

# **THE POWER of GOD**

## **THE GOSPEL of JESUS CHRIST**

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A Study on the importance of knowing the Scriptures, Jesus Christ, and the Plan of Salvation. First Printing (1996). Modified & Edited by Cole Weeks (2002). Digitally Formatted by Gina Lewis (2014). Modified & Edited by Rick Flores (2015).

**So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. – Acts 8: 30, 31 NKJV**

**A Bible Study Dedicated**

**To Those Who Are Searching...**

**For TRUTH. For GOD. For SALVATION.**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 1: 16

Is the Bible really true and reliable today?

Is there really an absolute truth anymore?

Can the writings of the Bible really have a positive impact on my life?

Who exactly was Jesus Christ? A Teacher? A Prophet? Or God incarnate?

Is Jesus really the only way to God?

What must I do to be saved?

What did Jesus mean when He said, "You must be born again?"

What or who exactly is the Holy Ghost?

How can I receive the power to overcome sins and addictions in my life?

All these questions will be answered right out of the Word of God, right before your eyes. Let God transform your life and set you on a brighter path today!

It's all contained in this three-part study:

**THE POWER of GOD: THE GOSPEL of JESUS CHRIST**

For the word of God *is living* and *powerful*, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4: 12

## **Part 1 – The Word of God: The Light of the World**

“How shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.”  
-Psalm 119:9 (NKJV)

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”  
-Psalm 119:105

“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” –John 8:31-32

### **INTRODUCTION**

The goal of this three-part study is to teach people the truth concerning salvation, according to the Bible. It is also my desire to see people set free from the bondage of sin by the power of God’s Word. It is my sincere belief that when people are obedient to the Word of God that they will discover a life full of the blessing, the protection, and the joy of the Lord.

**PART 1** will focus on establishing the Bible as our one true source of direction. How important is it for us to know what the Bible says? Is there really an absolute truth? How can we know the will of God for our lives?

**PART 2** will focus on the Godhead, and the person of Jesus Christ. For over 2000 years, Jesus has remained a mystery to many people. Was He merely a great teacher or prophet? Was He just one of many avenues to God? Or was He in fact the Almighty God in human flesh?

**PART 3** will focus on the plan of salvation. There are many different beliefs regarding God’s plan of salvation for mankind. How can we know the true plan of salvation? What does the Bible teach about being “born again”? What exactly must we do to be saved?

The only prerequisite for studying these lessons is that you keep an open mind. Ask yourself if what is being taught is merely the opinion of the writer, or the direct instructions of the Bible. If we will inherit the same attitude of the people in the biblical city of Berea, we should come out with a deeper understanding of God’s Word. The bible says: “...**they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**” –Acts 17:11

### **Why is it important to know what the Bible says?**

The main reason is because the Bible, although written by man, is inspired by God. God spoke audibly to only 13 people in the scriptures. However, His *written* Word continues to speak to us today.

**Read 2 Peter 1:20-21.** The Bible is not one man's private interpretation of God. Forty different writers, over the course of about four thousand years, wrote as God inspired them. Though the Bible records many different events and prophecies, one underlying theme prevails: We were created by One Supreme God, who promised protection, blessing, and salvation to all who will live by faith and obey His Word.

**Read 2 Timothy 3:12-17.** Though we may face tough times, we should know that if we will follow the instructions of the scriptures (God's "voice" for us today), we will find salvation.

Another reason is that we will be *judged* by His Word. Many people believe in God, but have not really read the Bible for themselves. This is ironic, considering the fact that the reason we believe in God is *because* of the Bible. God's Word gives us many practical guidelines for our daily lives, and even more important instructions on how we can have eternal life in heaven. The following scriptures are some of the main reasons why we should concern ourselves with the Bible.

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:10.** If we are going to be judged according to what we have done, we need to read the Bible in order to know what to do. We must not remain in ignorance when it comes to God's Word. Consider the words of Jesus Christ:

**"You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God." -Matthew 22:29 (NIV)**

Just as in our civic laws, such as traffic laws, people will be held accountable for what they do *not* know when it comes to God's Word.

**Read Romans 10:1-3.** It is possible to have an eager desire to please God, but not possess the knowledge needed for salvation. We need to seek after God's righteousness, or God's ways, and not our own. Consider the following scripture:

**"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." -Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)**

When we try to do things our own way, we are likely to fail. If we will put God first, we are destined to succeed. Jesus put it this way:

**"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." - Matthew 6:33**

**Read Matthew 24:3-5, 23-25.** Jesus was extremely concerned about people not being deceived in the end time. He warned us about false Christ's and false teachings. However, the only way we can recognize when something is false, is to first be able to recognize when something is true. That is why it is so important to find the absolute truth and our core beliefs in the Bible. The Word of God reminds us to:

**"But the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding." -Proverbs 23:23**

## **Is there *really* an absolute truth according to the Bible?**

Some people believe that truth is relative. They believe that it is changeable with the times, or that truth is whatever you want it to be. They say “My truth is my truth, and your truth is your truth.” This philosophy teaches that there is not one specific way to come to God or to obtain salvation. However, the Bible *does* address this topic in great detail. Listed below are some of the scriptures that support absolute truth:

**“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”** –John 17:17

**“For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.”** –Psalm 119:89

**“Thy word is true from the beginning.”** – Psalm 119:160

**“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”** –Matthew 24:35

The Bible declares that the Word of God is true from the beginning of time and will remain true forever. It becomes the foundation on which we base our beliefs; it is our compass by which we find our direction. The Old Testament prophesied of Him; the New Testament testified of Him. Jesus is the center of it all.

**Read John 1:1-12.** Jesus is the Living Word sent down from heaven. His life was the light of the world. Those who receive this truth and believe in Jesus will receive the power of God.

