'M NOT SAVED BY HIS BLOOD.

Salvation and healing are received by faith. Isaiah 53:5 states Jesus was wounded for our transgressions (died for our sins) and took stripes for our healing.

2. Earlier we looked at several greek words for "healing." Let's look again at the word "sozo." It is translated "save", "of the present experiences of God's power to deliver from the bondage of sin." This same word is used in Matthew 1:21, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall *save* his people from their sins."

Let's apply this "present experience of God's power to deliver from the bondage of sin" definition to our everyday life. We live in a world where evil abounds. We cannot help but be touched by things as we walk through our day. Consider the pressures, temptations, seduction, the cynicism we face every day. Can we apply the healing power of Jesus to save us, cleanse us and set us free (heal us) from these influences?

Write out Luke 4:18

Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to your awareness areas in your life that need the healing touch of Jesus to come and set you free. Consider the following:

- Are you driven by a spirit of greed that dictates to you a lifestyle contrary to that example set by Jesus?
- Are you haunted by lustful thoughts that you cannot stop?
- Are you being held captive by a past hurt that binds you even today?
- Are you aware of a physical malady that you suspect may be a physical manifestation of a spiritual problem?

How can you apply this truth to your life today?

Statement of Faith

We believe Jesus, our King will come again. This Second Coming of Christ • is a promise given by Jesus Himself • is the return of our Lord Jesus Christ • is personal and close at hand • is for believers prepared for His coming • includes the rapture, revelation and ascension into heaven • will bring together both the "dead in Christ" and those that are alive • will be followed by the Tribulation and Millennium.

Scripture

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

Lesson Aim

Our goal is to teach the personal, visible, and bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Word Definitions

revelation — that time when Jesus will return to earth with His saints to destroy the Antichrist and reign as King of Kings

rapture — caught away

tribulation — a period of suffering

millennium — the Latin word for 1000 years

Battle of Armageddon — the final battleground between the forces of good and evil

Advance Preparation

1. Have red, gold, blue and purple colored pencils for the students to color the Foursquare flag on the Student Handout.
2. Copy the Student Handouts.
3. Display the Word Definitions.
4. Are there extra Bibles and pencils in the room?

The Coming King

The Second Coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the Church. According to Paul the early believers were "looking for that blessed hope, the glorious appearing of the our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ." So, too, are we to encourage ourselves with the hope that Jesus is coming back and then we will be with Him forever!

I. THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING

A. PREDICTED BY THE PROPHETS

Jesus is the promised Redeemer set forth by the prophets (Isaiah 9:6; 53:1-12). When He came to earth as a babe, he literally fulfilled prophecy as found in the Old Testament. Now, if the prophecies concerning the first coming had literal fulfillment, why should not the prophecies concerning his second coming in the Old and New Testament have an equally literal fulfillment?

B. PROCLAIMED BY THE ANGELS

At the ascension, the angel told the men standing by, "*This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven*" (Acts 1:11).

C. PROMISED BY JESUS HIMSELF

Jesus promised He would come back again. He was having supper (Passover supper) with His disciples for the last time before He was crucified when He said, "*I will come again and receive you unto myself*" (John 14:3).

Imagine the scene. Jesus had been telling the men that He was having to go away. Can you sense the sadness they must have begun to feel? How they loved Him! They didn't want Him to leave them. Can you relate? But, Oh! What hope to know that He promised He would come back. (And Jesus never breaks a promise!)

D. PROMISED BY THE APOSTLES

Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 4:15, affirms that his description of the personal appearance of Jesus was received by a word from the Lord.

II. THE MANNER OF HIS COMING

A. PERSONAL

Jesus will personally make His appearance. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 reads, "*For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout...*"

B. PHYSICAL

That is, it will be a real return as indicated by Acts 1:11.

C. VISIBLE

"*Every eye shall see him*" (Revelation 1:7). The coming of the Lord will not be a secret!

D. SUDDEN

No man knows the day or time Christ shall return (see Matthew 24:36-39; 25:1-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:2,3 and Revelation 3:3).

We believe in the imminence of Christ's coming for His Church. We do not look for any definite fulfillment of prophecy that must precede the rapture of the saints. There are several prophetic events which must precede the day of Christ, the day of His revelation in flaming fire taking vengeance upon the disobedient, but His coming to take His bride into the marriage supper is absolutely the next event on the prophetic calendar. There are several scriptures that talk about the signs of the last days (see Matthew 24:3-14). We are, without a doubt, living in those days.

E. TRIUMPHANT

The Lord came the first time in condescension and humiliation, but He will come again in glory and exaltation! (See Matthew 24:30,31.) 1 Thessalonians 4:16 says that when Christ comes he will come with a loud command (a shout!), the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet of God shall sound. The entrance of the King!

III. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Christ's Second Coming consists of two stages. The Lord will come at the beginning of the tribulation for His saints

4. The Destruction of the Beast's Followers

Those who received the mark of the beast and worshipped his image are killed by the sword of the King of Kings (Revelation 19:21).

5. The Judgment of the Nations

Christ will judge the nations (Matthew 25:31,32). There will be, evidently, some nations that will give no official recognition to Antichrist, who will be judged worthy to keep their identity during the millennium. (See Zechariah 14:16; Revelation 15:4; Isaiah 2:2,3.)

6. The Conversion of Israel

Israel, as a nation, will turn to the Lord (Revelation 1:7; Isaiah 25:9). When the Lord comes in His glory to defend Jerusalem and to reign as King of Kings, then Israel will turn to the Lord and recognize Him as the Messiah.

7. The Removal of the Curse

In order to make perfect His reign of righteousness upon the earth and to assure the complete happiness of His subjects, the Lord will remove the effects of the curse from all nature and God's creation will be seen in its true beauty (Romans 8:19-21; Isaiah 32:15; 35:1; 55:13; 65:25).

TEACHER ALERT

The purpose of this lesson is to study the Second Coming of Jesus in both the Rapture and the Revelation stages. It is not our intention to detail every event recorded in the book of Revelation concerning what will take place after the saints return to rule with Jesus on the earth. These facts are covered in the Declaration of Faith series in detail.

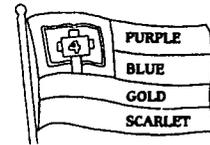
IV. FOURSQUARE APPLICATION

A. THE FOURTH CARDINAL DOCTRINE

The fourth truth of the Foursquare Gospel is the second coming of the Lord. We look forward with eager anticipation to this blessed event with great joy, knowing that *"unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time"* (Hebrews 9:28).

B. SYMBOLIZED IN THE FOURSQUARE FLAG

This fourth truth of the Foursquare Gospel is symbolized in the Foursquare flag by the regal color, purple, typifying the royalty of Jesus as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.



C. SYMBOLIZED IN THE FOURSQUARE EMBLEM

The fourth face Ezekiel saw was that of an eagle (see Ezekiel 1:10). The second coming of the Lord is depicted as an eagle's head in the Foursquare emblem. The picture is the Lord descending from Heaven (like an eagle) with a shout to catch away all believers which make up the living Church.



D. SYMBOLIZED IN THE FOURSQUARE INSIGNIA

The crown is symbolic of Jesus Christ as Coming King (see Matthew 24:30-31; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).



Conclusion

We need not be overwhelmed by the thought of the pending destruction of this world, for we have the promise of our Savior's triumphant return for us and the establishment of His kingdom (see 2 Peter 3:10-18).

Statement of Faith

We believe Jesus, our King will come again. This Second Coming of Christ • is a promise given by Jesus Himself • is the return of our Lord Jesus Christ • is personal and close at hand • is for believers prepared for His coming • includes the rapture, revelation and ascension into heaven • will bring together both the "dead in Christ" and those that are alive • will be followed by the Tribulation and Millennium.

Lesson Outline

- I. The promise of His coming
 - A. Predicted by the prophets
 - B. Proclaimed by the angels
 - C. Promised by Jesus Himself
 - D. Promised by the apostles
- II. The manner of his coming
 - A. Personal
 - B. Physical
 - C. Visible
 - D. Sudden
 - E. Triumphant
- III. Sequence of events
 - A. At the rapture
 - 1. The resurrection of the dead
 - 2. The transformation of our physical bodies
 - 3. The rapture of the Saints
 - 4. The reward of the Saints
 - 5. The tribulation
 - B. At the revelation
 - 1. The revelation of Christ's glory
 - 2. The punishment of the disobedient
 - 3. The destruction of antichrist
 - 4. The destruction of the beast's followers
 - 5. The judgement of the nations
 - 6. The conversion of Israel
 - 7. The removal of the curse

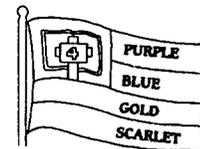
IV. Foursquare Application

- A. The fourth cardinal doctrine

The fourth truth of the Foursquare Gospel is the second coming of the Lord. We look forward with eager anticipation to this blessed event with great joy, knowing that *"unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time"* (Hebrews 9:28).

- B. Symbolized in the Foursquare Flag

The color purple represents the royalty of Jesus



- C. Symbolized in the Foursquare Emblem

The face of the eagle represents Jesus returning to earth

- D. Symbolized in the Foursquare Insignias

The crown symbolizes royalty - Jesus coming back as a King



Personal Application

1. Are we in the last days before Christ returns?

Look at Mathew 24: 4-7. In the column on the left, list the events mentioned in the scriptures.

There will be:	Is this true for our world today?
<u>false prophets</u>	<u>yes</u>
<u>wars & rumors of wars</u>	<u>yes</u>
<u>nations against nations</u>	<u>yes</u>
<u>famine</u>	<u>yes</u>
<u>pestilences</u>	<u>yes</u>
<u>earthquakes</u>	<u>yes</u>

2. Let's review...

Write in the order that the following events will take place.

- 1 There will be rumors of wars
- 5 The Marriage Supper of the Lamb
- 4 We will meet Jesus in the sky (the rapture)
- 2 The dead in Christ will be raised
- 8 The removal of the curse
- 6 The tribulation
- 3 The transformation of our bodies
- 7 The revelation of the King of Kings

Teacher:

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb will be taking place in heaven while the tribulation is taking place on earth, so students may interchange 5 and 6.

3. Suppose for a moment that God announced to the world He would be sending Jesus back (the rapture) at noon tomorrow. What would you do between now and noon tomorrow?

"YES! I AM COMING SOON!"
— Jesus (Revelation 22:20)

Statement of Faith

We believe that the moderation of the believer • should be known of all men • that his experience and daily walk should never lead him into extremes, fanaticisms, unseemly manifestations, backbitings, murmurings • his sober, thoughtful, balanced, mellow, forgiving and zealous Christian experience should be one of steadfastness, uprightness, equilibrium, humility, self-sacrifice and Christ-likeness.

We believe it is the will of God that we be sanctified daily and become partakers of His holiness • growing constantly stronger in faith, power, prayer, love and service, and ever living a godly life • that we will be a true reflection of the Christ within • therefore, it is the will of God that we live and walk in the Spirit, moment by moment.

Scripture

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God (II Corinthians 6:17 - 7:1).

"Now faith is the substance for things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:1 - 10).

"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand" (Philippians 4:5).

Lesson Aim

Our goal is that class members may understand sanctification, faith and moderation in the life of the Christian.

Word Definitions

moderation — free of extremes and avoidance of excesses in behavior or expression; reasonable limits

sanctification — set apart for particular use or service; purify

holy — perfection, spiritually pure

walk "in the Spirit" — living in such a manner that the spiritual has priority rather than the worldly

perfection — completeness; maturity

honesty — free of deception in speech and manner of life; upright

separation — set aside for a special purpose; choose; dedicate; distinct

Advance Preparation

1. Display the Word Definitions.
2. Copy the Student Handouts.
3. Choose one of the activities below as part of the lesson introduction.
 - a. Since this lesson makes the transition into the unit on the Daily Christian Life, have a life-size outline of a person drawn on the board or on a piece of paper. As the students arrive, have them write inside this silhouette words that describe a Christian. Use this to introduce the new unit of study.
 - b. On a piece of poster paper or the chalkboard, have the words FAITH, SANCTIFICATION and MODERATION written in very large letters across the top, leaving space between them. As the students arrive, asks them to write a definition of each word below the word. Use this as a means of introducing today's lesson.

Three Aspects of The Christian Life

INTRODUCTION

Salvation is not merely a belief or a certain form of worship. It is a LIFE — a total life. One of the greatest statements which Jesus made while here upon earth was this: *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"* (John 10:10). Christianity is a life — a daily life. It is not something that merely takes place as an initial experience, but that which continues every moment. This new, divine life is imparted at the new birth and then continues to grow and develop throughout the entire lifetime of the believer, and will, no doubt, continue to become enlarged and enriched throughout eternity. It is the working of this daily Christian experience that we will be studying, seeking to know how best to promote the growth of a strong, healthy Christian life. Let us look at three aspects of the Christian's life: Sanctification, Faith, and Moderation.

I. SANCTIFICATION

A. DEFINED

Sanctification is twofold: It means, first of all, separation unto God. Secondly, it means being continually purified or cleansed.

The first part takes place instantaneously when we are saved. God imputes (puts on a person's account) the holiness of Jesus to the new Christian and sets him apart for His service. It is like the vessels of gold and silver that were set apart for the service of the Lord in the temple of old (2 Chronicles 29:19).

The second part is something that must take place continually. The Bible does not teach that we will ever reach sinless perfection in this life, but it does encourage us to continually *"present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service"* (Romans 12:1). This becomes a daily experience, bringing us more and more unto the likeness of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:13).

A picture to help us see this process of sanctification is this:

A person comes to Jesus with nothing to offer but the filthy rags of his life. Jesus first lifts the sinner out of the trash heap of sin and then He begins to cleanse and polish His own until he shines with the radiance of the Savior. This He is doing in our daily Christian life.

B. APPLIED

Jesus was sanctified. John 10:36 speaks of *"him whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world."* *"For their sakes I sanctify myself"* said the Lord (John 17:19). Jesus was already perfect, but these verses declare that He was especially set apart for the purpose of coming into the world to provide redemption for mankind. The Church which He has redeemed literally signifies "the called-out ones," the sanctified ones, set apart for Him. How can we involve ourselves in this process of sanctification?

In the sanctification of the believer, the Bible makes reference to three agents which are used by God in bringing this about. They are the Blood, the Word and the Holy Spirit.

1. SANCTIFICATION BY THE BLOOD

"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate" (Hebrews 13:12). *"The blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified"* (Hebrews 10:29)

The shed blood of Jesus is our assurance of cleansing from sin. Hallelujah! Daily we come to Jesus for forgiveness and cleansing.

2. SANCTIFICATION BY THE WORD

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin"* (1 John 1:7). What is the light in which we must walk to know the continual cleansing of His blood? Undoubtedly, it is the light of His Word. *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"* (Psalm 119:105).

Sanctification by the Word is a little harder than that by the blood of Jesus, for it involves obedience to the precepts given therein. It is only as we walk in the light that the blood cleanses. We are sanctified by the blood through faith. We are sanctified by the Word through obedience.

3. SANCTIFICATION BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

"Being sanctified by the Holy Ghost" (Romans 15:16). *"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit"* (1 Peter 1:2). What a wonderful sanctifier the Holy Spirit is! As we yield moment by moment to the Holy Spirit, the characteristics of this world are replaced by the characteristics of the Spirit in our life.

II. FAITH

Faith is just as essential to every phase of the believer's life as it is to his salvation in the beginning. Every benefit for spirit or body is dispensed in response to faith on the part of the believer. In fact, Christians are called "Believers" because their lives are lived in continuous faith.

A. WHAT IS FAITH?

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Weymouth's translation of this same verse reads, *"Now faith is a confident assurance of that for which we hope, a conviction of the reality of things which we do not see."*

Faith looks into the unseen and reckons what it sees as in the realm of the seen. It brings the improbable into the realm of the probable; and it brings the impossible, from all human viewpoints, into the realm of the possible. *"Through faith we understand...things which are seen were not made of things which do appear"* (Hebrews 11:3).

Faith does not lie. Faith does not say you have a thing when you do not have it; nor does it say you do not have something when it is very evident that you do. Faith is not deception.

Faith is not something strange and unreal and intangible. Faith is substance — spiritual substance — just as real in the spiritual world as any substance we know in the material.

1. FAITH IS BASED ON THREE VERY DEFINITE THINGS:

a. **Knowledge** — Faith is not walking in the dark; it is rather, stepping in the light. Faith is not believing a thing without evidence. Faith is based on the best of evidence — the Word of God. He has spoken, and faith simply expects Him to fulfill His Word. There is nothing mysterious about it. It is just plainly and simply taking God at His Word.

b. **Assent** — There must be an assent of the mind to the truth of the promise. If one will not agree to the truth of what God has said, there can never be any faith. Assent is simply an act of agreeing (see Mark 12:32).

c. **Appropriation** — After knowing what God has promised, and after asserting to the truth of that promise, then faith reaches out and takes or appropriates what is promised. Real faith is in the realm of will and action. It appropriates. It takes. Faith always has the idea of action in it. "Faith has legs."

B. THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

1. FAITH IS THAT CHARACTERISTIC OF THE SOUL WHICH BRINGS MAN IN CONTACT WITH GOD.

As the five physical senses bring us in contact with, and make us conscious of, the physical world about us, so faith is that sense of the soul which brings us in contact with God.

Faith is the avenue of approach to God. There is no other way. *"He that cometh to God must believe"* (Hebrews 11:6).