**Read John 14:6.** Jesus is the *only* way to God. He *is* the truth.

**Read Hebrews 1:1-2.** God has spoken to us through Jesus Christ. He did not use Mohammed, Krishna, Buddha, or any other so-called prophet or Christ. According to the Bible, Jesus is the absolute truth and *the only way* to salvation. The scriptures teach this:

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

## **What about just being a good person and believing in God: Won't that count for anything?**

Many people have reasoned within themselves, that as long as they are good citizens and believe in God, they are on their way to heaven. According to the words of Jesus and His apostles, these people may be in for a rude awakening:

**Read Luke 13:22-24.** According to Jesus, many will seek to enter into heaven, but will not be able to. Why won't they be able to enter? That is what we need to find out.

**Read James 1:21-27.** The word of God is able to save us, but we must apply it to our lives. Recognizing our need is good, but *acting upon it* is what the Bible says we must do. It is one thing to be “religious” and simply *hear* the Word. It is another thing to be obedient and actually *practice* the Word of God. True Christianity will direct the words we speak, the things we do, and the places we go.

**Read Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23.** Christianity has never been about the majority. Many will be lost, few will be saved. Even many who claimed Jesus as Lord will be shocked in the last day. Again, it all comes down to *doing* rather than just *hearing*. Let's read the rest of that passage:

**Read Matthew 7:24-29.** The same storms of life come to all people. Those who merely hear the Word will fall to the temptations and trials of life. Those who are doers of the Word will be given a firm foundation that will allow them to endure until the end.

In summary, "goodness" alone will not save a person. None of us could ever be good enough to measure up to such a Holy God. We are not saved by good deeds. We are saved by His Grace – through faith. (See Ephesians 2:8-9) True faith will be evidenced by our obedience to the Word. (See Romans 6:17) Consider the following scripture:

**"...Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." 1 Sam. 15:22**

Remember, Jesus said that only those who do the will of God would enter into heaven. Therefore we must be found doing the will of God. Are we in agreement at this point?

**So what *is* the will of God? What does He want us to do?**

**Read 2 Chronicles 7:14.** When it comes to salvation, God's desire is that we humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from our sinful ways. This is known as repentance. Another passage puts it this way:

**"The Lord is...longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9**

It is God's sincere desire that we do not die lost, but that we come to the knowledge of Salvation. He will have patience and mercy towards us, but ultimately it is His will for us to repent of our sins and turn to Him. After repentance, it is God's will for us to believe the gospel. Consider the words of Jesus Christ:

**"...The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mark 1:15**

**Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6.** Paul was bold enough as to say that if this gospel remains hid to you, you will be lost. The god of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of those who do not believe. The only thing that can open our eyes to the truth is to accept and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is in believing and obeying the gospel that we will receive the power of God to overcome our sinful nature. Do you want the power of God in your life?

**“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth...” – Romans 1:16**

We now know that the will of God is for us to repent, believe, and obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. What happens if we choose not to do His will? Peter asked this question:

**“...what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” -1 Peter 4:7**

The Apostle Paul gave us the answer to this sobering question:

**Read 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.** Everlasting destruction is the punishment of not only those who do not know God, but also for those who do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. By the end of this three-part study, you will know exactly what it means to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Bible is inspired and anointed by God. It is the voice of God speaking to us today. It contains the power to save our souls, but it must be applied to our lives. We need to know what the Bible says, because ultimately it is the Word that will judge us in the last day. (See John 12:48) Jesus Christ is the Living Word sent down from heaven, the absolute truth, and the only way to Salvation. It is God's will that we obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. It all starts with believing in Him.

**Read John 3:16.** We are to believe in Jesus Christ as our only source of Salvation. He is the central figure of Christianity and the focus of Lesson 2.

**“...I (Jesus) am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” - John 8:32-36**

There is so much power in the Word. Let it transform your life to the glory of God.

**“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. Piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” –Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)**

**Read Psalm 119: 9-12, 16.** Our way will be cleansed when we obey His Word, seek Him with our whole heart, and wander not away from His commandments. We need to hide His Word in our heart. May we never forget His Word.

## **Part 2 – Jesus Christ: Stumbling Block...or Stepping Stone?**

“But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God”.  
1 Corinthians 1:23-24

“Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.”  
1 Peter 2:7-8

“And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me” - Matthew 11:6

### **INTRODUCTION**

As we proceed in our quest to find biblical salvation, we must first stop and examine the one who is the central figure of salvation – Jesus Christ. No one can approach the topic of salvation or Christianity without having to deal with the proclamations and teachings of Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact, whether or not you ever become a Christian centers on your belief concerning Christ. You will either believe that Jesus was everything He claimed to be, or you will take offense to His words and disregard Him as insignificant to the outcome of your life. The name of Jesus will either be a stumbling block, or a stepping stone on your road to eternal life.

#### **Who do people say that Jesus Christ was?**

Jesus Christ has impacted our world more than any other person in history. From video documentaries, to motion pictures, to major magazines, the topic of the life of Jesus never ceases to intrigue both believers and non-believers alike. Though many deny that He is Lord and Savior, no student of history can deny His existence. Many people regard Him as a teacher or prophet sent from God. Some say that He was just an ordinary man. Others believe that He was God in flesh. What do you say? Was he really *the only way* to eternal life, or just one of many avenues? More importantly, what does the Bible say?

**Read Matthew 16:13-19.** Ever since the beginning, opinions about Jesus varied. Peter recognized him as the Christ, the Son of the living God. This passage makes it clear that realizing who Jesus is comes only through spiritual revelation. The revelation of who Jesus is becomes our key to entering the kingdom of heaven. It allows access to His church. It promises to help us withstand every evil spirit, and offers the blessings of heaven upon us.

#### **Who does the Bible proclaim Jesus to be?**

**Read Matthew 1:23.** Jesus should be called Emmanuel, which means “God with us.”

**Read 1 Timothy 3:16.** This passage reveals the mystery of who Jesus was. *JESUS* was justified, *JESUS* was seen, *JESUS* was preached, and it was *JESUS* who was believed on and received back up into glory. This scripture undoubtedly labels Jesus as God. Paul recognized Jesus not only as the Savior, but also as *the great God*, as recorded in Scripture:

***“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ,” Titus 2:13***

**Read 1 John 3:16.** God loved us so much that *He* laid down *His own life* for us. Who died on the cross? Who shed His blood? Consider the following scripture:

***“Take heed therefore unto yourselves...to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” – Acts 20:28***

The Scriptures are clear: Jesus was much more than a prophet or a teacher. He was God in flesh.

**But wasn't Jesus a man? How can a man be God? And how can He be God and yet be the Son of God?**

### **The Two Natures of Christ**

Understanding the two natures of Christ is the key to understanding how He could be both the Creator *and* the Savior. Both God *and* the Son of God. Jesus possessed both a human and a divine nature. He had a human nature because He was born of a woman (Mary). He had a divine nature because He was conceived of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 1:18-23). Therefore, he could be referred to as the *Son of man* or the *Son of God*, as in the following two examples:

***“For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.”***

**Matthew 18:11**

***“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” –Luke 1:35***

At times the Bible refers to Christ in His humanity, as when He grew weary and thirsty. (See John 4:6-7) At other times the Bible refers to Christ in His divinity, as when He healed the sick and pronounced what only God had the authority to declare: ***“...Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.” - Mark 2:5***

When we understand the two natures of Christ, we can better understand:

1. How He prayed to God for His own needs, yet was the one who answered prayer. (See Luke 22:41, John 14:14)

2. How He became the sacrifice for our sins, yet had the authority to forgive all sins. (See Hebrews 10:10, Mark 2:5-7)
3. How He had no power of Himself, yet had all power in Heaven and in earth. (See John 5:30, Matthew 28:18)
4. How He suffered death on a cross, yet conquered death when He raised His own body from the tomb. (See Mark 15:37, John 2:19-22)

According to the Scriptures, God the Father robed himself in human flesh and became the sacrificial lamb known to the world as Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

### **Is it possible for Jesus to be both the Father and the Son?**

**Read Isaiah 9:6** Most Bible scholars agree that this is a prophecy concerning Jesus Christ. If this is so, then Jesus shall be called The Everlasting *Father*.

**Read John 14:6-9** Jesus claimed to be the way, the truth, and the life. He also proclaimed Himself to be the visible image of the Father. Another scripture says this of Jesus:

***“Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature.” - Colossians 1:15***

### **Two Testaments: ONE GOD**

**Malachi 2:10** says, ***“Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us?...***

Could this one God and Father who created us be the Lord Jesus Christ?

Compare the following scriptures regarding God the Father from the Old Testament to Jesus Christ from the New Testament. Then you decide if Jesus is *separate* from the Father, or if he *is* the Father, revealed to us in human flesh.

**Read Isaiah 44:24 & John 1:3, 10.** Are there two Creators? Or is Jesus the God who created heaven and earth?

**Read Isaiah 43:11 & Luke 2:11.** Are there two Saviors? Or is Jesus the God of the Old Testament?

**Read Isaiah 44:6 & Revelation 22:13.** Are there two Firsts and Lasts? Or is Jesus the King of Israel?

**Read Isaiah 43:25 & Mark 2:5.** Was He an impostor? Or The Lord Almighty?

**Read Exodus 3:13, 14 & John 8:56-59.** When Jesus said *“I Am”*, He put himself in the very position of the One God and Father of all. That is why the Jews wanted to kill him.

**Read Isaiah 45:22, 23 & Philippians 2:9-11.** Someday we will all bow before *One God*. Is there any question as to whom this will be?

Because of His two natures, Jesus could be both the Father (in creation) and the Son (in redemption). If there is still any doubt, consider the following:

He is the Shepherd **and** the Lamb (John 10:11; 1:29).

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He is the Wounded **and** the Healer (Isaiah 53:5).

He is the King **and** the Servant (Revelation 19:16, Philippians 2:7).

He is the Beginning **and** the Ending, the First **and** the Last (Revelation 1:8, 17).

He is the Root **and** offspring of David (Revelation 22:16).

Is it therefore too hard of a thing for Him to be both the Father **and** the Son?

The physical body of Jesus was the Son; the Spirit within Him was the Father.

### **What about the Holy Spirit? Who or what exactly is He?**

In order to better understand who the Holy Spirit is, it is important to first point out that God the Father and the Holy Spirit are not two *distinct* Spirits, but one. The Bible proclaims “**God is holy**” (1 Samuel 2:2) and “**God is a Spirit**” (John 4:24). This would make God a *Holy Spirit*. There is a scripture in the book of Matthew that proves that the Holy Spirit and God the Father are one and the Same. Speaking of the birth of Jesus, Matthew 1:20 says, “... *for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.*” The Bible clearly states that the Holy Spirit conceived Jesus. This would make the Holy Spirit the Father of Jesus. Did Jesus have two fathers? Or, is the Holy Spirit another way of describing the Almighty God who created heaven and earth? (See also Luke 1:35).

### **The Spirit of Christ**

**“And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” - Ezekiel 36: 27**

When we realize that the Holy Spirit is another term used to describe the Spirit of the Father, and that Jesus was manifestation of the Father in flesh, it will become clearer that the Holy Spirit is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ coming to us now in Spirit form.