2. FAITH IS THE THING, ABOVE ALL ELSE, WHICH PLEASES GOD.

"But without faith, it is impossible to please Him" (Hebrews 11:6). Some people feel that they can please the Lord by their much praying and by their self-sacrifice, when the greatest thing we can do to please Him is to believe. He can bear with our mistakes and have patience with our dullness of learning, but God does ask that, whether we understand or not, we do believe Him; and with that He will be well-pleased.

3. LACK OF FAITH IS SIN.

Unbelief (lack of faith) is not just a little weakness, nor a rather unhandy infirmity. Unbelief is sin! *"Whatsoever is not of faith is sin"* (Romans 14:23). *"Of sin, because they believe not on me"* (John 16:9). To believe is a command of the Lord, and to doubt is disobedience to this command, and thus it is sin (1 John 3:23).

4. THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS DEPENDENT ON OUR FAITH.

Without faith there could be no experience of the Christian life. *"If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established"* (Isaiah 7:9). We stand by faith (Romans 11:20). We overcome by faith (Luke 22:31,32). Failure to obtain God's blessings and the accompanying judgment, came upon God's people because of lack of faith (Hebrews 3:18,19).

C. THE POSSIBILITIES AND POWER OF FAITH

There is absolutely no limit to what we may have, and what may be accomplished, if we will believe. Faith lifts one out of the merely natural into the supernatural. It brings you in contact with the infinite, and brings the infinite into your life and surroundings. *"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them"* (Mark 11:24). *"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive"* (Matthew 21:22).

When we give our life to Jesus, He sets us apart for His purposes and sanctifies us. We then, continue this process as we walk daily in sanctification and in faith. At the same time, we believe that Jesus calls us to live in moderation.

III. MODERATION

A. DEFINED

The word "moderation" according to Webster means "an avoiding of extremes of behavior or expressions; reasonable limits; an absence of excess." It is not a way of compromise or the absence of zeal or enthusiasm. It is not indifference or mediocrity and it is not being eccentric. It is doing God's work, God's way, in God's strength and in God's time.

The word translated "moderation" is defined in the Greek Lexicon to mean "reasonableness, fairness, mildness, gentleness."

Many years ago Sister McPherson wrote an article in the "Bridal Call" entitled, "The Middle of the Road," in which she set forth the spirit and policy of the Foursquare way. Along with the article was printed an artist's illustration showing the Foursquare believer walking along a straight highway between icebergs of formality on one side and uncontrolled fanaticism on the other side. Our founder advocated a way of worship which was warm, zealous, spiritual and Pentecostal; yet a way which kept free from unscriptural and unedifying manifestations. It is indeed doubtful that there has been a revival in modern times as powerful, spiritual and productive of soul-winning as the revival under Aimee Semple McPherson which gave birth to the Foursquare Gospel Church. One thing is certain, that in our initial revival, in which multitudes were saved, healed and filled with the Holy Ghost, in which God's power was so mightily manifest that those who "came to jeer, stayed to cheer" and to accept Christ, there was no fanaticism or unbecoming manifestations. Our way was, and is, the "middle of the road" way.

B. APPLIED

We are specifically instructed in scripture to *"Let your moderation be known unto all men..."* (Philippians 4:5). This is to be practiced in every phase of life.

1. MODERATION IN DOCTRINAL BELIEF.

If our doctrinal position and denominational choice are the result of intelligent and unprejudiced study of the Word, there is certainly no reason for our shifting from one belief to another, nor from one church to another. They grow most and serve best who "stay put."

There is much room for sincere difference of belief within the bounds of sound doctrine. Christian love, tolerance, fellowship and cooperation are far more desirable than exact doctrinal conformity. Let us stand fast for the truth, being fair, reasonable and courteous. (See Ephesians 4:14-15.)

2. MODERATION IN EXERCISE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

Now moderation does not mean the neglect of spiritual gifts; it merely means the Scripturally intelligent use of the gifts. To use the phraseology of Paul, it means the profitable and edifying exercise of the gifts. It further means compliance with Scriptural teaching in the exercise of the gifts so that they may operate in the right place, at the right time, and in the right proportion to other spiritual functions. Moderation in the exercise of spiritual gifts means their use in such a manner as to preserve order, avoid confusion and unbecoming behavior, and to be a blessing to the whole assembly of believers.

Lack of moderation is seen in the failure to control the human spirit (*"the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets"* 1 Corinthians 14:32) and in uncontrolled emotional reactions. It is very difficult for many persons to distinguish between the blessing of God and one's reaction to the blessing of God. The operation of the Spirit is one thing, while the person's emotional reaction to the Spirit's operation is another thing altogether. (See 1 Corinthians 14:40.)

3. MODERATION IN LIVING HABITS.

A temperate life is essential to an effective testimony. We, whose hopes are spiritual and whose bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, should avoid extreme indulgence in food, drink, or diversion. *"Bodily exercise profiteth for a little, but godliness is profitable eternally"* (1 Timothy 4:7). The Christian race requires rigid training in self-control. Live according to your conscience, but do not crush everyone whose conscience allows more than yours allows or less than yours allows.

4. MODERATION IN PERSONAL LIBERTY.

Our personal liberty goes only as far as our brother's well-being. Even such things as may be innocent in themselves may be better avoided if they cause contentions, or if they stumble weaker Christians (see Romans 14:21). No matter what our personal liberty of conscience, a life above question is more valuable than selfish enjoyment. On the other hand, we need not be bound to live a prudish life merely to satisfy the hypercritical who have fallen into a gloomy aspect of life. Any diversion is bad when pursued to the neglect of prayer, Bible study and worship.

5. MODERATION IN TEMPERAMENT.

No matter how carefully we live, teach, practice, or worship, there will arise occasions which demand a settlement of differences. No church can function effectively without the imposition of discipline. Let us remember the Christian way in all discipline and settlement of differences is the way of tolerance, fairness, understanding and reason.

Statement of Faith

We believe that the moderation of the believer • should be known of all men • that his experience and daily walk should never lead him into extremes, fanaticisms, unseemly manifestations, backbitings, murmurings • his sober, thoughtful, balanced, mellow, forgiving and zealous Christian experience should be one of steadfastness, uprightness, equilibrium, humility, self-sacrifice and Christ-likeness.

We believe it is the will of God that we be sanctified daily and become partakers of His holiness • growing constantly stronger in faith, power, prayer, love and service, and ever living a godly life • that we will be a true reflection of the Christ within • therefore, it is the will of God that we live and walk in the Spirit, moment by moment.

Lesson Outline

I. Sanctification

A. Defined

Sanctification is twofold:

- 1.
- 2.

B. Applied

1. Sanctification by the blood
2. Sanctification by the Word
3. Sanctification by the Holy Spirit

II. Faith

A. What is faith?

1. Faith is based on three very definite things:
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

B. The importance of faith

1. Faith is that characteristic of the soul which brings man in contact with God.
2. Faith is the thing, above all else, which pleases God.
3. Lack of faith is sin.
4. The whole Christian life is dependent on our faith.

C. The possibilities and power of faith

III. Moderation

A. Defined

B. Applied

1. Moderation in doctrinal belief
2. Moderation in exercise of spiritual gifts
3. Moderation in living habits
4. Moderation in personal liberty
5. Moderation in temperament

Personal Application

1. Define sanctification. Separated unto God; being continually purified.

2. What three agents are used in the life of a believer in bringing about sanctification?

A. The Blood

B. The Word

C. The Holy Spirit

3. Faith is not something that we generate ourselves by knitting our brows and going through a lot of mental concentration or contortions. Neither can it be worked up by desperate shouting and various physical manipulations. So, then, how do we obtain faith?

A. Who gives each man a measure of faith? (Romans 12:3) God

B. Who is the author and finisher of our faith? (Hebrews 12:2) Jesus

C. Who gives the gift of faith? (1 Corinthians 12:9) The Holy Spirit

Faith is also a development in our lives. Look up the following scriptures and see how faith is developed.

Galatians 5:22 _____

Romans 10:17 _____

4. In reference to moderation, explain the following statement:

"I DON'T CARE HOW HIGH YOU JUMP,
BUT HOW STRAIGHT YOU WALK WHEN YOU COME DOWN."

Statement of Faith

We believe prayer and devotion • is commanded of our Lord • is time set aside to fellowship with God • is a means of inspiring one's faith • is necessary to one's everyday living and • is vital to the life of every believer.

We believe the study of Scripture • serves as a source of guidance and inspiration • serves as an aid in daily living • is important to spiritual growth • is the soul's nourishment • helps to keep us from sin • aids in our prayer life • provides encouragement and strength • builds faith in our hearts • serves as a mirror to our lives.

Scripture

"...men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Ephesians 6:18).

"Pray all the time. Ask God for anything in line with the Holy Spirit's wishes. Plead with him, reminding him of your needs and keep praying earnestly for all Christians everywhere" (Ephesians 6:18; TLB).

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

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

"Your words are a flashlight to light the path ahead of me and keep me from stumbling" (Psalm 119:105; TLB).

Lesson Aim

Our goal is to teach the need and importance of Bible study and prayer as well as to show each believer how he should study and pray.

Word Definitions

devotion — a setting of a time to occupy oneself with God's Word and prayer; an act of prayer and supplication other than corporate worship

meditate — to ponder

study — to read with the intention of learning

petition — to seek or request

prayer — talking with God

perseverance — to pursue steadily any design or course commenced; not to give over or abandon what is undertaken

supplication — to ask for earnestly and humbly

weapon — a means of contending against another

Advance Preparation

1. If your church is involved in a daily Bible-reading program, provide copies of the program/schedule for those in the class that may not already be participating.
2. Display the Word Definitions.
3. Copy the Student Handouts.

Christian Disciplines

Every sincere Christian is vitally interested in how he may continue to live a successful and useful Christian life each day. In order to continue to enjoy the fullness of life in Christ Jesus, a Christian must give close attention to Bible study, prayer and testifying. These are prime requisites in every life. And here is something that God or the Holy Spirit will not and cannot do for us. Most of salvation is accomplished for us by God alone — it is purely of grace — but once a person is saved, there are things he must do for the continuance of that life. In this and the next lesson we will look at THE BIG THREE OF THE DAILY CHRISTIAN LIFE: Bible Study, Prayer and Witnessing.

I. BIBLE STUDY IN THE DAILY CHRISTIAN LIFE

A. THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVOTIONAL BIBLE STUDY

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 is often used to reinforce the importance of teaching our children, but we cannot teach what we have not learned. Moses' instructions in this passage are a clear indication that the words of the Lord should be with us at all times in all places.

B. THE VALUE OF DEVOTIONAL BIBLE STUDY

1. IT BUILDS FAITH IN OUR HEARTS

Faith is a necessary characteristic of our heart if we are going to be successful in our Christian life. Faith is developed by a close and constant association with the promises of God. "*So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God*" (Romans 10:17).

2. IT KEEPS US FROM SIN

God has not seen fit to translate us to heaven the moment we are saved, but He has provided a way by which we may be kept in this evil world. Help will come from having the Word in our hearts and minds when we are tempted (Psalm 119:9). It will reveal the hidden ways of evil and guide us in the right way. It is our mightiest weapon by which we overcome.

3. IT BRINGS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Our spiritual life must be nurtured and fed exactly as our natural life must have food for its nourishment and growth. The scripture declares, "*...man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live*" (Deuteronomy 8:3).

4. IT ENRICHES ONE'S LIFE

We can enjoy a healthy prayer life when we have constant refreshing of our memory in the promises contained in the Word of God. Spending time in prayerful reading of the Word will enrich the prayer life of every Christian.

Solomon knew the value of the Word of God as he wrote, "*My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh*" (Proverbs 4:20-22).

C. PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF BIBLE READING

- 1. READ THE BIBLE DAILY FOR INSPIRATION**
- 2. TURN TO THE BIBLE FOR GUIDANCE**
- 3. PURSUE THE BIBLE FOR NEW INSIGHTS**
- 4. GO TO THE BIBLE IN TIMES OF SORROW, GRIEF, TRIAL OR TESTS**
- 5. SHARE THE BIBLE WITH OTHERS FOR SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP**

D. RESULTS OF BIBLE STUDY

1. CHRISTIANS ARE SPIRITUALLY EQUIPPED

Jesus overcame the tempter (Satan) by the use of the Word of God. "*It is written,*" (Matthew 4:4) was His successful weapon against the enemy. Paul calls the Word, "the sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17). We all need a working knowledge of the Word if we are to be equipped to make good spiritual decisions in our daily living. "*For the word of God is...a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*" (Hebrews 4:12).

2. CHRISTIANS WILL KNOW GOD'S WILL

The Word of God serves not only as a source book of theology, but also as a source of inspiration, courage, strength, promise, faith and healing. Jeremiah said, "*Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart...*" (Jeremiah 15:16).

II. PRAYER IN THE DAILY CHRISTIAN LIFE

Perhaps no one doubts the importance of prayer. While we will readily admit that it is needless to contend for the importance of prayer as an idea, we will not admit that it is needless to contend for the importance of prayer as a way of life. Prayer must not be sporadic, but regular; not occasional, but continual; not ego-centric, but Christ-centric; not grasping, but intercessory; not self-complacent, but humble and contrite. Lord, teach us to pray!

A. THE NEED OF PRAYER

The need for prayer may be considered under three main headings:

1. IN THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE

Prayer promotes personal fellowship with God, inspires faith, and assists in estimating true values.

2. IN THE CHRISTIAN'S CONFLICT WITH SATAN

The Christian's life is a warfare. The sooner the individual Christian recognizes this fact, the easier it will be for him to understand many of the things that happen in his life and the quicker will he learn the sure ways to victory. It is well to remind ourselves that *"we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"* (Ephesians 6:12). Prayer, then, is one of our great essentials for victory over the enemy.

3. IN THE CHRISTIAN'S SERVICE FOR GOD

Prayer is essential in our service for God. The early apostles recognized that without prayer their service would have little effectiveness, and so we hear the twelve say, when the question of caring for or ministering to the widows arose, *"Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word"* (Acts 6:3,4).

B. THE OBJECT OF PRAYER

1. FOR COMMUNION WITH GOD

The first, and ever the greatest, object of prayer is that men might have communion with God — that the children of God might have sweet fellowship with their Father who is in heaven.

2. FOR WORSHIP AND PRAISE

Jesus said, *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship him"* (John 4:23). Worship is expressing thanks and appreciation for Who God is.

Paul says, *"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men"* (1 Timothy 2:1). A very definite part of our prayer will be praise — "giving of thanks." How easy it is to thank God for all the mighty, wonderful things He does!

3. FOR INTERCESSION AND PETITION

Intercession is the special privilege Christians have of praying for others — of making petition in their behalf at the throne of God's grace.

Although this is the most familiar aspect of prayer, it is still well to remind ourselves that God does answer specific petitions brought before Him in prayer. The scripture says, *"Ye have not, because ye ask not"* (James 4:2).

C. THE WAY TO PRAY

1. IN THE SPIRIT

Paul encourages us to "pray with the Spirit" (1 Corinthians 14:15). The Spirit helps our infirmities (weaknesses, instability, frailty, etc.). The Spirit makes intercession for us (see Romans 8:26,27). We can and should pray in our unknown tongue as the Spirit gives utterance. You will experience a release in your innermost being when you pray in the Spirit (also see Jude 20).

2. IN OUR NATIVE LANGUAGE

People around the world pray in their own language; whatever it may be, God understands each one. Talk to God in your own way — using words that are familiar and comfortable to you. Share the concerns and secrets of your heart with Him; express your desire and needs. He delights in hearing His people pray. We find His promise in Psalm 55:17, *"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice."*

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S WILL

In the Lord's prayer (Matthew 6:10), we read the words of Jesus to the Father, *"Thy will be done."* 1 John 5:14 reads, *"...if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."* When we ask for something that is not in accordance with His will, we can expect a negative answer to our prayer. If we abide in Him and in His Word, we will not ask for that which is contrary to His will.

4. IN FAITH - BELIEVING

Mark 9:19-27 relates the incident of a father who brought his demon-possessed son to be healed. The disciples were unable to cast out the demon. Upon seeing Jesus, the father says, *"...if you can do anything take pity on us and help us."* *"If you can?" said Jesus, "Everything is possible for him who believes"* (NIV).

Faith simply expects God to fulfill His Word. Faith is simply taking God at His Word and acting upon it. To believe means to live by, implying a real surrender and dependence.

D. REASONS FOR UNANSWERED PRAYER

1. NO SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

In order to provide a firm basis upon which we may stand in believing God for answered prayer, it is first necessary that we belong to Him. Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father," and before this term can be used we must make certain that we are His children. We are not saying that God does not answer a sinner's prayer, for there have been countless instances when He has done just that, but it is only the result of God's mercy and there are no grounds upon which we can be sure He will.

2. KNOWN AND UNCONFESSSED SIN

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Psalms 66:18). If there is known sin, confess it to the Lord asking His forgiveness.

3. LACK OF FAITH

Faith is an absolute essential to answered prayer. It is not enough to pray; we must also believe. Mark 11:24 says, *"What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."* Jesus could do no mighty works in Nazareth because of the unbelief of the people there (Mark 6:5,6).

4. AN UNFORGIVING SPIRIT

An unforgiving spirit is one of the most common hindrances to prayer. An unforgiving spirit develops when one holds a grudge against another. To keep your heart right with others and with God, simply seek forgiveness for unloving attitudes, unkind thoughts and harsh words. *"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses"* (Mark 11:25).

5. UNCONGENIAL RELATIONSHIPS

"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered" (1 Peter 3:7). Uncongenial relationships between a Christian husband and wife will be a real hindrance to answered prayer. They are in a very definite sense made one in the marriage relationship and that which disrupts or comes between them will be reflected in their spiritual lives.