**Read John 14:16-18.** Jesus makes three profound statements here:

1. The Comforter, or the Holy Spirit, would abide with them forever.
2. He told them that they *already knew* the Holy Spirit.
3. The Holy Spirit already dwelt *with* them, but would soon be *in* them. Remember, up to this point, the only one they knew was Jesus Christ; the one who dwelt with them. If there was any question as to who this Spirit was going to be, Jesus proclaims, “***I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.***” – John 14:18. This would make Jesus the Comforter (or Holy Spirit) abiding with us forever. Jesus said, “***and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.***” - Matthew 28:20 (NIV).

### **How could He be with us every single moment, unless He is here in Spirit?**

**Read John 1:12 & Acts 1:8.** The Biblical way to receive Jesus Christ is to receive the Holy Ghost. This is the way to receive the power of God and to overcome sin in our lives. (Further explanation in Lesson 3)

**Read Revelation 3:30.** How can Christ come into our lives? Wouldn't it have to be in the Spirit form? It is an awesome thing to know that Jesus Christ Himself takes residence within us.

*“Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now it is made manifest to his saints ...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:” – Colossians 1:26-27*

*“...Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” – Romans 8: 9*

The Spirit that lives within the heart of every believer is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says in **2 Corinthians 3:17**, *“Now the Lord is that Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”* This makes Jesus the embodiment of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. It is in perfect harmony with the One God message found throughout the Bible.

### **What about the doctrine of The Trinity?**

The doctrine of the Trinity states that there is “... *one God in three persons and three persons in one God... one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit...the glory equal, the majesty coeternal..*” (Quoted in part from the Athanasian Creed, developed in 381 A.D.) The Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume 15, page 14 states, “...*in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; these three persons being truly distinct one from another...*” The Bible does not mention the word “Trinity”, nor does it use the terms “God the Son” or “God the Holy Spirit” to describe separate persons. It never mentions “One God in three persons.” According to the Encyclopedia International (1987 ed., vol. 18, p226), “*the doctrine of the ‘Trinity’ did not form part of the apostles’ preaching...*” However, because it is a widely believed doctrine, we will briefly address this topic.

### **When did this doctrine originate?**

The earliest stages of The Trinity doctrine can be traced to a man named Tertullian in A.D. 213 (New Catholic Encyclopedia, 1977 ed., vol. 13, p. 1021), and to the first ecumenical council of Nicea in 325 A.D. However, the official distinction of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as separate persons, known as the doctrine of the Trinity, was officially established at the second council of Constantinople in A.D. 381. (American Encyclopedia Dictionary, page 4189) This was 348 years after the church began.

### **Why did this doctrine originate?**

People mistakenly interpreted the manifestations, or expressions of God to be separate *persons*, when in fact the one God of the Bible was unveiling Himself to us in manners in which we could relate. As the Father, He is our creator and protector. As the Son, He is our redeemer and high priest. As the Holy Ghost, He is our emancipator and strength. He has set us free from the bondage of sin and empowers us to rise above it. Remember, the Bible does not mention the “Trinity” or “three persons in One God”. It is a tradition of man rather than a commandment of God.

### **What is the main difference in doctrine as it pertains to Jesus Christ?**

**Read Colossians 2:8-10.** The doctrine of the Trinity places Jesus in the Godhead. The Bible places the Godhead in Jesus.

## **Does it really matter what a person believes about Jesus?**

According to Jesus, it really does. Consider His words:

***“...for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.” - John 8:24***

If you believe Jesus to be only one-third of a triune God, you are taking away the full honor and power that is due Him. Jesus Christ is the head of ALL principality and power. (Colossians 2:10)

**Read Acts 4:11-12.** Jesus is the *only name* that will save us.

In the next lesson, we will discover how we can apply His name to our lives and attain eternal life.

**Read Isaiah 35: 4-6 & Matthew 11:1-6.** There is no doubt that the man named Jesus who walked this earth over 2000 years ago was the Almighty God robed in human flesh. The stone that the builders rejected, the same stone that causes some to stumble, has become a stepping stone on the road to eternal life for those who will believe. Blessed is he who is not offended in Him.

## **CONCLUSION**

God is a Spirit (John 4:24) without flesh and bones (Luke 24:39). Since the blood of lambs and other animals could not permanently pay the price for our sins, the eternal Spirit of the Father overshadowed Mary and conceived a Son (Jesus) to prepare the most holy of sacrifices ever known to man. The death of Jesus on the cross permanently paid the price for our sins (Hebrews 10:14). He became the spotless Lamb of God (1 Peter 1:19). Jesus continues to be with us today through the presence of the Holy Spirit. (John 14:18; Matthew 28:20) The fullness of the Godhead dwells in the body of Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:9). God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself (2 Corinthians 5:19).

***“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one Lord.” – Deuteronomy 6:4***

***“And immediately I was in the spirit; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.” – Revelation 4:2***

The Apostle John was the only man recorded in Scripture to get a glimpse of heaven. He saw *one throne* and *one* sitting on the throne. We will only see one visible manifestation of God in heaven. Is there any doubt as to whom this will be?

## **Part 3 – The Most Important Question of All Time: What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

“...what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?” – Matthew 19:16

“...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” –Acts 16:30

“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?” - Acts 2:37

### **INTRODUCTION**

The last step on our road to eternal life is to address the most important question a person could ever ask: ***“What must I do to be saved”?***

Lesson 1 revealed the importance of knowing what the Bible says, and the importance of obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ. God wants us to be doers of the Word, not hearers only.

Lesson 2 revealed that Jesus Christ was in fact the Almighty God who came to us in the form of man. We learned that the revelation of who Jesus is becomes our key to entering into heaven.