Statement of Faith

We believe prayer and devotion • is commanded of our Lord • is time set aside to fellowship with God • is a means of inspiring one's faith • is necessary to one's everyday living and • is vital to the life of every believer.

We believe the study of Scripture • serves as a source of guidance and inspiration • serves as an aid in daily living • is important to spiritual growth • is the soul's nourishment • helps to keep us from sin • aids in our prayer life • provides encouragement and strength • builds faith in our hearts • serves as a mirror to our lives.

Lesson Outline

- I. Bible study in the daily Christian life
 - A. The importance of devotional Bible study
 - B. The value of devotional Bible study
 1. It builds faith in our hearts
 2. It keeps us from sin
 3. It brings about spiritual growth
 4. It enriches one's life
 - C. Practical applications of Bible reading
 1. Read the Bible daily for inspiration
 2. Turn to the Bible for guidance
 3. Pursue the Bible for new insights
 4. Go to the Bible in times of sorrow, grief, trial or tests
 5. Share the Bible with others for spiritual fellowship
 - D. Results of Bible study
 1. Christians are spiritually equipped
 2. Christians will know God's will
- II. Prayer in the daily Christian life
 - A. The need of prayer
 1. In the Christian's life
 2. In the Christian's conflict with Satan
 3. In the Christian's service for God
 - B. The object of prayer
 1. For communion with God
 2. For worship and praise
 3. For intercession and petition
 - C. The way to pray
 1. In the Spirit
 2. In our native language
 3. In accordance with God's will
 4. In faith - believing
 - D. Reasons for unanswered prayer
 1. No spiritual relationship with God
 2. Known and unconfessed sin
 3. Lack of faith
 4. An unforgiving spirit
 5. Uncongenial relationships

Personal Application

1. Why do you think you should read your Bible with consistency?

2. State in your own words the importance of prayer.

Why do you pray?

3. A friend comes to ask your opinion on a situation. His business is not doing very well, even though he has been praying that God would bless and guide him. You know for a fact that he is having problems in his marriage. He has no respect for his wife and often ridicules her publicly. He states he feels God is not hearing his prayers.

What would you say to him?

Statement of Faith

We believe sharing your faith is • a personal witness of Christ's work in you • dealing with individuals in a personal manner concerning the individual's spiritual condition • everyone's solemn responsibility following conversion • a command by our Lord Jesus Christ • rewarded by God.

Scripture

"...He that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30).

"...He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (James 5:20).

Lesson Aim

Our goal is to teach the value of sharing one's faith with others, as well as to share practical suggestions on how to share one's faith.

Word Definitions

faith — what you believe to be "truth"

witness — a testimony; that which furnishes evidence or proof; a person who knows or sees anything

Gospel — a good or joyful message

convert — a sincere voluntary change or acceptance of something

Advance Preparation

1. If your church is involved in a witnessing program, be prepared to present it to the class. How can they get involved? What is required of them? If no such program currently exists, consider planning a one time witnessing event. Go door-to-door in a certain neighborhood for a set amount of time sharing about the church and what you offer. This is always such an intimidating prospect, but most people experience an abundance of joy and enthusiasm once they talk with a few people.
2. Display the Word Definitions.
3. Copy the Student Handouts.

Sharing Your Faith

INTRODUCTION

We have looked at the first two of THE BIG THREE OF THE DAILY CHRISTIAN LIFE — Bible Study and Prayer. Today, we will study the third principle necessary to growth and continued enjoyment of the Christian life — Sharing Your Faith (personal witnessing).

I. WHAT IS PERSONAL WITNESSING?

By personal witnessing we mean simply telling others of what Jesus Christ means to you. This involves an earnest endeavor to lead them to know the same Savior. It is dealing with men and women individually, in a personal manner, concerning the things of God in contrast to the public proclamation of God's truth.

II. THE PURPOSE OF PERSONAL WITNESSING

Keep clearly in mind that the purpose of this type of service is not to get people to believe what you believe, nor to get them to join your church, but to lead them into a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. We have more than enough churches and various creeds. "What the world needs is Jesus!" What individuals need is to be brought face to face with Him. In John 1:42 are found the words, "*And he brought him to Jesus.*" These words picture the very ultimate in personal witnessing. Bringing people to Jesus is the supreme task of the Church, and thus, of each Christian.

III. THE IMPORTANCE OF SHARING YOUR FAITH

A. IT ESTABLISHES THE CHRISTIAN IN HIS OWN FAITH

One of the absolute essentials to the establishing of a new convert is that he shall immediately tell others of what he has experienced. There is almost a universal desire on the part of those who have just been saved to share the good news with others. Unsaved loved ones, friends and associates in school and at work must know of the grace of God that has come into the life of the one who has been saved.

Daniel 12:3 states, "*And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.*" Here is indeed a privilege — to "*turn many to righteousness.*" Here is a great reward — "*Shall shine as the stars for ever.*" There is positively no joy that can equal that which fills a man's soul when he has been able to win someone else to Jesus.

B. IT IS PROBABLY THE ONLY METHOD OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE IN WHICH ALL CAN HAVE A PART.

It is not possible for every Christian to be a preacher or an outstanding teacher in spiritual things, for these are special gifts given by God (see Ephesians 4:11-12). Only certain ones are chosen for these offices; but there is no Christian, however humble he may feel himself or others may esteem him to be, who is not appointed of the Spirit to be a winner of souls.

C. IT REACHES THOSE WHO CANNOT BE REACHED IN ANY OTHER WAY.

Those who are earnest in their endeavors are finding it more difficult all the time to get unsaved people to come to church with them. People have the idea that they are going to be embarrassed as the result of an earnest, tactful, personal approach regarding their soul's eternal welfare.

D. IT CAN BE DONE ANYWHERE, AT ANY TIME.

There is probably no time when it is not possible to witness for Christ. Paul exhorted: "*Be instant in season, out of season*" (II Timothy 4:2). He set just that kind of an example. He spoke to women by the riverside, to the philosophers in the marketplace at Athens, to the jailer at midnight, to the barbarians on Melita where he was shipwrecked and to his fellow-prisoners at Rome. Here is a method of evangelism that is not confined to time or place.

E. IT REACHES PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

The first and most important requisite of good salesmanship is said to be "putting yourself in step with your prospect." In the days when streetcars had open platforms, it was quite usual to run and jump on after the car had started. In doing so you never ran at right angles to the car nor in the opposite direction. You always ran along beside the car, increasing your pace until you were moving as rapidly as the car and in the same direction. Then you stepped aboard easily, without danger or any jolt.

Jesus set the great example of dealing with people by first conversing with them regarding what they were most interested in. Personal work enables one to get next to a man's thinking and experience. The preacher in a church service may preach all around an individual's need and never touch him, but with this method you can come right to grips with his particular problem.

F. IT PRODUCES LARGE RESULTS

It is doubtful if anyone is won to the Lord in a public service who has not been first influenced toward Christ by a personal contact. Many unsaved people automatically erect a mental barrier between themselves and an ordained minister. They seem to feel that he is expected to talk about the things of God and they accept what he says with a good deal of reserve. But when he finds people with whom he works everyday, students with whom he is familiar in the classrooms, telling of the reality of a living Christ, the impact is tremendous. Personal witnessing certainly does bring large results for eternity.

NOTE TO TEACHER

Realizing that this lesson is shorter in content than the other lessons, may we suggest:

1. Plan to use a few minutes after the lesson for fellowship. The course is now half-way through and the students may be comfortable enough to open up and share
2. Use part of this class time to introduce Lesson 8 -The Spirit-Filled Life, which is the longest lesson of the course. By introducing Lesson 8 and studying Sections I and II today, there will be more time next week to cover the Fruit of the Spirit and Gifts of the Spirit, which usually generate great interest and questions.

Statement of Faith

We believe sharing your faith is • a personal witness of Christ's work in you • dealing with individuals in a personal manner concerning the individual's spiritual condition • everyone's solemn responsibility following conversion • a command by our Lord Jesus Christ • rewarded by God.

Lesson Outline

- I. What is personal witnessing?

- II. The purpose of personal witnessing

- III. The importance of sharing your faith
 - A. It establishes the Christian in his own faith
 - B. It is probably the only method of Christian service in which all can have a part
 - C. It reaches those who cannot be reached in any other way
 - D. It can be done anywhere, at anytime
 - E. It reaches people where they are
 - F. It produces large results

Personal Application

1. The BIG THREE OF THE DAILY CHRISTIAN LIFE are:

1. Bible Study
2. Prayer
3. Sharing your faith (personal witnessing)

2. "Witnessing" "Sharing Jesus with a co-worker, relative or friend."

Who came to your mind as you read that? _____

Will you make a commitment to pray for this person? _____

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be aware of opportunities to share your faith.

3. You are about to meet someone that has never heard about Jesus Christ. God is giving you the opportunity to give them a card explaining the good news of the Gospel. Design a tract to hand to this person.

(front)

(back)

Statement of Faith

We believe it is the will of God that we live and walk in the Spirit • moment by moment • under the precious blood of the Lamb • treading softly as with unshod feet in the presence of the King • being patient, loving, truthful, sincere, prayerful, uncomplaining • instant in season, out of season, serving the Lord.

We believe that the fruit of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance — should be put forth, cultivated, and diligently guarded as the resultant adornment, the constant eloquent and irrefutable evidence of a Spirit-filled life.

We believe the Holy Spirit has gifts to bestow to equip believers in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ • received as an act of faith on the part of the believer • divided to every man severally as He, the Holy Spirit will • to be most earnestly desired and once received, diligently employed.

Scripture

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22,23).

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another, faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues. But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will" (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness" (Romans 12:6-8).

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:" (Ephesians 4:11-12).

Lesson Aim

Our goal is to teach characteristics of the Spirit-filled life, defining the fruit of the Spirit and gifts of the Spirit, showing the importance of spiritual gifts to the church.

Word Definitions

diversities — the condition of being different or having differences; a point of difference

gift — a notable capacity or talent

bestow — to deposit, to give, to place

Spirit-filled life — to live and walk in the Holy Spirit moment by moment

minister — to serve or to give aid

ministry — the office, the duties of a minister

Advance Preparation

1. Display the Word Definitions.
2. Copy the Student Handouts.
3. Lesson Illustrations.
 - A. Characteristics of the Spirit-filled Life: On a chalkboard, overhead projector, or a piece of poster paper, draw a large outline of a person (almost life-size). As you teach the Characteristics of the Spirit-filled Life, write these inside the figure.
 - B. Gifts of the Spirit: Simple cutouts or gift-wrapped packages labeled with the Gifts of the Spirit will help the students fix a visual picture as they learn.



The Spirit-filled Life

INTRODUCTION

In the previous three lessons we studied three aspects of the Christian life (sanctification, faith, and moderation), and The Big Three of the Daily Christian life (Bible reading, prayer, and witnessing). Today we will look at three aspects of the Spirit-filled life: Characteristics of the Spirit-filled life, the fruit of the Spirit, and the gifts of the Spirit.

I. DEFINED

The baptism in/with the Holy Spirit is perhaps the greatest single experience available to all believers. Those who have received this blessed experience have cause to be grateful to God for a priceless anointing. Let us take into account, however, that the baptism in the Spirit is only the initial experience of the Spirit-filled life. One may have been baptized in the Spirit who is not living daily in the fullness. There is one baptism, but many fillings. The baptism is the door which ushers one into the glorious life, but it is the responsibility as well as the privilege of the believer to walk continually in the fullness of the Spirit.

“...that it is, therefore, the will of God that we live and walk in the Spirit, moment by moment, under the precious blood of the Lamb; treading softly as with unshod feet in the presence of the King; being patient, loving, truthful, sincere, prayerful, uncomplaining, instant in season, out of season, serving the Lord.”

Aimee Semple McPherson

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

A. STRENGTH IN THE INNER MAN - *“That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man”* (Ephesians 3:16).

All of us need physical and intellectual strength, but our great need is in the inner man. We need to be made strong in the faculty which exercises itself Godward. Paul says if we walk in the fullness of the Spirit we may expect to be made strong in the Lord and powerful in the Spirit to do His service.

B. POWER WHICH ALLOWS GOD TO WORK AMONG US — *“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us”* (Ephesians 3:20).

The power of the Spirit is available to all believers; indeed such a possession of power is intended to be the normal state of each Christian life.

C. CHRISTLIKE SPEECH AND CONDUCT - *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption”* (Ephesians 4:30).

The verses directly preceding and following verse 30 tell us what grieves the Holy Spirit: corrupt communication and evil speaking. Sweet and bitter waters do not properly flow from the same fountain. The Spirit-filled believer, then, does not practice evil speaking in any form.

D. DAILY FULLNESS — *“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”* (Ephesians 5:18,19).

The experience of daily fullness depends upon our emptying ourselves in service to others. God bestows His fullness for service, not upon chronic blessing seekers who serve only themselves. When the members of a church live the Spirit-filled life, the result is revival, sweet harmony, reverent worship, joyful praise, mutual edification, and spiritual music.

E. ENERGIZED PRAYER — *“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”* (Ephesians 6:18).

The Spirit-filled life nowhere reveals itself so characteristically as it does in prayer. He who is filled with the Spirit prays in the Spirit.

F. WALKING IN THE SPIRIT — *“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit”* (Galatians 5:16,25).

Not only are we exhorted to live in the Spirit, to worship in the Spirit, to pray in the Spirit, but also to walk in the Spirit. The evidence of our anointing should be seen on the street, at work, at school, and at home as well as in the church.

G. A YIELDED BODY — *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s”* (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).

If we are filled with the Spirit, it means that the Spirit who abides within us takes possession not only of our souls, spirits and minds, but also of our bodies.

H. LOVE — *“And hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us”* (Romans 5:5).

One of the greatest consequences of the Spirit's full abiding in the believer's heart is that God's love is shed abroad.

I. PHYSICAL QUICKENING — *“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you”* (Romans 8:11).

This verse suggests that the Spirit's anointing and abiding fullness brings a quickening of our physical bodies, not only for adequate strength to work, but also for divine health.

J. WORSHIP GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT — *“Quench not the Spirit”* (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

Here we are commanded not to quench the Spirit which consists of resisting the operation of the Holy Spirit in our worship.

III. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

“I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing...Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples” (John 15:5,8).

Everyone knows that the true Christian life is characterized by the manifestation of certain virtues. Even the unconverted of the world look for these virtues in the person who professes Christ. True Christian virtues are the fruit of the Spirit, not the fruit of human effort. We have the fruit of the Spirit when we have the Spirit. We can achieve fruit bearing only by living in cooperation with the indwelling fruit-bearer. Only when we are full of the Holy Spirit do we exhibit a full fruition of Christian values. When Christ is fully formed in us by the indwelling of the Spirit, true Christ-like virtues will be the natural result - a result as natural as that of the growth of apples on an apple tree. If we are devoid of fruit, then we are obviously devoid of the Spirit of Christ.

A Christian increases his fruitfulness by meditation in the Word of God, by purging his life of all impurity, by abiding in the life of Christ who is the true Vine, and by seeking divine wisdom which reveals the true values.

A spiritual mind begets a spiritual life. If we abide in the true Vine, our strength, our thoughts, our motives, our desires, our words and our actions will come from the Vine. One who abides in the Vine cannot bear fruit other than that which is determined by the Vine.

The fruit of the Spirit is the character of Christ produced by the Spirit of Christ in the follower of Christ.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22,23).

A. LOVE

Love is the cement which binds all the virtues together into a united whole. Love is the gem, the other virtues are its facets which are seen from different points of view. Love is the common denominator of all Christian character.

The fruit of the Spirit is a character completely pervaded by love for God, love for men, and true love for self. Joy and peace are love toward God; longsuffering, gentleness, goodness and faithfulness are love toward mankind; and meekness and self-control are true love toward oneself. The Spirit produces this fruit in the believer by shedding love abroad in his heart, with the result that all his motives and actions are an expression of Christian character.

B. JOY

Joy is love's reaction to God's mercies, blessings and benefits. Christian joy is not dependent, however, upon circumstances, but looks heavenward and is unaffected by surrounding conditions, because heaven's benefits are unvarying. Joy accepts trials as divine blessings in disguise. The true, Christian life is a joyful life.

C. PEACE

Peace means freedom from a quarrelsome, contentious, or party spirit. It means that temperament which seeks to live peaceably with all men. It is also true that peacemakers are persons who enjoy inward peace, and the contentious are persons who suffer with inward conflicts.

D. LONGSUFFERING

If we bear the fruit of the Spirit, it will be revealed in our unflinching patience and endurance in spite of the very worst men and demons can do. Patience is love persevering through the storms and the floods. When love “keeps on keeping on,” it is longsuffering.

E. GENTLENESS

This word translated “gentleness” is nowhere else in the New Testament so translated. It is four times rendered as “kindness” which is perhaps the best representation of the word. This word is frequently used to depict the manner in which God deals with his people. Tradition tells us that Peter could never talk of the kindness of Jesus toward him without weeping. When we consider Peter's denial of Jesus and Peter's subsequent restoration, we can easily understand why he would be deeply moved by thoughts of his Lord's kindness. When we think of the kindness of Jesus towards us, we should be inclined toward kindness to others in spite of their faults, failures or offences.

F. GOODNESS

Goodness is love in action. It is love heaping benefits upon others. This word may mean moral goodness, but it is generally used, as here, to mean "doing good." When God's Spirit pervades every part of one's being, He works every kind of goodness, every day and to every man.

G. FAITH

The majority of translators render this word as "faithfulness." This would mean one who bears the fruit of the Spirit will keep his word with others; he will be faithful to his covenants, promises, duties, and obligations. The true Christian does not shirk responsibility. A true Christian will be neither unfaithful nor suspicious.

H. MEEKNESS

Meekness is slowness to anger and to take offense. The meek are not boisterous, noisy, nor selfishly aggressive. They do not strive, quarrel, nor contend. They are not argumentative nor boastful. Let no one confuse meekness with shyness nor with the timidity which is characteristic of an inferiority complex. Spiritual meekness is not cowardice nor lack of leadership. Moses was the meekest man in Israel, but at the same time, he was the greatest leader. He was humble and patient, but he was also capable of firmness and great courage.

I. TEMPERANCE

Temperance, here, means full self-control. It means control over anger, carnal passion, appetites, desire for worldly pleasure, and selfishness. Before one can rule a city, a community, a club, a church, or a nation he must be able to rule his own spirit (see Proverbs 16:32).

IV. THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We accept spiritual gifts as being for the Church today for the same reason that we accept the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and for the same reason that we accept divine healing: We believe *"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever"* (Hebrews 13:8).

The single **purpose** toward which the Holy Spirit guides all manifestation is that of the spiritual profit of the Church through the exaltation of Christ and the revelation of His glorious provisions. It is never the work of the Spirit to exalt persons nor to bring one office or gift into conflict or competition with any other office or gift. No manifestation, no matter how pretentious or unusual it may appear to be, can be called a manifestation of the Holy Spirit if it fails to exalt Christ or to edify the Church.

God sets a man in an office. He bestows upon him the gifts appropriate to that office, and quickens him by means of the Spirit's operation for each exercise of the gift. God is sovereign in the appointment of offices and in the bestowal of gifts; however, we will be given gifts as a rule, only if we are desirous of them. We are exhorted to covet earnestly the best gifts (1 Corinthians 12:31).

Keeping in mind, then, that the purpose of spiritual gifts is to exalt Christ and profit the Church, and that it is God who sets a man in any office of ministry, let us take a look at these spiritual gifts.

A. SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF EDIFICATION (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)

GIFTS OF INSIGHT — WORD OF WISDOM, WORD OF KNOWLEDGE, DISCERNMENT

1. **WORD OF WISDOM** — an insight for practical conduct or action.

2. **WORD OF KNOWLEDGE** — brings to light the doctrine that forms a basis for the action.

**Wisdom and knowledge differ one from the other in that one concerns facts, while the other concerns the analysis of facts and action upon the basis of the facts. Knowledge has to do with accurate understanding, while wisdom has to do with wise action. It must be added, however, that the difference at times is so slight that one may fail to distinguish it.

3. **DISCERNMENT** — (or Discerning of spirits) supernatural insight into distinguishing between the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error

GIFTS OF POWER — FAITH, GIFTS OF HEALING, WORKING OF MIRACLES

4. **FAITH** — different from normal Christian faith in degree and in application, this "special faith" believes for the impossible to be accomplished in the name of Jesus, often in conjunction with healings and miracles.

5. **GIFTS OF HEALING** — supernatural manifestations of the Spirit for the deliverance from all human ills — bodily, emotionally, and spiritually.

6. **WORKING OF MIRACLES** — literally, "operations of powerful works," such as raising of the dead, the casting out of demons, instantaneous or spectacular healing, and miraculous alterations of circumstances.

GIFTS OF UTTERANCE — PROPHECY, TONGUES, INTERPRETATION

7. **PROPHECY** — divinely inspired and anointed utterance for the purpose of upbuilding, encouraging, stimulating and consoling.
8. **GIFT OF TONGUES** — speaking in a language not learned, for the purpose of edifying the congregation and as a sign to the unbeliever. (This is not the tongues given as the initial evidence of the baptism with the Holy Spirit.)
9. **INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES** - giving the meaning of a message spoken in an unknown tongue.

B. OFFICE GIFTS TO AND FOR THE CHURCH

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office...Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness" (Romans 12:4,6-8).

1. **PROPHECY** — divinely inspired and anointed utterance for the purpose of upbuilding, encouraging, stimulating and consoling.
2. **MINISTERING (HELPS)** — aiding wherever a need appears, doing so in such a way that others are strengthened and encouraged.
3. **TEACHING** — ability to understand God's Word and to communicate it effectively to others for application.
4. **EXHORTATION** — the ability to inspire others to action, awaken renewed spiritual interest, or steady those who are buffeted or faltering.
5. **GIVING** — the ability to earn and give money and possessions and when motivated by the Holy Spirit, giving with extraordinary generosity.
6. **ADMINISTRATION (RULING)** — ability to organize and administrate details and business needs.
7. **MERCY** — giving undeserved aid to those who are neglected or rejected by others; giving care to the sick and afflicted.

C. MINISTRY GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

"And he gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-12).

1. **APOSTLES** — sent forth with authority to communicate the gospel, establish churches, and oversee them.
2. **PROPHETS** — one who not only exercises the gift of prophecy, but who occupies a place of leadership ministry along with the apostles and teachers.
3. **EVANGELISTS** — ability to clearly communicate the message of salvation in Christ and to motivate people to respond.
4. **PASTORS*** — spiritual leader of a local church.
5. **TEACHERS*** — imparting truth and guiding in the application of biblical concepts for Christian growth.

*"In the grammatical structure of Ephesians 4:11, the term "teacher" does not have a definite article, as do all the preceding terms for the ministry gifts. It seems, therefore, that "teacher" is to be taken together with "pastor." This does not mean that the terms are interchangeable. There may be teachers who are not pastors, but there cannot be pastors who are not teachers (Acts 20:28-30)" — **Foundations of Pentecostal Theology**, page 354.

ONE FINAL WORD ...Let us agree that the lists of spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians chapter twelve, Romans chapter twelve and Ephesians chapter four are not intended to be complete in describing the gifts bestowed to the Church today. Our purpose, again, is to understand that as a Spirit-filled Christian, the Holy Spirit wills to work in us and through us.

Are you wanting Him to bear fruit in your life?

Are you willing to share with the local church the gifts He has given you to share?

Is it your desire to walk fully in the power of the Holy Spirit moment by moment?

Statement of Faith

We believe it is the will of God that we live and walk in the Spirit • moment by moment • under the precious blood of the Lamb • treading softly as with unshod feet in the presence of the King • being patient, loving, truthful, sincere, prayerful, uncomplaining • instant in season, out of season, serving the Lord.

We believe that the fruit of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance — should be put forth, cultivated, and diligently guarded as the resultant adornment, the constant eloquent and irrefutable evidence of a Spirit-filled life.

We believe the Holy Spirit has gifts to bestow to equip believers in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ • received as an act of faith on the part of the believer • divided to every man severally as He, the Holy Spirit will • to be most earnestly desired and once received, diligently employed.

Lesson Outline

- I. The Spirit-filled life defined
- II. Characteristics of the Spirit-filled life
 - A. Strength in the inner man
 - B. Power which allows God to work among us
 - C. Christ-like speech and conduct
 - D. Daily fullness
 - E. Energized prayer
 - F. Walking in the Spirit
 - G. A yielded body
 - H. Love
 - I. Physical quickening
 - J. Worship guided by the Holy Spirit
- III. The fruit of the Spirit
 - A. Love
 - B. Joy
 - C. Peace
 - D. Longsuffering
 - E. Gentleness
 - F. Goodness
 - G. Faith
 - H. Meekness
 - I. Temperance
- IV. The gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - A. Spiritual gifts for the purpose of edification

<u>Gifts of Insight</u>	<u>Gifts of Power</u>	<u>Gifts of Utterance</u>
1. Word of wisdom	4. Faith	7. Prophecy
2. Word of knowledge	5. Gifts of healing	8. Gift of tongues
3. Discernment	6. Working of miracles	9. Interpretation of tongues
 - B. Office gifts to and for the Church
 - 1. Prophecy
 - 2. Ministering (helps)
 - 3. Teaching
 - 4. Exhortation
 - 5. Giving
 - 6. Administration (ruling)
 - 7. Mercy
 - C. Ministry gifts to the Church
 - 1. Apostles
 - 2. Prophets
 - 3. Evangelists
 - 4. Pastors
 - 5. Teachers

Personal Application

1. Of the characteristics of the Spirit-filled life listed at the beginning of the lesson, which three do you recognize as being weak in your life? How can you see them strengthened?

2. List below the nine characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit. To the right of each characteristic, rate how you perceive that particular quality manifests in your life. In the next column, rate how you think a spouse, friend, or co-worker would rate you.

(Scale of 1-10: 1 being "don't see it," 10 being "completely yielded")

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS:	AS I SEE MYSELF	AS ANOTHER SEES ME
<u>Love</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Joy</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Peace</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Longsuffering</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Gentleness</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Goodness</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Faith</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Meekness</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Temperance</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3. Why does God give spiritual gifts? To exalt Christ and for the profit of the Church.

4. When you reviewed the list of spiritual, office, and ministry gifts in this lesson, did you recognize any of them in your own life? If so, choose one and explain why you think you have been given that particular gift.

Statement of Faith

We believe church services • should be a part of every believer's lifestyle • should be attended faithfully • portray the "visible" Church of Jesus Christ • bring people together in Christian fellowship • provide for unity of spirit, worship, ministry and praise • provide for the proclaiming of God's Word • bring together the Body of Christ • provide opportunities for the use of spiritual gifts.

Scripture

"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:46,47).

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another..." (Hebrews 10:25).

Lesson Aim

Our goal in Part 1 is to teach the purpose of the "visible church," showing how each individual has a part as they assemble together in one place and in one accord. Part 2 allows the teacher to give an overview of the local church.

Word Definitions

worship — reverence, admiration, and devotion paid to a divine being

praise — commendation; to glorify; to express a favorable judgment

edify — to instruct or improve spiritually; to enlighten

Advance Preparation

1. The second part of this lesson deals with the specifics of your local church. **This will require you to research and explain the who, what, where, when and why's of your church.** An outline is provided with suggested topics for you to consider in writing the second part of this lesson. You may want to provide an outline, detailed data sheet, or an informative brochure for the students to follow during this part of the lesson. Arrange to meet with the pastor and discuss what information you and he/she want shared with the class. What you teach in this section of the lesson is vital to the pre-membership students, since it will give them an understanding of who they are about to align themselves with.
2. If you have a multiple pastoral staff, arrange for them to be introduced during the class. As suggested in the lesson outline, invite the Christian Education director to share about the structure and goals of the Sunday School and training programs of the church.
3. Display the Word Definitions.
4. Copy the Student Handouts (and any information sheets you may create for the second part of the lesson).

The Church (Part One)

I. THE CHURCH DEFINED

The doctrine of the church is one of the major doctrines of the New Testament. Our biblical word "church" is used in the New Testament to translate a Greek word which means "the called out." It is found 115 times. The Church is composed of those who are called out of the world of sin into fellowship by faith with the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, the Church is the fellowship of the reborn who have come out from among the unregenerate. He who is in the Church is not of this world.

A. THE CHURCH - UNIVERSAL AND LOCAL

There are two aspects to the church: the invisible and the visible; the organism and the organization; the universal and the local. Christ puts us into the invisible, universal Church, which is His own body, at the moment we are born again. We unite with the local church by submitting to water baptism and by entering into fellowship with the local brethren. Christ is the head of the universal Church which is known only to Him. Our earthly responsibility is to the local church which is definitely established and sanctioned by the Lord. Every member of the invisible Church should also become a member of the local church if such affiliation is available. Relationship to a local church does not save one, but the saved are most definitely obliged to unite with other brethren for Christian service

II. THE CHURCH ESTABLISHED

"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:46,47).

The day of Pentecost marked the establishment of both the universal Church and local Church. The Lord added the new believers to the invisible Church (verse 47). They were initiated into the local or visible church of Jerusalem by the act of water baptism (Acts 2:41).

"Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away" (Acts 13:1-3).

Here we have a glimpse of the organized efforts of the Gentile church at Antioch which was a hub of missionary activity. While it is possible for one to belong to the invisible Church without being a member of any organized local church, such independence is not God's will. We are to be banded together so as to be led as a group by the Spirit into mutual efforts for evangelism of the world. There was obviously a group of official prophets and teachers who gave themselves to prayer, and who had authority to ordain for service by the laying on of hands. The church at Antioch was in some definite sense an organized church with a burden for the founding of other churches.

The word "church" in the New Testament never refers to the building used for worship. In the book of Acts meetings were usually held in private houses (Acts 20:20). In a large church like that at Ephesus there was no central meeting place large enough for the assembly of all believers, yet the church at Ephesus included all the Christians of that city. The elders had the oversight of all the local meetings at Ephesus, and Paul, in a larger sense, being the founder, exercised authority over the elders, for he charged them to be faithful in their nurture of the church (Acts 20:28).

III. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

The purpose of the "church" is important to everyone. This coming together provides for:

1. A common doctrine (Acts 2:42)
2. A common day of worship (Acts 20:7)
3. A common pattern of worship (1 Corinthians 14)
4. Common designation of offices (Acts 14:23)
5. Common discipline standards (Matthew 18:15-17)
6. Common plans for mutual aid (Acts 2:44,45)
7. A common system for the commendation of sincere members who transfer from church to church (Acts 18:24-28)

Organization is definitely of God. Our attitude should be that of preserving the organization in conformity with God's plan and with the Holy Spirit's leading.

IV. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ORGANIZED CHURCH

A. TO PREACH AND TEACH THE GOSPEL

Jesus gave the primary mission of the Church in the "Great Commission." In the accounts recorded by Mark and Luke, emphasis is placed on the preaching aspect of the Church (Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47-48), while Matthew's account emphasizes the teaching mission of the church (Matthew 28:18-20).

This dual ministry of preaching and teaching is recorded numerous times in the book of Acts (5:42; 2:42, NASB; 11:26a; 15:35; 18:11; 20:20; 28:31).

"Preaching is the recruiting and motivating ministry of the Church; teaching is the maturing ministry. Through preaching, new babes are born into God's family; through teaching, the babes are matured from milk to strong meat." — **Foundations of Pentecostal Theology**, page 431.

B. TO PROVIDE FOR CHRISTIAN WORSHIP AND CULTURE

It is a further responsibility of the church to provide services at specified places and times for worship and teachings as well as for evangelistic preaching.

- Newly converted must be established and taught in the Christian faith.
- Believers must band themselves together for mutual admonition and encouragement (2 Corinthians 14:3-5).
- God is to be worshipped not only by individual worshippers, but by the whole congregation in unison (Matthew 18:19,20; Psalms 22:22; Hebrews 10:25).
- Provision must be made for the administration of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

C. TO PROVIDE FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS

One of the most precious aspects of the Christian life is that of Christian fellowship (see 1 John 3:14). The Psalmist said, "*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*" (Psalm 133:1). The writer of Acts portrays the life of the early church as follows: "*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers... And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart*" (Acts 2:42,46).

D. TO MAINTAIN RIGHT STANDARDS OF LIFE AND BELIEF

Jude, writing to the Christian community, said, "*It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*" (Jude 3b). Paul wrote to Timothy, "*These things write I unto thee... that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God*" (1 Timothy 3:14,15). Writing to the Philippians, Paul admonished, "*But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ*" (Philippians 1:27, Phillips Translation). Only by united efforts in preaching, teaching, and worship can a uniformly high standard of belief and practice be maintained.

(This concludes the teaching for Part One)

NOTE TO TEACHER:

Use the following outline to gather information for **Part Two** of this lesson. Any other information regarding the life of your church should be shared with the class.

SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR PART TWO • THE CHURCH

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

THE _____ FOURSQUARE CHURCH
(Name of your local church)

Also known as: _____
(Do you have a slogan name?)

I. THE STAFF

A. Introduce the pastoral staff or provide a list with short descriptions of oversight of each staff member.

Class members may have questions such as:

- Who provides counseling?
- Who handles benevolence?
- Who can pray with me during the week?
- Who does marriage counseling? Pre-marriage counseling?

B. Church Council Members (When did their term of service begin?)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

C. Deacons and Deaconesses

D. Elders

E. Other Leadership (Head Usher, Volunteer Coordinator, etc.)

E. Teachers

SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR PART TWO • THE CHURCH

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

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B. Church Council Members (When did their term of service begin?)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

C. Deacons and Deaconesses

D. Elders

E. Other Leadership (Head Usher, Volunteer Coordinator, etc.)

E. Teachers

II. THE STATED PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

- A. Why does your church exist? What are your goals?

III. GATHERING/TEACHING STRUCTURE

A. Sunday Morning Worship Service

- What are the elements of your worship services?

(Greeting, worship, praise, teaching/preaching, ministering the gifts of the Spirit, announcements, prayer, fellowship, groups, etc.)

B. Sunday School/Bible Training Hour

- How is it structured?

- What is offered?

— Have the Christian Education Director (or person that oversees the Sunday School) explain the structure and how new teachers are trained, etc. What curriculum is used? Why?

C. Sunday Evening Service

- Purpose?

D. Midweek Service

- Is it a Bible Study, time of intercession, etc.?

E. Peer Group Ministries

(Youth Groups, Singles, Over-40, etc.)

IV. MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

A. How can I become involved?

- How can I become a teacher? Usher? Musician? Volunteer for the kitchen crew?

B. Provide a schedule of all ministry opportunities available during the week or month (ie, Bible Studies, Women's Ministry, Prayer Meetings, etc.).

C. Do you have small groups (Home Groups; Care Groups; Growth Groups, etc.)? Why? When? How can I become involved in one?