As we begin Lesson 3, it must be pointed out that although it is of tremendous importance to know the scriptures and to know who Jesus is, salvation is not based on “head knowledge” alone. Salvation is a spiritual experience with God. It is a conversion of the mind, will, and spirit. Salvation occurs when knowledge and obedience fuse themselves together. Therefore, the final questions we must ponder are: Have I obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ? Am I ready to meet the Lord? Have I been born again?

This lesson should answer these questions for you.

### **I’ve heard so many different opinions on how to be saved, how do I know that this Bible Study is not just another opinion?**

Every Christian church claims to be an extension of the original church of Jesus Christ, and to preach the same gospel that the Apostles preached. For example, the Catholic Church claims that Peter was the first Pope. Therefore, the only way to present this study in a non-denominational way would be to go strictly with what the Holy Bible teaches regarding the topic of salvation. Any salvation plan which cannot be supported by the scriptures is simply an opinion or tradition. This study will cut through philosophies and traditions of men. It will clearly present the New Testament plan of salvation, as taught by Jesus and His Apostles.

### **What did *Jesus* teach regarding salvation?**

**Read John 3:16** The first step to being saved is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Lesson 2 we studied these words of Jesus:

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**“...for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.” – John 8:24** (See also Acts 16: 31)

**Read Luke 13:3** The second step to coming to God is to repent of your sins.

Repentance is not merely apologizing to God, but also pledging our obedience to Him. It's confessing our sins to God, and then turning our life over to Him. Acts 26:20 says it this way:

“...that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance,”

**Read John 3:1-8** This is the ultimate summary of salvation: You must be born again.

Now there are several different opinions on *how* to be born again, but we will go with the answer that Jesus gave to Nicodemus. In verse 5, when asked specifically what it meant to be born again, Jesus answered...“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” The remainder of this lesson will focus on this new birth experience.

Once again, according to Jesus, when it comes to salvation:

1. You must believe in Jesus Christ
2. You must repent of your sins
3. You must be born of water
4. You must be born of the Spirit

Furthermore, it must be noted that Jesus spoke of separating yourself from the world and being unashamed to proclaim Him as Lord. (See Mark 8: 34 – 38)

### **What did the Apostles teach regarding Salvation?**

Before we uncover the Apostles' teaching, let us be reminded that the number one goal of this Bible Study is to find out how to attain salvation. Regardless of what denominational background we come from, we should all want our names written in the book of life. One way we can be sure of this is to follow the men who followed Christ. We know for a fact that the Apostles were saved, for their names are written on the twelve foundations of heavens wall (Revelation 21:14). Furthermore, the Bible tells us in Acts 10:34 that God is not a respecter of persons. We are all equal in His sight. Therefore, if we follow in the Apostles' footsteps, and we believe, obey and teach the same plan of salvation, we can be assured that we too will be saved.

Now, let us look at the actual preaching of the Apostles to those who desired to be saved. We will begin with the first day of the New Testament Church.

**Read Acts 2:1-8** Ten days after Jesus ascended back to heaven, which happened to be the day of Pentecost (A Jewish Feast), the Spirit of the Lord filled 120 followers of Christ with the baptism of the Holy Ghost. This group included the twelve Apostles, as well as Mary (the mother of Jesus) according to Acts 1:14. They began to speak with other tongues (languages), as the Spirit spoke through them. The people that gathered around them were both amazed and confused when they heard this. It is interesting to note that those who were speaking in tongues were proclaiming “the wonderful works of God” (v.11). God has

chosen the miracle of tongues as the evidence that one has received His Spirit. The gift of the Holy Ghost should not be feared, but rather desired.

**Read Acts 2:12-21** Many among the crowd sincerely desired to know what was happening. Others began to mock them. Notice that it is Peter who stood up to speak. This is the same Apostle to whom Jesus had promised to give the keys of the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 16:18-49). Peter became the first preacher of the New Testament Church. He explained that what was being witnessed was a direct fulfillment of the prophecy of the prophet Joel. (See Joel 2:28-32) He continued to preach to the Jews about how they had crucified Jesus, whom God had ordained to be both Lord and Christ.

**Read Acts 2:37** “*When they heard this*” refers to the sermon that Peter preached unto them concerning Jesus, whom they had crucified, They then asked the most important question that a person could ever ask: “*What shall we do?*” Again, Peter, the man with the keys, stood up and gave the answer that unlocked heaven’s door.

**Read Acts 2:38-42** After he has persuaded them to **believe** in Jesus by his sermon, Peter then preaches **repentance**, the **birth of water** and **the birth of the Spirit**. This was in direct fulfillment of the four basic elements of salvation that Jesus had spoken of. The gift of the Holy Ghost was promised to those who would act upon their faith by repenting and being baptized. About three thousand people were baptized the first day and continued in the Apostles’ doctrine and in fellowship.

Notice that Peter also mentioned “saving yourself from this untoward generation”. This goes hand in hand with the separation from the world that Jesus requires of us. (See 2 Cor. 6: 14 – 18, Mark 8: 34 – 38).

The most important question you could ever ask is: “*What must I do to be saved?*”? The most complete answer that could ever be given is found in **Acts 2:38**, “**...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**”.

This is the plan of salvation that was preached by the Apostles in the New Testament Church. They were the original preachers of the original church. The way to receive the power of God is to obey the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Once again, the Apostles taught:

1. Belief in the risen Christ (Faith)
2. Repentance of sins (turning to God)
3. Baptism in the name of Jesus Christ (Water birth)
4. Baptism of the Holy Ghost (Birth of the Spirit)

**Noteworthy:** The Apostle Paul was not one of the original Apostles, but underwent a tremendous conversion to Christianity, and began to preach the same gospel message. (See Acts 9: 1 – 22; 19: 1 - 6) He received the revelation of the gospel directly from the risen Savior. (See Galatians 1: 11, 12) Ironically, it was Paul who provided us with perhaps the strongest warning against preaching any other gospel:

**Galatians 1: 8** “**But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.**”

## HONEST QUESTIONS...HONEST ANSWERS

The remainder of this lesson will be devoted to answering some very common questions.