D. Do you have a visitation program? How does it work?

Statement of Faith

We believe church services • should be a part of every believer's lifestyle • should be attended faithfully • portray the "visible" Church of Jesus Christ • bring people together in Christian fellowship • provide for unity of spirit, worship, ministry and praise • provide for the proclaiming of God's Word • bring together the Body of Christ • provide opportunities for the use of spiritual gifts.

Lesson Outline

- I. The Church defined
 - A. The Church — universal and local

- II. The Church established

- III. The purpose of the Church
 1. A common doctrine
 2. A common day of worship
 3. A common pattern of worship
 4. Common designation of offices
 5. Common discipline standards
 6. Common plans for mutual aid
 7. A common system for the commendation of sincere members who transfer from church to church

- IV. Duties and responsibilities of the organized church
 - A. To preach and teach the Gospel
 - B. To provide for Christian worship and culture
 - C. To provide for the fellowship of believers
 - D. To maintain right standards of life and belief

Personal Application

1. Give three reasons why you should be involved in a local body of believers.

2. Of all the opportunities available in this local church, which would you enjoy doing? Why?

3. Take a moment to ask Jesus where He would have you serve in this local church. Be open to His direction. It may not be doing something you had thought of. (Remember, God needs more people to change diapers than to stand behind the pulpit and preach!)

What do you hear Jesus saying to you?

Statement of Faith

We believe that water baptism • is a command of the Lord • is an outward sign of an inward work • is symbolic of dying with Christ, being buried with Christ and then rising with Christ in newness of life.

We believe that Holy Communion • is a command of the Lord • uses broken bread and the fruit of the vine, a blessed type of Christ's broken body and shed blood • should be preceded by the most solemn, heart-searching, self-examination, forgiveness and love toward all men and should not be taken unworthily.

Scripture

"For as often as you eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come"
(1 Corinthians 11:26).

"For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you are re-telling the message of the Lord's death, that he has died for you. Do this until he comes again" (1 Corinthians 11:26; TLB).

"...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38a).

Lesson Aim

Our goal is to teach the purpose and meaning of Water Baptism and Holy Communion showing that these sacraments are ordained and commanded by our Lord.

Word Definitions

sacrament — a sacred observance or act appointed by Jesus Christ

commemoration — a call to remembrance

remission — forgiveness of sins

immersion — completely under the water

observance — a customary practice or ceremony; a rule governing members of a religious order

Advance Preparation

1. Display the Word Definitions.
2. Copy the Student Handouts.
3. Check with the pastor or church office to see when the next water baptism is scheduled. Have this information available for any who may want to be baptized.
4. If you are not already aware of your church's schedule for serving communion, find this out. Some churches have communion the first Sunday of each month, some the last Sunday, etc.
5. Prepare to serve communion at the close of class. Get the necessary supplies and have them ready in the room.

Church Ordinances

The Lord Jesus instructed His disciples in the keeping of two ordinances - two outward observances which were planned to be of blessing and assistance to them in their Christian life and ministry. The one was Water Baptism and the other The Lord's Supper (often called Holy Communion).

I. WATER BAPTISM

A. ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE BELIEVER

1. CHRIST'S MINISTERS WERE COMMANDED TO BAPTIZE

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19). The great importance of baptism is shown here by the relationship which it has to the other phases of practical evangelism. The commission is threefold: 1) Go, 2) Teach, 3) Baptize. The servants of the Lord, in the light of this great commission, have no choice but to obey and baptize those who believe.

2. INDIVIDUAL BELIEVERS WERE COMMANDED TO BE BAPTIZED

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you" (Acts 2:38). *"And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord"* (Acts 10:48). Here is double assurance. The minister is commanded to baptize the believer and the believer is commanded to be baptized.

3. IT IS A PREPARATORY STEP TO THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). The Holy Spirit, in the bodily form of a dove, came and rested upon Jesus as He came from the waters of baptism (Luke 3:21,22). Likewise, many have received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit as they have come up from being baptized.

4. IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO FOLLOW OUR LORD

"Jesus answering said unto them, Suffer it to be so now for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). It is our privilege to follow our Lord in a similar baptism. There is in every true Christian's heart a desire to be more like Jesus. There are some ways in which we do not know how to follow Him and be more like Him, but here is one step we can take. If we will take every step we are able to take, He will lead us in those which we do not know how to follow.

B. THE MANNER OF BAPTISM — BY IMMERSION

We believe that the Bible clearly teaches that water baptism was by immersion rather than by sprinkling or pouring. The early church, likewise, observed this method and must have been so taught by those who were with the Lord Jesus during His lifetime.

It will be noted that John the Baptist, who seems to be the first to use this ordinance, baptized by the river Jordan. Matthew 3:1-6 describes the multitude who went to John and we are told that they *"were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins."* The wording indicates that they actually went into the river. Jesus was baptized by John and we read, *"Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water"* (Matthew 3:16).

"And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him" (Acts 8:38). This passage is conclusive as to the manner of baptism. Both Philip and the eunuch went down "into" the water and afterward came up "out of" the water. The significance of baptism representing burial and resurrection has no meaning unless the method employed was immersion.

C. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM — DEATH, BURIAL, RESURRECTION

"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12).

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3,4).

Water baptism is first of all a testimony of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is an outward testimony to the world around that we have accepted Him as our personal Savior. Particularly, water baptism signifies a union — a taking of our place — with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

It is a wonderful thing to be able to reckon the old sinful nature crucified and buried with Christ. This is true for those who have believed, and water baptism is a significant ordinance in helping us to realize this fact. The water is a very real grave. If the person administering the ordinance did not bring the candidate up from the water, indeed it would be his grave!

The important thing is to realize that we rise to "newness of life." Oh, if each one could only grasp this fact and enter into it in its fullness! God wants us to expect to have and live a new life as a result of faith in Christ and obedience to His command. Those who do so believe, find water baptism not merely a form but a very real and vital spiritual blessing.

D. THE FORMULA OF BAPTISM — THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19).

Matthew 28:19 gives the only authoritative formula for baptism, for it is according to the command of Christ Himself and it is a specific instruction.

E. THE EXAMPLE OF BAPTISM — OUR LORD

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:13-17).

In all things, Jesus is our chief example. Never did He command His followers to observe anything that He, Himself, had not first observed. The very first recorded act of Christ's public ministry was His submission to baptism by the hand of John. The Lord, our example, did first what He commands all believers to do as their first outward act of obedience.

II. HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's supper is the only perpetual sacrament observed by evangelical believers. A sacrament is an outward rite by Christ which is typical of an inward grace or experience of grace.

The Lord's Supper was instituted by the Lord Himself. He commanded that His followers observe it until He should come again. However, the outward observance of this rite has no value whatever unless the person realizes the divine grace which the sacrament typifies. The outward form demands an inward reality that we have passed from death unto life because of His substitutionary sacrifice.

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come" (1 Corinthians 11:24-26).

A. THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

1. TO COMMEMORATE CALVARY

"As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." Our Lord's predominant thought during these final hours was that we remember "this concerning Him" above everything else. He did not call attention to His teachings, for we cannot keep them. He did not refer to His holy, sinless life for it would only condemn us. But He asked us to remember his death. We are to remember His body, not glorious, but broken; His blood, not coursing through His veins in life-giving victory, but poured out in sacrifice. "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain" is to be our cry through all eternity. He would have us remember that He died that we might live.

We do not believe superstitiously that the bread and wine actually become the physical body and blood of Christ. Nor do we believe there is any virtue in the physical elements themselves apart from their power as figures to point us to the deeper reality which they typify. We do believe, however, that an act of faith in partaking of the elements results in a real operation of the Spirit in us to strengthen us in the inner man and to heal us in our physical bodies.

2. TO WATCH FOR HIS COMING

"As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." The communion service renews our faith that He is coming again. The Holy Spirit would have us see beyond the symbols of which we partake and know that one day we shall see Him face to face.

B. OUR PREPARATION

Because of the great importance of the Lord's supper and the danger of unspiritual participation which always exists, we are exhorted to partake of the communion only after self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:27). There must be a spiritual significance to the partaking of Communion. If we do have faith, we see in the blood, provision for pardon, and in the bread, or the body of the Lord which was broken for us, healing and strength for our physical bodies (see Isaiah 53:5; Mathew 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24). Let every true believer celebrate communion in remembrance of the Lord until He comes. All may partake freely provided that, after self-examination, they can partake by faith with a true discernment of the spiritual values.

C. THE SYMBOLS

The bread symbolizes the body of Jesus which was broken for us, healing and strengthening our physical bodies. Unleavened bread was used and is still used by some churches. Others use Matzah, crackers, or broken pieces from a loaf of bread or prepared wafers.

The wine symbolizes the blood of Jesus that was shed for our sins. Today, most churches use grape juice instead of wine.

Statement of Faith

We believe that water baptism • is a command of the Lord • is an outward sign of an inward work • is symbolic of dying with Christ, being buried with Christ and then rising with Christ in newness of life.

We believe that Holy Communion • is a command of the Lord • uses broken bread and the fruit of the vine, a blessed type of Christ's broken body and shed blood • should be preceded by the most solemn, heart-searching, self-examination, forgiveness and love toward all men and should not be taken unworthily.

Lesson Outline

- I. Water baptism
 - A. Its importance to the believer
 1. Christ's ministers were commanded to baptize
 2. Individual believers were commanded to be baptized
 3. It is a preparatory step to the fullness of the Holy Spirit
 4. It is a privilege to follow our Lord
 - B. The manner of baptism — by immersion
 - C. The significance of baptism — death, burial, resurrection
 - D. The formula of baptism — In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
 - E. The example of baptism — our Lord
- II. Holy communion
 - A. The purpose of the Lord's supper
 1. To commemorate calvary
 2. To watch for his coming
 - B. Our preparation
 - C. The symbols
 - Bread —
 - Juice —

Personal Application _____

1. Your friend, Joan received Jesus as her personal Savior this morning. The counselor in the prayer room encouraged Joan to be baptized in water. Joan was baptized (sprinkled) as a baby. She is asking you why she needs to be baptized again and wants to know if you think she should be baptized again. What will you tell her?

2. Why did Jesus tell us to celebrate the Lord's Supper? _____

3. What does the bread and juice represent in Holy Communion? _____

Bread: The Body of Jesus (Healing)

Juice: The Blood of Jesus (Salvation)

Statement of Faith

We believe church missions • is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the world • is sending personnel to the uttermost parts of the world • is supporting the missionary program with our prayers, concern and offerings • is fulfilling the "Great Commission" of our Lord • includes the "home front" as well as foreign soil.

Scripture

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent" (Romans 10:15).

"For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son so that anyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16; TLB).

Lesson Aim

Our goal is to teach God's love for the world by sending Jesus, His Son. We desire to show the Christian's responsibility in the winning of all people to Jesus.

Word Definitions

faith promise — a promise to give a specific amount believing that God will provide it for you to give

uttermost — extreme, utmost, farthest or most distant point

missionary — someone who is sent to another place to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Advance Preparation

1. Does your church participate in a missions outreach? If so, arrange to report on this effort. If you have a Missions Coordinator, ask him to share with the class the vision of the church in regards to its mission endeavor.
2. Display the Word Definitions.
3. Copy the Student Handouts.
4. **In preparation for next week:** If membership is going to be offered to the students next week, have the necessary **membership applications** for the new member prospects to complete today or during the week.

Membership applications and other supplies may be ordered from:

Foursquare Publications
1910 W. Sunset Blvd., Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90026
(213) 484-0105

If new members are going to be introduced to the congregation next week, what information will you need to know about them? Should you prepare an information sheet for them to complete? Do you need to arrange for a photographer to take their pictures for a church picture file?

Church Missions

Christianity is a missionary enterprise. Jesus who came to seek and to save the lost, has commanded all His followers to seek the lost. Every believer has a sacred mission and his spiritual profundity depends upon his continued consciousness of a sense of responsibility to fulfill that mission.

Simply defined, "missions" is "the making of disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:18). It involves the sending of believers to communicate the Good News of salvation in word and deed among all nations so that disciples may be made. Every believer is a missionary in a sense — sharing the Good News of the Gospel to neighbors, friends, at work and in the community. We usually use the term "missionary" to describe those who have been sent to another country for the specific purpose of sharing the Gospel, making disciples and establishing churches.

Let us look at several aspects of Church Missions, including a close look at Foursquare Missions International.

I. THE MOTIVE FOR MISSIONS

A. OBEDIENCE

For all things that we do, we have a motive or motives. This means there is a reason we do it. There are many motives for people giving financially to missions and even becoming missionaries. Some motives are worthy, and others less worthy. Consistent and enduring work in and support of world evangelization must arise from truly divine urges.

Obedience to the commands of our Lord are important to the believer. We read in God's Word, "*Go and teach all nations*" (Matthew 28:19) and "*Give, and it shall be given to you*" (Luke 6:38).

B. LOVE

Men and women who go as missionaries should respond to their responsibilities from a desire to do the will of God, the desire to obey the Lord in all things, the desire to do that which the Word of God enjoins. In other words, they should love God so deeply and sincerely that their only passion is that of pleasing Him who gave Himself.

However, inasmuch as he who loves God also loves his neighbor as he loves himself, he is deeply concerned for the well-being of others. The believer ought to be so grateful for his own redemption and conversion that he will yearn to communicate the blessings to another.

II. THE AIM OF MISSIONS

The aim of missions is leading men to Christ and nurturing them to a stable Christian experience so that each in turn may win his neighbor. It is especially the aim of missionary work to carry the Gospel to those who have not yet heard the story, or who have not heard it in its true meaning. Therefore, the immediate aim is to effect conversions, and to lead men to Christ.

Other objectives include planting churches, and training national workers. This assures that others will be trained to carry on the work of sharing the gospel.

III. THE POWER FOR MISSIONS

The great work of world evangelism has been possible only through divine power. Individuals have experienced success as they have been empowered by the Holy Spirit. Everyone who witnesses needs the Spirit's power and may receive it. The Lord explained that the power of the Holy Spirit would be given in order that His followers could be witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

IV. THE HINDRANCES OF MISSIONS

There are two kinds of hindrances to missionary success: those without and those within.

External obstacles are numerous. Among them are the opposition of foreign governments, the unbelief of pagan people, the difficulty of tropical and frigid climates, and the opposition of Satan. These we cannot avoid, but by God's help they can be overcome.

The more serious hindrances are those within the church and within our hearts such as indifference, spiritual laxity, selfishness, lack of faith, prayerlessness, prejudice, ingratitude, fatalism, and lack of a burden for souls. A whole treatise could be written on these hindrances alone, but it suffices to remark that God blesses most the local church that has a world-wide vision and benefits most the individual whose concern is for others. God keeps most securely the man who is his brother's keeper. He who loses his life shall save it.

V. THE REWARD OF MISSIONS

Perhaps the greatest reward of all is the satisfaction of knowing that we have done the will of God. Our investment is in the souls of mankind. Eternity will reveal all that God is doing in various parts of the world through our missionaries. No doubt our greatest joy will be that of knowing we have had a part in the building of God's Kingdom.

VI. FOURSQUARE MISSIONS

A. ITS HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Foursquare Missions International had its inception in the heart of Aimee Semple McPherson who went as a missionary to China. When she returned to North America and took up the work of evangelizing and challenging men and women to worldwide evangelism, her concern for lost souls seemed to increase with her success as an evangelist. Within a very short time after Angelus Temple was built, missionaries began to be sent. Our founder's vision - "**Around the world with the Foursquare Gospel**" - was becoming a reality. The first official missionary was appointed and sent in 1927. Thru the years new fields have been added, until now the Foursquare Gospel is preached around the world.

Since that time, new missionaries have been appointed and sent out almost each year; some to open new fields, some to serve as replacements on established fields, and some to reinforce national leadership on fields that need additional personnel.

B. ITS DEFINITION AND PERSPECTIVE

Understanding that "missions" means to make disciples, we are sending missionaries to communicate the Good News of Salvation in word and deed so that disciples may be made and the Church planted among all peoples of the world. Since the church in the book of Acts, the strategy of the Spirit has been to establish strong works in the key centers from which the Gospel could be sounded forth throughout that region. Adapting this strategy, Foursquare Missions International sees its method of operation as four-fold:

1. EVANGELIZATION

Preaching the full gospel to all men everywhere. Although such proclamation may make use of various means from literature distribution and radio broadcasts to large crusade meetings or small Bible Studies, the purpose is the same — to give all who will listen an opportunity to understand the Gospel clearly so that they may make a decision concerning Jesus Christ.

2. DISCIPLESHIP

Teaching converts to observe all Christ has commanded. Follow-through with those who repent and believe the Gospel is essential in the fulfilling of the Great Commission. The goal is to "*present every man perfect (mature) in Christ Jesus*" (Colossians 1:28).

3. CHURCH PLANTING

Establishing churches which are not only self-propagating and self-supporting, but also self-governed — the establishing of an indigenous church. A truly viable and indigenous church becomes fully involved in evangelizing its own people as well as reaching out beyond its own people in committed and continuous missionary endeavor.

4. RENEWAL

God has allowed the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel to have a part in the renewal of His Church around the world. Through the years, this has been part of its ministry, and continues to be vital as we see the approach of Christ's return to gather his church to Himself.

C. FOURSQUARE MISSIONARIES

Those who feel God has called them to go to a foreign field submit applications to the Foursquare Cabinet. The Foursquare Cabinet is responsible for reviewing applications and making recommendations of prospective applicants.

Foursquare Missionaries are supported by regular offerings from Foursquare Churches in the United States. Through the provision of these funds, Foursquare missionaries are freed from the need to spend precious ministry and furlough time soliciting support. (Foursquare and non-Foursquare mission's directors as well as missionaries alike often say that this means of support is one of the great strengths of world-wide Foursquare Missions.) In addition to providing for basic personal needs, these funds also care for ministry expenses.

Each missionary annually prepares a field ministry plan. Missionaries envision the opportunities that the Lord is unfolding in thier fields and then make specific budget requests to support these opportunities. Available general funds are disbursed to meet all requests within guidelines.

D. GIVING TO WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

The Foursquare movement has been "dedicated unto...worldwide evangelism" since its founding in 1923. For over 60 years Foursquare churches have been sending missionaries into all the world with the Gospel. There are three primary avenues of financial support:

- 1) General offerings and contributions — church tithes, individual contributions, etc.
- 2) Special offerings and contributions toward specific ministry projects - special support from church groups, camps, individuals, etc. given for a specific ministry project.
- 3) Special offerings and contributions toward special workers - authorized accepted funds designated for support of the ministry of special workers who have an on-going relationship with a local Foursquare Church.

It was once said years ago, "The field of service envisioned for the Foursquare Church internationally was bordered by no horizon nor limited by any racial, cultural or educational boundaries. The great purpose in life, by our founder, Aimee Semple McPherson, was that all people, brown, black, white, red or yellow, male or female, bond or free might be recipients of the Gospel message and that they might be filled with the wonders of God's grace and the promises for the land of God's tomorrow." That vision and purpose remains the same today.

Statement of Faith

We believe church missions • is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the world • is sending personnel to the uttermost parts of the world • is supporting the missionary program with our prayers, concern and offerings • is fulfilling the "Great Commission" of our Lord • includes the "home front" as well as foreign soil.

Lesson Outline

- I. The motive for missions
 - A. Obedience
 - B. Love
- II. The aim of missions
- III. The power for missions
- IV. The hindrances of missions
- V. The reward of missions
- VI. Foursquare missions
 - A. Its history and heritage
 - B. Its definition and perspective
 - 1. Evangelization
 - 2. Discipleship
 - 3. Church planting
 - 4. Renewal
 - C. Foursquare missionaries
 - D. Giving to worldwide missions

1. It is stated:

**“YOU’RE EITHER A MISSIONARY
OR A MISSION FIELD.”**

Paraphrase the above statement: _____

2. Why it is important to send missionaries to other countries? _____

3. Matthew 28:18-20 records Jesus' charge to you, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

What is your response to this charge? _____

Statement of Faith

We believe church stewardship • is the way given by God to care for the financial needs of His Church and work • is the giving of "tithes, offerings, talents and time" • is showing our love to Jesus Christ and His people • is the giving of our abilities He has given to us individually.

We believe church membership • is a privilege • consists of born-again individuals • calls for loyalty • calls for financial and prayer support • calls for the giving of one's talent and service • is ordained of God • is headed by Christ • is directed and guided by a pastor • is helpful to individuals • is for children, youth and adults.

Scripture

Tithe: *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house ..."* (Malachi 3:10a).

Time: *"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you"* (Matthew 6:33).

Talent: *"Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all"* (1 Corinthians 12:4 - TLB).

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and everyone members one of another" (Romans 12:5).

"...God set the members everyone of them in the body, as it hath pleased him... now are they many members, yet one body" (1 Corinthians 12:18, 20).

Lesson Aims

Our goal is to teach the joy in giving money, time and talents, cheerfully as unto the Lord; showing how each child of God can practically give of themselves in these areas.

Our goal is to help individuals know the requirements, privileges and duties of church membership.

Word Definitions

steward —one who takes care of another's business or household

talent — in Bible days a talent was known to be a coin, but it also means an ability

tithe — a tenth part of the whole

offering — the act of one who offers a contribution; the amount or value of the gift is determined by the giver

giving — to put into the possession of another for his use; to transfer from one's authority or custody; to offer for acceptance

member — one of the individuals composing a group

Advance Preparation

1. This lesson deals with stewardship of time, talents and finances. It also covers all aspects of church membership. Prepare any further materials (tithe envelopes, volunteer sign-up sheets, etc.) deemed necessary to fully equip prospective new members.

Will you be receiving new members today? When? Are there any local requirements for membership that the students need to know?

2. Display the Word Definitions.
3. Copy the Student Handouts.

Church Stewardship and Membership

I. STEWARDSHIP

A. STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

Time is made up of days, hours, minutes and seconds. There is one special thing about time — you cannot bring it back once it is gone. Yesterday will never come again. We cannot go back in time and make up for hours we may have wasted.

Time is LIFE. The way we invest and use our time indicates what we are doing with our lives. The Bible tells us the way to make the most of our lives is to live for God and others (see 1 Peter 4:10). God promises in Matthew 6:33 that if we put Him first, we will have time for the other things we need to do, as well.

Included in our stewardship of time is the allowance for personal devotion and witnessing, which have been discussed in previous lessons. Let us consider one more aspect of our time - investing it in our church.

1. CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

Our time given to the church involves many activities. Every Christian should be a conscientious worker. Every non-working member increases the burden of those who give their time for various activities and needs of the local church.

Faithful attendance to church services, special meetings, committee planning sessions, and other church functions is vital to both the believer and to the church as a whole. Support a church by giving a worthy portion of your time. Include church activities in your schedule. When planning your time, ask God to show you how to make the best use of it. He will help you establish the right priorities of your time with Him, family, work, church and other activities.

Stewardship of time is another way to express our love for the Lord. To use our time wisely we must sometimes make choices and even sacrifices. The clock ticks on and on — it never stops. Time passes quickly and we want to make the most of our time, as we will be required to give account of ourselves to God (see Romans 14:12).

B. STEWARDSHIP OF TALENTS

God has given each one of us "talents" and "abilities." We are stewards (someone who is responsible for) of what God has given to us. A good steward serves his Master well. In the parable Jesus told of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30, we see the importance and urgency of faithfully using our God-given talents. Each of us has a "gift" that we have been entrusted with to share with the Body of Christ in our local church.

Paul urges each of us to recognize that we are only one part of the whole body and that we all must contribute our part and function in the gift the Holy Spirit has given us.

"Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body" (1 Corinthians 12:14-20, NIV).

In our previous lesson regarding the Church, we heard about all the areas of ministry available in the local church. The talents and abilities of every Christian are needed in every local church body.

C. STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

The work of God cannot be done without material means. In a material world, material objects are essential to all activity, even spiritual activity. In a complex world every material thing must be purchased by a medium of exchange called money. The more elevated the standard of living becomes, the more it costs to advance the Lord's work.

1. TITHE

Tithing (giving one-tenth of one's income) is the financial plan accepted in all Foursquare churches and is by far the accepted plan in the majority of full gospel churches. A more satisfactory or more scriptural plan has not been devised, nor is any other plan suggested in the Word of God. When the tithing system is not used, a church in nearly every case resorts to a method of raising money that is annoying and spiritually deadening.

Tithing is a biblical system. We are told in Malachi 3:10a, *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house."* Tithing is an act of worship, for the tithe is not given to men but to God. A blessing is promised to those who tithe (Malachi 3:10-11). Tithing is an act of consecration on the same basis with the consecration of our lives.

a. WHY ONE SHOULD TITHE

- 1) To support the church
- 2) To follow Biblical precedent
- 3) To worship with material substance

b. WHERE ONE SHOULD TITHE

Every believer should belong to and serve a local church and every believer's first earthly responsibility is to the local church. There are a great many good causes related to the kingdom of God that deserve the support of Christian people, but the tithe belongs to the local church.

c. WHEN ONE SHOULD TITHE

The tithes are to be given regularly, as often as one receives his weekly or monthly salary. The tithe is not an occasional gift, nor is it in response to special appeals. Paul recommends to the Corinthians that the gifts of the people be brought into the church every first day of the week (see 1 Corinthians 16:2).

2. OFFERINGS

Offerings that are given to missions, relief for the poor, radio and TV ministries, etc., from which a person derives no direct personal benefit, are free-will acts of generosity and marks of special grace. One's greatest joy is when one gives over and above basic duty, which is tithing. It should not be a burden, but an opportunity to exercise the act of giving as God has given to you. The Bible says, "Give and it shall be given unto you" (Luke 6:38).

In Philippians 4:19 we read, "But my God shall supply all your need..." This promise is often taken to be general, but the fulfillment of this promise to supply all one needs is conditional. The apostle was writing to a people who had given an offering to supply his pressing needs. He was assuring them that God would supply, in turn, their needs. We are to be generous in our giving, and to do so with a cheerful heart (see 2 Corinthians 9:6,7).

II. MEMBERSHIP

In the lesson on The Church, we looked at the scriptural basis and the benefits of belonging to The Church and to a church. Now we will look at the specifics for church membership in a Foursquare Gospel Church, according to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel — 1988 Edition.

A. THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

A person shall satisfy the following requirements to be entitled to membership in a Foursquare Gospel Church:

1. Show evidence of a born-again experience and a Christian life;
2. Have been baptized in water by immersion;
3. Be nine years of age or over;
4. Subscribe and adhere to the "Declaration of Faith," compiled by Aimee Semple McPherson; and
5. Agree to comply with the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

B. APPLICATION FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

A person desiring to become a member of a Foursquare church shall:

1. Fill out and sign the church membership application form prescribed by the board;
2. Comply with the conditions set forth above under REQUIREMENTS;
3. Be approved by the Pastor and/or membership committee; and
4. Be accepted into the church membership at a church service.

C. "ACTIVE" CHURCH MEMBERS

In order to be considered active and in "good standing" and entitled to vote, a member in the current year shall have prior to voting:

1. Signed the membership role;
2. Contributed to the support of the church; and
3. Regularly attended church services, if they were physically able.

D. THE SERVICE OF CHURCH MEMBERS

Foursquare members shall serve the church by their:

1. Faithfulness in fellowship
2. Perseverance in prayer
3. Generosity in giving
4. Diligence in missions
5. Dedication in devotion
6. Readiness in responsibility
7. Working for the best interest of their church and the Foursquare Movement

E. THE PRIVILEGES OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Members in good standing shall be entitled to:

1. Participate in all church activities.
2. With respect to members 18 years of age or older, vote on all matters with respect to which vote of members of the church is authorized;
3. Elect members to the Church Council;
4. Serve the church in any capacity to which appointed or elected;
5. Attend Foursquare District meetings open to members; and
6. Attend Foursquare Conventions.

Lesson 12 — Student Handout Church Stewardship and Membership

Statement of Faith

We believe church stewardship • is the way given by God to care for the financial needs of His Church and work • is the giving of "tithes, offerings, talents and time" • is showing our love to Jesus Christ and His people • is the giving of our abilities He has given to us individually.

We believe church membership • is a privilege • consists of born-again individuals • calls for loyalty • calls for financial and prayer support • calls for the giving of one's talent and service • is ordained of God • is headed by Christ • is directed and guided by a pastor • is helpful to individuals • is for children, youth and adults.

Lesson Outline

I. Stewardship

A. Stewardship of time

1. Church involvement

B. Stewardship of talents

C. Stewardship of finances

1. Tithe

2. Offerings

II. Membership

A. The requirements for church membership

B. Application for church membership

C. "Active" church members

D. The service of church members

E. The privileges of church membership

Personal Application

1. What is tithe? A tenth part of a whole: giving to the Lord a tenth of one's gross income.

Why should a Christian tithe? 1) To support the church 2) To follow Biblical precedent 3) To worship with material substance.

According to Malachi 3:10-11, what does God promise to those who tithe?
vs. 10 — floodgates of heaven opened - blessings poured out
vs. 11 — He will stop the devourer. What the tither plants will bear fruit

What is the difference between tithe and an offering? Tithe is a regular giving of one-tenth of the whole income; offerings are free-will acts of generosity.

2. Answer the following question:

“What kind of church would my church be if every member of it were just like me?”

STUDENT HANDOUTS

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to reproduce the
following pages
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Scripture

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Lesson Outline

I. Aimee Semple McPherson



II. The International Church of the Foursquare Gospel

A. Our History

B. Organization

Incorporated _____

Presidents:

First President was _____ (1927 to 1944)

Second President was _____ (1944 to 1988)

Current President is _____ (Installed May 31, 1988)

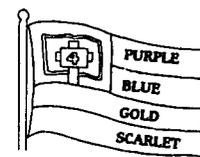
III. Foursquare Application

A. Cardinal Doctrine of the Foursquare Gospel

The four cardinal doctrines of the Foursquare Gospel — Jesus Christ the Savior, Jesus Christ the Great Physician, Jesus Christ the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ our Soon Coming King — are symbolized in the colors of the Foursquare Flag, the four faces in the emblem and the symbols of the cross, cup, dove, and crown in the insignias.

B. The Foursquare Flag

Aimee Semple McPherson designed and sewed the first Foursquare flag in early 1931. It can be said that the sun never sets on the Foursquare flag, because it waves its message of the four-phase ministry of Jesus Christ around the world.



C. The Foursquare Emblem

The Foursquare emblem shows the four faces from Ezekiel's vision surrounding a four in a square planted on the Word of God. The four faces, as described in the paper, THE VISION OF EZEKIEL, represent the four phases of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These faces, forming the sides of the square encasing the Word of God, represent the "Foursquare Gospel" - planted firmly on the Word of God.



D. The Foursquare Insignias

The four insignias also represent this four-fold ministry of Jesus Christ. The cross represents Jesus our Savior who died on the cross. The cup represents the partaking of communion which we are instructed in scripture to do faithfully to remind us of the provision of healing accomplished by Jesus. The dove symbolizes the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The crown represents the Soon Coming King.



THE VISION: A MESSAGE KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD

by Aimee Semple McPherson

One particular night, in the midst of the Oakland revival, God led me to speak on the prophet Ezekiel's vision, as recorded in the Book of Ezekiel, the first chapter, the fourth to tenth verses. Verse ten was dwelt upon at great length, as the Spirit spoke through me in revealing power. It reads:

"As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion on the right side; and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle."

Approximately 8,000 people filled the huge tent and, hundreds more crowded around the edges where the side walls were rolled up. People leaned forward in expectancy as God poured the message forth from my innermost being.

My own soul was awed as the Spirit painted in word-pictures the glorious account of that which Ezekiel saw.

In the clouds of heaven the prophet had beheld "a whirlwind, a great cloud, and a fire in-folding itself, and a brightness." Out of this phenomenon "came the likeness of four living creatures," moving back and forth across the skies with "the appearances of a flash of lightning."

Above the firmament that was over their heads Ezekiel saw "the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it." From his loins upward, and from his loins downward, he was clothed in the brightness of fire and round about the throne there was a rainbow!

This, explains Ezekiel, "was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord." So wonderful, so magnificent was the revelation, that the prophet could only repeat, "it was the appearance of the likeness of" some thing!

As I spoke, God revealed to the assembled multitude that the four faces typified the four-fold ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the face of the MAN we beheld that of the "Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief," the Savior of the world!

In the face of the LION we beheld that of the mighty Baptizer with the Holy Ghost and fire; Jesus is the "lion of the tribe of Judah." As a lion denotes strength and power, it is a fitting symbol for Christ as the Giver of the Holy Spirit.

In the face of the OX we beheld the Great Burden-Bearer, who "Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses." Jesus is the Great Physician and the Healer of our bodies.

In the face of the EAGLE we saw reflected a vision of the Coming King of kings, whose pinions would soon cleave the shining heavens as He returns to catch His waiting bride away!

A PERFECT GOSPEL! A complete Gospel for body, for soul, for spirit, and for eternity! A Gospel that faces squarely in every direction!

As the wonder - the power - the majesty of it cascaded o'er the battlements of glory, filling, flooding, enveloping my very being, the whole tent seemed enveloped as well—aquiver with the praise of God!

I stood there still and listened, gripping the pulpit, shaking with the wonder and the joy of it, then - "Why, why, it's the FOURSQUARE GOSPEL!" burst from the white heat of my heart.

Instantly the Spirit bore witness! Waves, billows, oceans of praise rocked the audience. Born aloft

upon the wings of a Holy Ghost revival, the term, "The Foursquare Gospel," which the Lord gave to me that night as vividly distinguishing the message which He had given me to preach, has become known around the world.



Statement of Faith

We believe Jesus Our Savior • is co-existent and co-eternal with God • was conceived by the Holy Spirit • born of the virgin, Mary • took upon Himself the form of man • bore our sins • provides forgiveness for sin • rose again on the third day • ascended back to heaven • is seated at the right hand of God • serves as the Mediator between God and man • makes intercession for us.

Lesson Outline

- I. Man's need
 - A. The results of the fall
 - 1. The sinful condition of men is directly attributed to the sin of Adam
 - 2. All men are guilty of sin
 - 3. All men are captives of sin
 - 4. All men are condemned because of their sin
 - B. The results of sin
 - 1. We are seperated from God, dead in our sins
 - 2. The deeds of men are sinful
 - 3. Our just reward for sin is death

- II. God's provision
 - A. Jesus Christ, the Person
 - 1. Son of God
 - 2. Conceived by the Holy Spirit
 - 3. Born of a virgin
 - 4. Became a man
 - B. Jesus Christ, the Savior
 - 1. He gave his life
 - 2. He arose from the grave
 - 3. He ascended into heaven

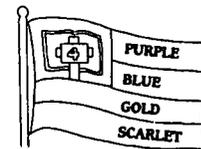
III. Foursquare Application

- A. Cardinal doctrine of the Foursquare Gospel

Jesus Christ the savior is the first truth, or first cardinal doctrine of the Foursquare Gospel. Without belief in salvation, no one can enter into the Kingdom of God. It is one of the four basic doctrines of scripture.