**Do I have to be baptized in Jesus' name and receive the Holy Spirit *before* I can be saved? I've always been taught that salvation came solely through believing in Christ.**

Believing in Christ is the first step in coming to God, and will lead to salvation. However, a true believer in Christ will also believe in the gospel message. Jesus said in **Mark 1:15**, "...repent ye, and believe the gospel." There are murderers, thieves, and immoral people who believe in Christ, but the Bible makes it clear that they will not be saved (See Galatians 5:19-21). Even the demons believe in God, but their end is a lake of fire (See James 2: 19; Revelation 20:10). Anyone can profess to believe in Christ, but God is looking for people to *demonstrate* their belief by obeying the gospel (See James 2:17-20).

**Read Galatians 3:26-27** Paul combines faith in Christ with baptism *into* Christ. We demonstrate our belief by being baptized in Jesus' name. This is how one is baptized into Christ. (See Romans 6: 1 – 6)

**Read Mark 16:15-18** According to Jesus, a believer *must* be baptized. Notice also that one of the identifying signs of believers is that they will speak with new tongues. In Acts 2: 4 we discovered that this is the evidence that one has received the Holy Ghost.

**Read John 7:38-39** We must believe on Jesus as the scriptures teach us to. When we do, we will receive His Spirit. John clarifies that the Spirit spoken of here is the Holy Ghost. Therefore, according to Jesus, a believer will receive the Holy Ghost.

We must be baptized in Jesus' name in order to put on Christ. We must receive His Spirit in order to be called one of His. **"...Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."** Romans 8:9.

A born-again believer will also live life in the pursuit of peace, holiness and righteous living. (See Hebrews 12: 14; 1 Corinthians 6: 9, 10)

**Didn't Paul tell the Philippian jailer that believing alone would save him?**

Many people use the conversion of the jailer to justify their belief that simply believing in Christ is all it takes to be saved. We will look into that passage in the Bible, but first remember one major truth: Jesus said that we must be born again; there is no way around it. Every convert to Christianity must be born again. This is not a denominational opinion. This is the word of God.

**Read Acts 16:29-34** He asked the most important question of his life. He was told that if he believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, that not only he, but also his family, would be saved. Now that he believed, they were able to preach the word of the Lord to him and his family. There is no doubt that the "*word of the Lord*" was the same message Peter preached in Acts 2:38. Notice that the jailer and all his family were baptized "**that same hour of the night**". Does that sound like baptism was an option, or a necessary step to salvation?

### **Does the Bible say that the Philippian jailer received the Holy Ghost?**

The Bible does not record every detail of every conversion, or of every event. However, that does not by any means discount the plan of salvation. For example, most Christian denominations believe in at least the first part Acts 2:38 - repentance. They do not have a problem with teaching that you must repent of your sins before you can be saved. That being said, did you realize that the Bible does not record the Philippian jailer offering up a prayer of repentance? Based on this omission of scripture, could we change the salvation plan to state that repentance is no longer necessary? Of course not, because Jesus had already made repentance a necessity. Neither can we remove any other part of the salvation plan simply because it's not mentioned in every account. We must be born again of water and of the Spirit in order to see the kingdom of God. The same assurance that tells us that the jailor must have come to repentance is the same assurance that tells us that he must have come to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

### **What if a person is good-hearted, sincere, and religious?**

The Bible makes many references to just being "religious" and not really doing God's will, but we will zero in on the story of one very good, sincere, and religious man named Cornelius.

**Read Acts 10:1-6** There could not have been a more sincere person than Cornelius. He had the utmost respect for God. He had a giving heart, and was a man of prayer. The entire nation respected Cornelius as a godly man (See Acts 10:22). If being religious, sincere, and good-hearted were enough, this man would have been ready to go to heaven. However, every person must be born again. The angel told Cornelius to send for the Apostle Peter, who would tell him what he must do. The next several verses give a beautiful account of God speaking to Peter and preparing him to bring the gospel to the gentiles for the first time. (See Acts 10: 9 – 20) Four days later, Peter arrives at Cornelius' home. We pick up the story with Peter preaching to Cornelius' household.

**Read Acts 10:42-48** This sincere man's life was not complete until he received the beautiful experience of being born again. Peter preaches that those who believe will receive remission of sins. Then the Spirit of the Lord came on them and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. The evidence was that ***"they heard them speak with tongues"*** (v.46). Immediately, Peter preached the birth of water and baptized every one of them in the name of the Lord Jesus (v. 47, 48). The new birth that Jesus spoke of in John 3:5 was happening right before their eyes! This experience was not an "added blessing"; it was their salvation. Acts 11:13-14 states that the angel told Cornelius to call for Peter, ***"who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved."*** Goodness is desirable, but it is obedience that saves us. Like Cornelius, we all need to be baptized in Jesus' name and we need to receive the Holy Ghost.