- B. Symbolized in the Foursquare Flag

The color scarlet represents _____



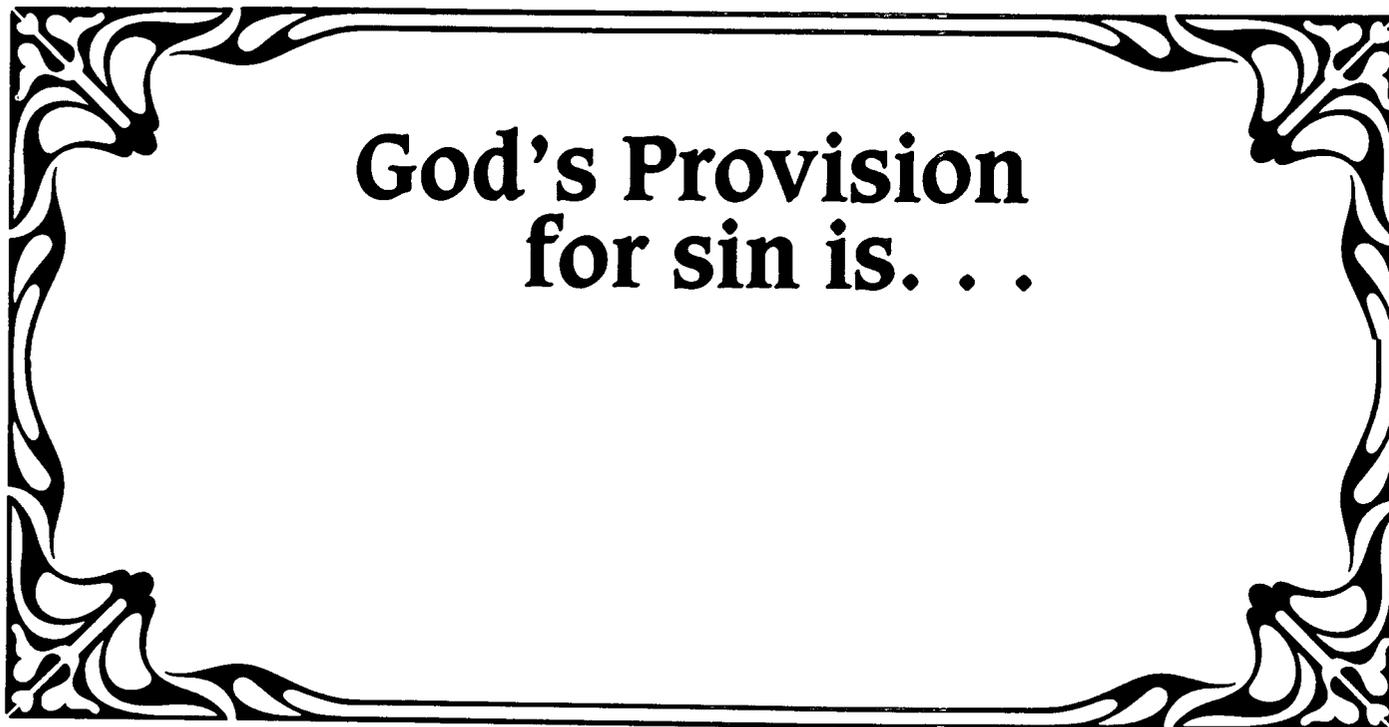
- C. Symbolized in the Foursquare Emblem

The face of the Man represents _____

- D. Symbolized in the Foursquare Insignias

The cross symbolizes _____





1. What must you do to receive this provision? (Based on what Scripture?)

2. **REDEMPTION** — In several places in the Word of God the word redeem is used in reference to **purchase**. Man has become the property of Satan, or more graphically said, man has become a slave to sin. In another place the thought of **ransom** is used. If one were to be kidnapped and held for ransom, he would be freed only when the ransom was met. If he were ransomed, he would be redeemed.

According to Romans 7:23 man is captive to sin. The Redeemer pays the purchase price of Man's deliverance by offering Himself. *"In whom we have redemption through his blood. . ."* (Ephesians 1:7).

What is holding you for ransom? To what have you become a slave? Unforgiveness? Habits? Lust? Legalism? **JESUS HAS RANSOMED YOU!** Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, has purchased you and ransomed you.

How can you be set free today? _____

PRAYER:

*"Dear Jesus, my Redeemer —
I realize that you not only died to save me from my sin, but that you want to redeem all areas of my life. I confess my sin of ("Insert what the Holy Spirit prompts) and ask now that you forgive me. I thank you for your blood that cleanses me."*

"Thank you for setting me free today. Help me to walk in newness of life. In Jesus' Name! Amen."

Lesson 2 — Student Handout *Jesus Christ, The Baptizer with the Holy Spirit*

Statement of Faith

We believe the Holy Spirit • is the third person of the Godhead • is omnipotent and omnipresent • convicts of sin and righteousness • draws sinners to the Savior • rebukes, pleads and searches out the hearts of mankind • comforts, guides and teaches • baptizes and endues with power.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a promise from Jesus • to endue believers with power • to glorify and exalt the Lord Jesus • to give inspired utterance in witnessing of Him • to foster the spirit of prayer • to equip the individual and the church for soul winning.

Lesson Outline

- I. Who is the Holy Spirit?
 - A. The Person
 - B. The Comforter
 - C. The Teacher
- II. What is the Holy Spirit's Ministry?
 - A. In Regards to Salvation
 1. The Holy Spirit convicts men of sin.
 2. The believer is born again by the Holy Spirit.
 3. The Holy Spirit bears witness to the believer's sonship.
 4. The Holy Spirit baptizes the believer into the Body of Christ.
 5. The Holy Spirit seals the believer.
 - B. Subsequent to Salvation
 1. The Holy Spirit sanctifies the believer.
 2. The Holy Spirit transforms the believer into the image of Christ.
 3. The Holy Spirit bears fruit in the believer's life.
 4. The Holy Spirit strengthens the believer for greater revelations of Christ.
 5. The Holy Spirit leads the sons of God.
 - C. In Connection with Ministry and Service
 1. The Holy Spirit baptizes and infills, giving power for service.
 - a. Promised by the Father
 - b. Gift of the Father and the Son
 - c. Command of the Lord
 - d. For power
 - ... in Christian service
 - ... in personal life
 - ... in spiritual warfare
 - ... in ability
 2. The Holy Spirit reveals and gives understanding of the Word of God.
 3. The Holy Spirit helps the believer to pray.
 4. The Holy Spirit gives power for preaching.
 5. The Holy Spirit gives gifts.

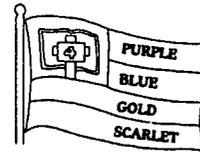
III. Foursquare Application

A. Cardinal Doctrine of the Foursquare Gospel

Jesus the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit is the second cardinal doctrine of the Foursquare movement. John the Baptist said, *"I indeed have baptized you with water; but He (Jesus) shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost"* (Mark 1:8).

B. Symbolized in the Foursquare flag

The color gold represents _____



C. Symbolized in the Foursquare emblem

The face of the lion represents Jesus Christ as the _____

D. Symbolized in the Foursquare insignia

The dove symbolizes _____



Personal Application

1. Why did Jesus ask God to send the Holy Spirit? _____

Describe how the Holy Spirit works in and through your life.

2. I NEED YOU, HOLY SPIRIT!

As we studied the lesson today, did you find yourself silently crying out for the Holy Spirit to meet a need in your life? Think of one thing that you need today — maybe it is...

...Comfort (to face a hard situation, to fill the loss of a friend or relative, loneliness, hurt, disappointment)

...Counsel (on how to handle a situation or relationship)

...Power (to witness, to stand up for righteousness, to love, to forgive, or do what is right)

...Assurance (that God does really love you, that the Holy Spirit will continue to work in you)

...Or any other need that you have!

Write that need in the space provided below. Then, reviewing the lesson, find the Scripture that shows the Holy Spirit able to meet that need. Look up the Scripture and write it out.

Holy Spirit, today I need you to _____

Statement of Faith

We believe Jesus, the Divine Healer • heals the sick today • heals in answer to believing prayer and in accordance with His will • is the same today as He was in Bible days • meets the needs of the body, soul and spirit.

Lesson Outline

- I. Divine Healing Definitions
 - A. Doctrinally
 - B. Scripturally
 - 1. Therapeuō
 - 2. Iaomai
 - 3. Sōzō
 - 4. Diasōzō
- II. Divine Healing Documentation
 - A. Old Testament
 - B. New Testament
- III. Divine Healing Directives
 - A. Divine Healing conditions
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - B. How to pray for Divine Healing (James 5:13-18)
 - 1. Call for the elders of the church
 - 2. Pray for one another
 - 3. Call upon the Lord directly

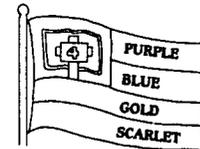
IV. Foursquare Application

A. Cardinal doctrine of the Foursquare Gospel

The truth that Jesus Christ is the Great Physician is the third of our four cardinal doctrines of the Foursquare Gospel. Without him one cannot receive divine healing for his body. We must first recognize Christ as the Great Physician, "by whose stripes ye were healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

B. Symbolized in the Foursquare Flag

The color blue represents _____



C. Symbolized in the Foursquare Emblem

The face of the ox represents Jesus Christ as _____

D. Symbolized in the Foursquare Insignia

The cup symbolizes _____



PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Consider the following statement. Re-write it in your own words answering these two questions: Is it scripturally correct? (See Isaiah 53:5) What does faith have to do with salvation and healing?

IF I'M NOT HEALED BY HIS STRIPES, THEN I'M NOT SAVED BY HIS BLOOD.

2. Earlier we looked at several greek words for "healing." Let's look again at the word "sozo." It is translated "save", "of the present experiences of God's power to deliver from the bondage of sin." This same word is used in Matthew 1:21, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall *save* his people from their sins."

Let's apply this "present experience of God's power to deliver from the bondage of sin" definition to our everyday life. We live in a world where evil abounds. We cannot help but be touched by things as we walk through our day. Consider the pressures, the seduction, the cynicism we face every day. Can we apply the healing power of Jesus to save us, cleanse us and set us free (heal us) from these influences?

Write out Luke 4:18

Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to your awareness areas in your life that need the healing touch of Jesus to come and set you free. Consider the following:

- Are you driven by a spirit of greed that dictates to you a lifestyle contrary to that example set by Jesus?
- Are you haunted by lustful thoughts that you cannot stop?
- Are you being held captive by a past hurt that binds you even today?
- Are you aware of a physical malady that you suspect may be a physical manifestation of a spiritual problem?

How can you apply this truth to your life today?

DIVINE HEALING QUESTIONS

1. "WHY DO THE GODLY SUFFER?"

It seems contrary to what we just read in this lesson, doesn't it? We do not pretend to know fully the secret of suffering, but we do know that healing and divine health are conditional blessings just as forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life are conditional blessings. In order to be saved, one must meet the conditions of salvation which are faith in and surrender to the Lord. Many apparent professing believers are such only in appearance, having not complied fully with the conditions. Likewise, in order to receive healing one must meet the conditions of faith and asking.

There are also some cases of sickness, such as that of Job's, in which the Lord permits a temporary trial of sickness in order to make one more patient with others who suffer, to bring out a maturity of character not otherwise possible, or to use one's healing for His glory. We must not question the wisdom of divine providence in our trials, but we may continue to seek healing on the grounds that Christ purchased healing for us on the cross.

Let's also not forget that Jesus suffered. It is impossible for us to imagine the full extent of our Lord's suffering. We know that at the whipping post He was beaten with the Roman scourge until His back was one solid bruise; we know that He was compelled to carry His cross upon that bruised back; we know that He was nailed to the cross and crowned with a crown of thorns. We know that He was left until He died suspended by His nail pierced hands and feet. All this we know, but how much He suffered mentally and inwardly as a result of sin, injustice and rejection we can never know. We can be sure from the words of Isaiah that He became acquainted in His ordeal at Golgotha with every kind and degree of sickness and suffering possible to the human body.

It is not our purpose merely to describe the shameful suffering inflicted upon Jesus, but rather to point out that He, to whom we go in prayer, is completely familiar with all our pains, sickness, anguish, oppression and crushing. When Christ is moved with compassion toward us frail beings, it is with a compassion derived from having experienced, Himself, all that we experience.

2. "IS SICKNESS THE RESULT OF SIN?"

Sickness is indirectly the result of sin, but not always necessarily the direct result of sin in the individual's life. Had there been no sin there would be no sickness nor pain. But with the fall came the curse and the fact of universal suffering. We now often suffer pain, sickness, or war without having committed a grievous sin. Inasmuch as the curse covers all nature, all are subject to its consequences, whether saints or sinners. Much sickness comes from natural causes such as disease germs, weather, food, and accident. Therefore, we do injustice to many of God's servants when we assume that all sickness and calamity are the direct result of the individual's sin or disobedience, although it is the result of sin, as a natural consequence of disobedience.

This does not mean, however, that God is the author of sickness. Satan is directly the author of sickness. God permits sickness, as in the case of Job, but He does not send it. Satan cannot go farther in the infliction of sickness than God permits. God may temporarily permit the affliction of His people, but when the trial has served its purpose, God sends deliverance in the form of bodily healing. God's deliverance is sometimes delayed, but ultimately, deliverance seems to be the will of God for those who believe.

3. "DOES JESUS HEAL TODAY?" or more specifically, "WOULD JESUS USE ME TO MINISTER HEALING?"

What does the scripture say?

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my father" (John 14:12).

"These signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17-18).

4. "WHAT ABOUT SPIRITUAL HEALING?"

Jesus taught us to pray: *"Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one"* (Matthew 6:13 — Literal translation). Obviously, God's highest good for us is to be delivered from the evil one. Now we are entitled to deliverance because it is purchased for us by the atoning work of our Redeemer. He came to destroy the works of the devil, the principal of which are sin and sickness. *"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil"* (1 John 3:8).

Christ taught that those who are bound by Satan, by any spirit of infirmity, ought to be loosed from their bonds. In Luke 13:11-16, we see the urgency in which Jesus moved to deliver the woman from her infirmity caused by a spirit of Satan or a demon spirit. Many scoff at the idea of evil spirits, but Jesus certainly believed in them, and He was the omniscient Son of God who knows more about the invisible influences at work in this world system than any philosopher, psychologist, scientist or physician knows. Only Christ's work of redemption prevails against the work of Satan; therefore it is urgent that true believers invoke the name of Jesus against sin and disease making manifest the victory of Christ.

Statement of Faith

We believe Jesus, our King will come again. This Second Coming of Christ • is a promise given by Jesus Himself • is the return of our Lord Jesus Christ • is personal and close at hand • is for believers prepared for His coming • includes the rapture, revelation and ascension into heaven • will bring together both the “dead in Christ” and those that are alive • will be followed by the Tribulation and Millennium.

Lesson Outline

- I. The promise of His coming
 - A. Predicted by the prophets
 - B. Proclaimed by the angels
 - C. Promised by Jesus Himself
 - D. Promised by the apostles
- II. The manner of his coming
 - A. Personal
 - B. Physical
 - C. Visible
 - D. Sudden
 - E. Triumphant
- III. Sequence of events
 - A. At the rapture
 - 1. The resurrection of the dead
 - 2. The transformation of our physical bodies
 - 3. The rapture of the Saints
 - 4. The reward of the Saints
 - 5. The tribulation
 - B. At the revelation
 - 1. The revelation of Christ’s glory
 - 2. The punishment of the disobedient
 - 3. The destruction of antichrist
 - 4. The destruction of the beast’s followers
 - 5. The judgement of the nations
 - 6. The conversion of Israel
 - 7. The removal of the curse

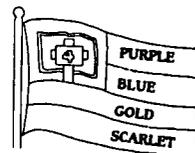
IV. Foursquare Application

A. The fourth cardinal doctrine

The fourth truth of the Foursquare Gospel is the second coming of the Lord. We look forward with eager anticipation to this blessed event with great joy, knowing that *“unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time”* (Hebrews 9:28).

B. Symbolized in the Foursquare Flag

The color purple represents _____



C. Symbolized in the Foursquare Emblem

The face of the eagle represents _____

D. Symbolized in the Foursquare Insignias

The crown symbolizes _____



Personal Application

1. Are we in the last days before Christ returns?

Look at Mathew 24: 4-7. In the column on the left, list the events mentioned in the scriptures.

There will be:	Is this true for our world today?
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Let's review...

Write in the order that the following events will take place.

- ___ There will be rumors of wars
- ___ The Marriage Supper of the Lamb
- ___ We will meet Jesus in the sky (the rapture)
- ___ The dead in Christ will be raised
- ___ The removal of the curse
- ___ The tribulation
- ___ The transformation of our bodies
- ___ The revelation of the King of Kings

3. Suppose for a moment that God announced to the world He would be sending Jesus back (the rapture) at noon tomorrow. What would you do between now and noon tomorrow?

"YES! I AM COMING SOON!"
— Jesus (Revelation 22:20)

Statement of Faith

We believe that the moderation of the believer • should be known of all men • that his experience and daily walk should never lead him into extremes, fanaticisms, unseemly manifestations, backbitings, murmurings • his sober, thoughtful, balanced, mellow, forgiving and zealous Christian experience should be one of steadfastness, uprightness, equilibrium, humility, self-sacrifice and Christ-likeness.