### **I was told I *automatically* received the Holy Spirit when I accepted Christ...**

This Bible Study was not intended to cause division, but to teach the truth to those who are searching for it. Therefore, we will continue to separate the traditions of man from the commandments of God. Some denominations teach that you automatically receive the Holy Ghost when you are confirmed in the faith, or when you repent and accept Christ. The Bible, however, has the clear answer:

**Read Acts 8:5-8** The revival in Samaria had the casting out of devils, the working of miracles, and was filled with great joy. However, one very important element was missing: The New Birth. It's possible to be blessed with miracles, healings, and joy - yet still need to be born again. In John 3: 1 – 8, Nicodemus comes to Jesus and compliments Him on His great miracles, but Jesus dismisses the praise and immediately addresses the bigger need:

**John 3: 2, 3** *“...Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

**Read Acts 8:12-16** After they believed the preaching, they were all baptized in the name of Jesus. Notice again that they believed and were baptized. However, *none of them* had received the Holy Ghost. This passage proves that the Holy Ghost is *not* automatically received.

**Read Acts 8:17-19** What was it that made Simon realize that they had received the Holy Ghost? He must have *heard the evidence* as the Jews did in Acts chapter 10. Jesus mentioned that the birth of the Spirit would be evidenced with a “sound”:

*“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is every one who is born of the Spirit.” - John 3:8 NKJV*

**Read Acts 19:1-6** Paul's first question to these disciples, *“Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?”* proves again that receiving the Holy Ghost is a separate experience from believing in Jesus. They explained that they had not heard about the Holy Ghost. Paul knew that receiving the Holy Ghost was a promise to those who have been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, so he proceeded to ask them how they had been baptized. They explained that they had been baptized by John the Baptist. John was baptizing people before the New Testament Church began, in preparation for the Messiah. It was baptism of repentance. The disciples in this passage were still at the repentance level. They already believed in Jesus, however, after they heard Paul speak, they were immediately baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they received the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues, just as it happened in Acts 2:4 and Acts 10:46.

It is important to point out that these God-loving, God-fearing disciples were *re-baptized* in the name of the Lord Jesus when they were presented with the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

## **What if I have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost?**

### **Do I need to be re-baptized in the name of Jesus?**

If water baptism was *not* part of the plan of salvation, then it would not matter *how* – or *if* we were baptized. However, since we have learned that water baptism is essential for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), It is now time to question ourselves as to whether we have been baptized according to the New Testament Church. Consider the following facts on church history:

*“The formula used was “in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ” or some synonymous phrase: there is no evidence for the use of the triune name” - Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics, 1951, vol. II, pg. 384*

*“There is no direct evidence in the New Testament for infant baptism.” Interpreter’s Bible Dictionary, vol. 1, pg. 352*

*“The original form of words was “into the name of Jesus Christ” or “the Lord Jesus.” Baptism into the Trinity was a later development, After the one mention of it, Matthew 28:19, we do not find it again until Justin Martyr, and his formula is not identical with that in the Gospel.” - Hastings Dictionary of the Bible, vol. I, pg. 241*

*“In fact, the modern doctrine of the trinity did not become dominant until the councils of Nicea (325) and Constantinople (381).” – The New Birth, David K. Bernard, 1984. Pg. 267*

**Read Matthew 28: 18-20** It is interesting to note that *all power* in heaven and earth belongs to Jesus. He then commissions His disciples to teach all nations, and instructs them to baptize all converts in the singular name – of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. In Lesson 2 it was revealed that the fullness of the Godhead was in Jesus. He is the head of all principality and power (See Colossians 2: 9-10). We also learned that Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are titles or expressions of God, but His revealed name in the New Testament is Jesus Christ. The most undeniable evidence that could be presented is this: After hearing the commandment of Jesus in Matthew 28:19, the Apostles proceeded to baptize every convert to the New Testament Church in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. (See Acts 2: 38; 8: 16; 10: 48; 19: 5; 22: 16; Rom. 6: 3; 1 Cor. 1: 13)

There is no other name by which we must be saved, but the name of Jesus Christ. (See Acts 4:12) Jesus suffered on a cross that you might have life through His name. We bless our food in His name, we pray for the sick in His name, and we come against evil in His name. Should we desire anything less than to proudly be baptized in His name? If His name was good enough for the Apostles, for His own mother (See Acts 1:14), and for all other converts in the Bible, why should we take a chance in holding on to a tradition of man? Furthermore, the Bible instructs us:

***“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...” – Colossians 3:17.*** Wouldn’t this include water baptism?

**“But I would rather take the words of Jesus than the words of the Apostles.”**

When someone makes this statement, they can only be implying one thing: Jesus was right, the Apostles were wrong. Think about it: If the very first preachers were wrong in their baptismal formula, what else might they be wrong in? Were the Apostles wrong, or have we been accepting the traditions of men? The truth is that the Apostles played a major role in fulfilling the plan of God. As a matter of fact, the Apostles

are part of the foundation of the church. The Bible says that we are “...***built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone...***” – Ephesians 2:20

**Read Acts 1:1-5** Jesus stayed with the Apostles *forty additional days* after His resurrection. He gave them His final instructions concerning the kingdom of God. He instructed them to wait in Jerusalem until they would receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. If any group of ministers understood the scriptures, it would be the Apostles. If there was any question left in their minds concerning Christ, or the message that they were to preach, it was now settled. As a matter of fact, the gospel of Luke precedes this same setting with these words: “***Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures***” – Luke 24:45

**Read 1 John 4:6** According to the Bible, to know God is to hear what the Apostles have to say. This is how we distinguish *truth* from *error*. This is how to decipher between the traditions of men and the commandments of God. The Apostles became God’s “voice” to mankind.

The only prayer recorded in the scriptures by Jesus on your behalf involved the Apostles: “***Neither pray I for these alone (the Apostles), but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;***” – John 17:20

It’s an awesome thought to know that Jesus prayed for you. He prayed for every one who would believe on Him through the Apostle’s teachings. He left all authority for His church in the hands of these anointed men before He ascended back to heaven. He told Peter that He would give him the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and Peter opened up the door of salvation when he preached the first sermon of the church. Can we honestly think that we can accept the words of Jesus and shun the words of the Apostles?