We believe it is the will of God that we be sanctified daily and become partakers of His holiness • growing constantly stronger in faith, power, prayer, love and service, and ever living a godly life • that we will be a true reflection of the Christ within • therefore, it is the will of God that we live and walk in the Spirit, moment by moment.

Lesson Outline

I. Sanctification

A. Defined

Sanctification is twofold:

- 1.
- 2.

B. Applied

1. Sanctification by the blood
2. Sanctification by the Word
3. Sanctification by the Holy Spirit

II. Faith

A. What is faith?

1. Faith is based on three very definite things:
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

B. The importance of faith

1. Faith is that characteristic of the soul which brings man in contact with God.
2. Faith is the thing, above all else, which pleases God.
3. Lack of faith is sin.
4. The whole Christian life is dependant on our faith.

C. The possibilities and power of faith

III. Moderation

A. Defined

B. Applied

1. Moderation in doctrinal belief
2. Moderation in exercise of spiritual gifts
3. Moderation in living habits
4. Moderation in personal liberty
5. Moderation in temperament

Personal Application

1. Define sanctification. _____

2. What three agents are used in the life of a believer in bringing about sanctification?

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

3. Faith is not something that we generate ourselves by knitting our brows and going through a lot of mental concentration or contortions. Neither can it be worked up by desperate shouting and various physical manipulations. So, then, how do we obtain faith?

A. Who gives each man a measure of faith? (Romans 12:3) _____

B. Who is the author and finisher of our faith? (Hebrews 12:2) _____

C. Who gives the gift of faith? (1 Corinthians 12:9) _____

Faith is also a development in our lives. Look up the following scriptures and see how faith is developed.

Galatians 5:22 _____

Romans 10:17 _____

4. In reference to moderation, explain the following statement:

"I DON'T CARE HOW HIGH YOU JUMP,
BUT HOW STRAIGHT YOU WALK WHEN YOU COME DOWN."

Statement of Faith

We believe prayer and devotion • is commanded of our Lord • is time set aside to fellowship with God • is a means of inspiring one's faith • is necessary to one's everyday living and • is vital to the life of every believer.

We believe the study of Scripture • serves as a source of guidance and inspiration • serves as an aid in daily living • is important to spiritual growth • is the soul's nourishment • helps to keep us from sin • aids in our prayer life • provides encouragement and strength • builds faith in our hearts • serves as a mirror to our lives.

Lesson Outline

- I. Bible study in the daily Christian life
 - A. The importance of devotional Bible study
 - B. The value of devotional Bible study
 1. It builds faith in our hearts
 2. It keeps us from sin
 3. It brings about spiritual growth
 4. It enriches one's life
 - C. Practical applications of Bible reading
 1. Read the Bible daily for inspiration
 2. Turn to the Bible for guidance
 3. Pursue the Bible for new insights
 4. Go to the Bible in times of sorrow, grief, trial or tests
 5. Share the Bible with others for spiritual fellowship
 - D. Results of Bible study
 1. Christians are spiritually equipped
 2. Christians will know God's will
- II. Prayer in the daily Christian life
 - A. The need of prayer
 1. In the Christian's life
 2. In the Christian's conflict with Satan
 3. In the Christian's service for God
 - B. The object of prayer
 1. For communion with God
 2. For worship and praise
 3. For intercession and petition
 - C. The way to pray
 1. In the Spirit
 2. In our native language
 3. In accordance with God's will
 4. In faith - believing
 - D. Reasons for unanswered prayer
 1. No spiritual relationship with God
 2. Known and unconfessed sin
 3. Lack of faith
 4. An unforgiving spirit
 5. Uncongenial relationships

Personal Application _____

1. Why do you think you should read your Bible with consistency?

2. State in your own words the importance of prayer.

Why do you pray? _____

3. A friend comes to ask your opinion on a situation. His business is not doing very well, even though he has been praying that God would bless and guide him. You know for a fact that he is having problems in his marriage. He has no respect for his wife and often ridicules her publicly. He states he feels God is not hearing his prayers.

What would you say to him? _____

Statement of Faith

We believe sharing your faith is • a personal witness of Christ's work in you • dealing with individuals in a personal manner concerning the individual's spiritual condition • everyone's solemn responsibility following conversion • a command by our Lord Jesus Christ • rewarded by God.

Lesson Outline

- I. What is personal witnessing?

- II. The purpose of personal witnessing

- III. The importance of sharing your faith
 - A. It establishes the Christian in his own faith
 - B. It is probably the only method of Christian service in which all can have a part
 - C. It reaches those who cannot be reached in any other way
 - D. It can be done anywhere, at anytime
 - E. It reaches people where they are
 - F. It produces large results

Personal Application _____

1. The BIG THREE OF THE DAILY CHRISTIAN LIFE are:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

2. "Witnessing" "Sharing Jesus with a co-worker, relative or friend."

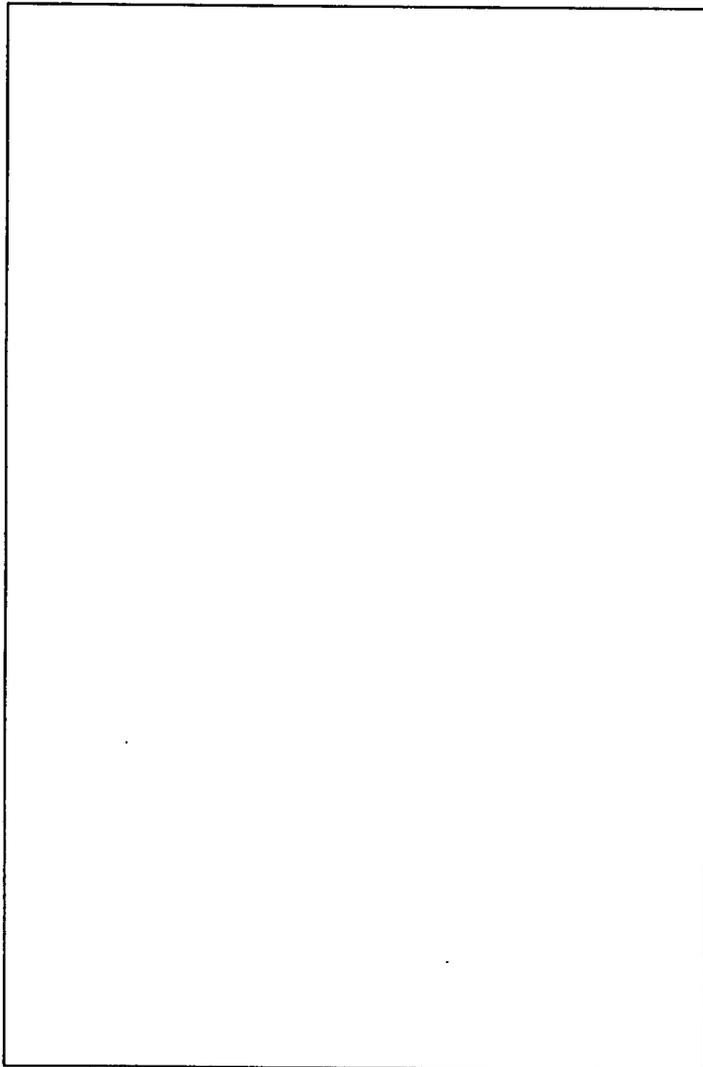
Who came to your mind as you read that? _____

Will you make a commitment to pray for this person? _____

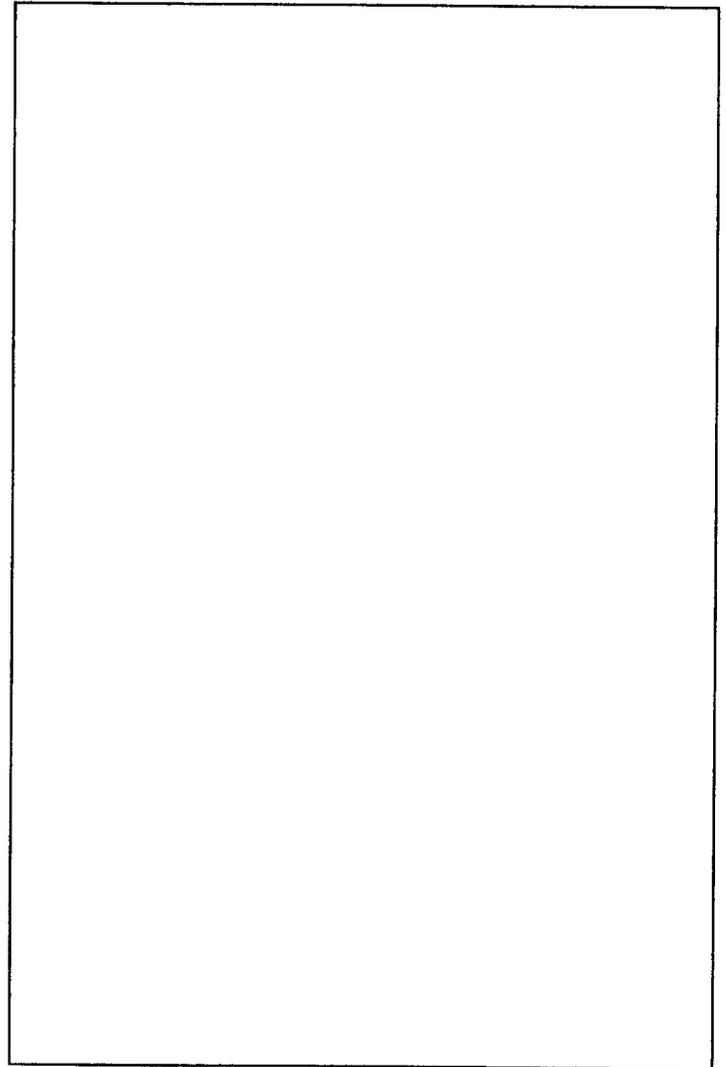
Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be aware of opportunities to share your faith.

3. You are about to meet someone that has never heard about Jesus Christ. God is giving you the opportunity to give them a card explaining the good news of the Gospel. Design a tract to hand to this person.

(front)



(back)



Statement of Faith

We believe it is the will of God that we live and walk in the Spirit • moment by moment • under the precious blood of the Lamb • treading softly as with unshod feet in the presence of the King • being patient, loving, truthful, sincere, prayerful, uncomplaining • instant in season, out of season, serving the Lord.

We believe that the fruit of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance — should be put forth, cultivated, and diligently guarded as the resultant adornment, the constant eloquent and irrefutable evidence of a Spirit-filled life.

We believe the Holy Spirit has gifts to bestow to equip believers in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ • received as an act of faith on the part of the believer • divided to every man severally as He, the Holy Spirit will • to be most earnestly desired and once received, diligently employed.

Lesson Outline

- I. The Spirit-filled life defined
- II. Characteristics of the Spirit-filled life
 - A. Strength in the inner man
 - B. Power which allows God to work among us
 - C. Christ-like speech and conduct
 - D. Daily fullness
 - E. Energized prayer
 - F. Walking in the Spirit
 - G. A yielded body
 - H. Love
 - I. Physical quickening
 - J. Worship guided by the Holy Spirit
- III. The fruit of the Spirit
 - A. Love
 - B. Joy
 - C. Peace
 - D. Longsuffering
 - E. Gentleness
 - F. Goodness
 - G. Faith
 - H. Meekness
 - I. Temperance
- IV. The gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - A. Spiritual gifts for the purpose of edification

<u>Gifts of Insight</u>	<u>Gifts of Power</u>	<u>Gifts of Utterance</u>
1. Word of wisdom	4. Faith	7. Prophecy
2. Word of knowledge	5. Gifts of healing	8. Gift of tongues
3. Discernment	6. Working of miracles	9. Interpretation of tongues
 - B. Office gifts to and for the Church
 - 1. Prophecy
 - 2. Ministering (helps)
 - 3. Teaching
 - 4. Exhortation
 - 5. Giving
 - 6. Administration (ruling)
 - 7. Mercy
 - C. Ministry gifts to the Church
 - 1. Apostles
 - 2. Prophets
 - 3. Evangelists
 - 4. Pastors
 - 5. Teachers

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Of the characteristics of the Spirit-filled life listed at the beginning of the lesson, which three do you recognize as being weak in your life? How can you see them strengthened?

2. List below the nine characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit. To the right of each characteristic, rate how you perceive that particular quality manifests in your life. In the next column, rate how you think a spouse, friend, or co-worker would rate you.

(Scale of 1-10: 1 being "don't see it," 10 being "completely yielded")

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS:

AS I SEE MYSELF

AS ANOTHER SEES ME

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS:	AS I SEE MYSELF	AS ANOTHER SEES ME
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

3. Why does God give spiritual gifts? _____

4. When you reviewed the list of spiritual, office, and ministry gifts in this lesson, did you recognize any of them in your own life? If so, choose one and explain why you think you have been given that particular gift.

Statement of Faith

We believe church services • should be a part of every believer's lifestyle • should be attended faithfully • portray the "visible" Church of Jesus Christ • bring people together in Christian fellowship • provide for unity of spirit, worship, ministry and praise • provide for the proclaiming of God's Word • bring together the Body of Christ • provide opportunities for the use of spiritual gifts.

Lesson Outline

- I. The Church defined
 - A. The Church — universal and local

- II. The Church established

- III. The purpose of the Church
 1. A common doctrine
 2. A common day of worship
 3. A common pattern of worship
 4. Common designation of offices
 5. Common discipline standards
 6. Common plans for mutual aid
 7. A common system for the commendation of sincere members who transfer from church to church

- IV. Duties and responsibilities of the organized church
 - A. To preach and teach the Gospel
 - B. To provide for Christian worship and culture
 - C. To provide for the fellowship of believers
 - D. To maintain right standards of life and belief

Personal Application

1. Give three reasons why you should be involved in a local body of believers.

2. Of all the opportunities available in this local church, which would you enjoy doing? Why?

3. Take a moment to ask Jesus where He would have you serve in this local church. Be open to His direction. It may not be doing something you had thought of. (Remember, God needs more people to change diapers than to stand behind the pulpit and preach!)

What do you hear Jesus saying to you?

Statement of Faith

We believe that water baptism • is a command of the Lord • is an outward sign of an inward work • is symbolic of dying with Christ, being buried with Christ and then rising with Christ in newness of life.

We believe that Holy Communion • is a command of the Lord • uses broken bread and the fruit of the vine, a blessed type of Christ's broken body and shed blood • should be preceded by the most solemn, heart-searching, self-examination, forgiveness and love toward all men and should not be taken unworthily.

Lesson Outline

I. Water baptism

A. Its importance to the believer

1. Christ's ministers were commanded to baptize
2. Individual believers were commanded to be baptized
3. It is a preparatory step to the fullness of the Holy Spirit
4. It is a privilege to follow our Lord

B. The manner of baptism — by immersion

C. The significance of baptism — death, burial, resurrection

D. The formula of baptism — In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

E. The example of baptism — our Lord

II. Holy communion

A. The purpose of the Lord's supper

1. To commemorate calvary
2. To watch for his coming

B. Our preparation

C. The symbols

Bread —

Juice —

Personal Application _____

1. Your friend, Joan received Jesus as her personal Savior this morning. The counselor in the prayer room encouraged Joan to be baptized in water. Joan was baptized (sprinkled) as a baby. She is asking you why she needs to be baptized again and wants to know if you think she should be baptized again. What will you tell her?

2. Why did Jesus tell us to celebrate the Lord's Supper? _____

3. What does the bread and juice represent in Holy Communion? _____

Statement of Faith

We believe church missions • is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the world • is sending personnel to the uttermost parts of the world • is supporting the missionary program with our prayers, concern and offerings • is fulfilling the "Great Commission" of our Lord • includes the "home front" as well as foreign soil.

Lesson Outline

if
is
er
is

- I. The motive for missions
 - A. Obedience
 - B. Love
- II. The aim of missions
- III. The power for missions
- IV. The hindrances of missions
- V. The reward of missions
- VI. Foursquare missions
 - A. Its history and heritage
 - B. Its definition and perspective
 - 1. Evangelization
 - 2. Discipleship
 - 3. Church planting
 - 4. Renewal
 - C. Foursquare missionaries
 - D. Giving to worldwide missions

Personal Application _____

1. It is stated:

**“YOU’RE EITHER A MISSIONARY
OR A MISSION FIELD.”**

Paraphrase the above statement: _____

2. Why it is important to send missionaries to other countries? _____

3. Matthew 28:18-20 records Jesus' charge to you, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

What is your response to this charge? _____

Lesson 12 — Student Handout Church Stewardship and Membership

Statement of Faith

We believe church stewardship • is the way given by God to care for the financial needs of His Church and work • is the giving of “tithes, offerings, talents and time” • is showing our love to Jesus Christ and His people • is the giving of our abilities He has given to us individually.

We believe church membership • is a privilege • consists of born-again individuals • calls for loyalty • calls for financial and prayer support • calls for the giving of one’s talent and service • is ordained of God • is headed by Christ • is directed and guided by a pastor • is helpful to individuals • is for children, youth and adults.

Lesson Outline

- I. Stewardship
 - A. Stewardship of time
 1. Church involvement
 - B. Stewardship of talents
 - C. Stewardship of finances
 1. Tithe
 2. Offerings
- II. Membership
 - A. The requirements for church membership
 - B. Application for church membership
 - C. “Active” church members
 - D. The service of church members
 - E. The privileges of church membership

F ***Personal Application*** _____

1. What is tithing? _____

Why should a Christian tithe? _____

According to Malachi 3:10-11, what does God promise to those who tithe? _____

What is the difference between tithing and an offering? _____

2. Answer the following question:

“What kind of church would my church be if every member of it were just like me?”