## CONCLUSION

This Home Bible study has been written in sincere dedication to those who are searching for the truth. It was not written with the intent of questioning your sincerity, or your love for God. It simply raises the self-searching questions, “*Have I been born again?*”, “*Have I received the Holy Ghost since I believed?*”, and “*Have I obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ?*” In Lesson 1, we realized the importance that God places on obedience to His word. In Lesson 2, we came to the knowledge that Jesus Christ is the Mighty God and the Everlasting Father. Now as we come to the end of our study, it’s time to ask yourself, “*What will I do about the plan of salvation? Am I willing to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ?*”

May we be reminded of what a great love God has for us. While many spend their life reaching for God, God has already reached for us. While many struggle to become like God, God has already become like us. He took upon himself the sins of the world, in the body of Jesus Christ. He paid the ultimate price for

us when He suffered death on the cross, so that we could be redeemed. It is the greatest love story that has ever been told. The law, the prophets, and the Psalms all foretold of the greatest even in world history.

**Read Isaiah 53:3-8** This is part of a prophecy concerning the suffering that Jesus was going to endure on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven and our broken lives could be healed. This is the same passage of scripture that we find the Ethiopian eunuch reading in Acts 8.

**Read Acts 8:26-38** Here we find another good person who is searching. The scriptures lead him right to Jesus, and to the plan of salvation. It is our prayer that this Bible Study has done the same for you. May the Lord Jesus richly bless you.

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**"The Spirit of Truth"** Learning how to decipher the difference between Truth & Error. The detailed meaning behind Repentance and the New Birth. The true meaning of holiness and separation from the world.

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**"One Hour to Heaven"** A one hour study of Salvation that cuts to the chase - What did Jesus say we *must* do to be saved? Did the Apostles' preaching confirm His words? How can we be certain about our Salvation? (Available in Spanish)

**"Faith that Saves...Is Faith that Works!"** A Bible Study on Justification by Faith from an apostolic viewpoint. We are indeed saved by grace through faith, but what does the bible teach us about faith? Is our faith merely spoken, or is it demonstrated by our obedience?

**"If I had One Hour to tell you about One God"**

A one hour lesson on the Oneness of God. Easy to understand and teach. (Available in Spanish)

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## Jesus Only...or Jesus Everything?

I had a discussion with a Trinitarian friend of mine. When he found out that I believe in the Oneness Doctrine (Jesus Christ is the Almighty God), he said, "Oh, so are you one of those 'Jesus Only' Christians?" I then proceeded to ask him to please give me the name of The Father. He said "God". I reminded him that "God" is not his name, it is who He is – the Supreme Being of the universe. I then asked him to please give me the name of The Holy Ghost. He said, "I don't know that one". I reminded him that in the doctrine of The Trinity, there is *no revealed name* for The Holy Ghost. I then asked him if he could give me the name of the Son. Without hesitation, he replied "Jesus"! I found it interesting that for someone who was labeling ME as "Jesus Only", the ONLY name he could come up with ... was JESUS.

The truth is, **God the Father** was manifest in the flesh (1 Tim. 3: 16) at Bethlehem when **The Holy Ghost** overshadowed Mary and she conceived the **Son of God, Jesus Christ**. Jesus was the embodiment and visible image of God. (Col. 1: 15; John 14:9) He was not a separate person - apart from God, but was the personification of God Himself. (John 1: 1, 14) God himself came down to redeem us from our sins. (1 John 3: 16; Acts 20: 28) The One who created the world, stepped into the world He created. His name was Jesus Christ. (John 1: 10, 11)

"For in him (Jesus) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily". (Colossians 2: 9) Jesus is not **IN** the Godhead; the Godhead is in Jesus. He is the Everlasting Father in creation (Isaiah 9: 6; Malachi 2: 10), the only begotten Son in redemption (John 3: 16), and Holy Spirit comforter in regeneration (John 14: 16 – 18). For those who think that we place way too much emphasis on Jesus Christ, please consider the following:

1. We are to pray in the name of Jesus. John 14: 14; John 15: 16
2. We are to cast out devils in the name of Jesus. Mark 16: 17
3. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. Philippians 2: 10
4. It was by Jesus that all things were created. John 1: 3 & 10; Col. 1: 16; 1 Cor. 8:6; Eph. 3: 9
5. It was Jesus who promised not to forsake us, but to dwell in us always. Matt. 28: 20; John 14:17,18
6. Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. 1 Timothy 6: 14; Revelation 19: 16
7. Jesus is the first and the last, the beginning and the ending. Revelation 1: 11, 17
8. It is Jesus who was, and is, and is to come. Revelation 1: 8
9. It is through the blood of Jesus that we have redemption and forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1: 14
10. Jesus is the only name given under heaven by which we must be saved. Acts 4: 12
11. You must believe in the name of Jesus in order to be saved. John 3: 16; John 20: 31
12. In fulfillment of Jesus' commission to baptize all nations "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28: 19), his disciples proceeded to baptize every single convert in the name of Jesus Christ. Acts 2: 38, 8:16, 10: 48, 19: 5; Romans 6: 3 – 5; 1 Corinthians 1: 12, 13; Galatians 3: 27; Colossians 2: 12.

When you say, "God", you rarely will offend anyone, for every world religion claims to have one. However, when you say, "Jesus" you define the core of Christianity, and the only name that saves. It was His life, death and resurrection that has provided newness of life for us. If you're looking for the Father, look no further than the Son (John 10: 30; 14: 9; Isaiah 9: 6). If you're looking for the Son, He has already promised to live inside of you through the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (See John 14: 17, 18) Am I a "Jesus only" Christian? I think the more accurate term for me is a "Jesus Everything" Christian.