



GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gulf Shores, AL

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

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GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

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This study guide was created by Ray Reynolds for the purpose of Bible classes at the Gulf Shores Church of Christ (Gulf Shores, AL). This material was presented in a recent sermon series and was gleaned from personal notes, the New King James Study Bible, New Century Version, Nave's Topical Bible, Vincent's Word Study series, and other various sources.



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Grace

Introduction: For the next several weeks we will be considering great Bible words. Tonight we are going to consider the word “grace.” We should have an intimate connection with the word grace. Do you understand the significance of this word? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. The Meaning of Grace

- A. Grace is unmerited favor (**Genesis 6:8-9, Romans 3:12, 6:23**).
- B. Grace comes with a price (**Romans 6:1-11, 12:1-2, Galatians 2:20**).
- C. Grace has conditions (**Romans 6, II Corinthians 6:1, Galatians 5:4, Hebrews 5:9, II Peter 2:20-22**).
- D. Grace describes God’s gift of salvation (**Romans 4:16, 5:20-21, Ephesians 2:1-9**).
- E. Grace can free us from the law (**Galatians 3:10-12, Romans 3:23, 6:23, Ephesians 2:8-9**).

II. The Nature of Grace

- A. God is full of grace (**Exodus 34:6, Psalm 146:8, John 1:14**).
- B. God is slow to become angry because of His grace (**Psalm 86:15, I Peter 5:10, II Peter 3:9**).
- C. God makes salvation possible through grace (**Ephesians 1:7-8, Hebrews 4:16, 12:15**).
- D. God accepts us by His marvelous grace (**Romans 3:20-24, 5:1-2, Ephesians 2:8-9**).
- E. God gives us hope through grace (**II Corinthians 12:8-9, Titus 3:7, I Peter 1:13**).

III. The Face of Grace

- A. God’s grace is seen through Jesus (**John 1:17-18, 3:16-17, Romans 3:21-26, Ephesians 2:1-7**).
- B. God’s grace seeks to transform our lives (**Romans 6:1-11, 8:28-30, Ephesians 1:5, 11**).
- C. God’s grace showers us with many blessings (**Titus 3:5-7, Ephesians 1:3, 7-8**).
- D. God’s grace shapes our spirit inwardly (**Romans 3:19-24, 7:14-25, I John 2:28, 5:13**).
- E. God’s grace makes us stronger (**Romans 3:19-24, 7:14-25, II Corinthians 12:1-10, I John 2:28, 5:13**).

IV. The Impact of Grace

- A. Grace brings change (**Matthew 16:21-23, Luke 5:8, 22:54-62, John 6:66-69, 21:15-22, Acts 10, Galatians 2:11-14**).
- B. Grace brings confession (**Romans 3:23, James 5:16, I John 1:7-9**).
- C. Grace brings centrality (**Matthew 23:23, Romans 3:28, James 2:24**).
- D. Grace brings confidence (**Ephesians 2:4-10, Hebrews 5:11-14, I John 1:7-9, 2:28**).
- E. Grace brings control (**John 3:3-5, Galatians 2:20, Hebrews 4:14-16, I John 1:7-9**).

Conclusion: God’s grace is a powerful testimony of His love for us. There may be no greater motivation for our obedience. Have you been touched by the grace of God? Have you been affected by the gracious sacrifice of Jesus? Do you possess the Spirit of grace? Are you showing grace to others? Is the word “grace” just another word? What meaning does this word have for you?

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Faith

Introduction: For the next several weeks we will be considering great Bible words. Tonight we will start on the famous triplet: faith, hope, and love (**I Corinthians 13:13**). These are three powerful virtues. I want to explore the subject of faith by examining **Hebrews 11**. Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. *Faith Wakes: Believers (vs.1-3)*
Faith comes from hearing and understanding the Word of God (**Romans 10:17**).
- II. *Faith Worships: Abel (v.4)*
Abel is known for offering sacrifices (**Genesis 4**).
- III. *Faith Walks: Enoch (vs.5-6)*
Enoch is known for walking with God (**Genesis 5**).
- IV. *Faith Works: Noah (v.7)*
Noah is known for building an ark for God (**Genesis 6-10**).
- V. *Faith Waits: Abraham & Sarah (vs.8-19)*
Abraham and Sarah are known for having to wait years for a child (**Genesis 12-21**).
- VI. *Faith Witnesses: Isaac (v.20)*
Isaac is known for being faithful to his father's vision (**Genesis 21-35**).
- VII. *Faith Wrestles: Jacob (v.21)*
Jacob is known for wrestling with an Angel of God (**Genesis 25-49**).
- VIII. *Faith Wishes: Joseph (vs.22)*
Joseph is known for his dreams (**Genesis 30-50**).
- IX. *Faith Wanders: Moses (vs.23-29)*
Moses is known for his work in delivering Israel (**Exodus 2-Deuteronomy 34**).
- X. *Faith Wars: Joshua (v.30)*
Joshua is known for being a mighty warrior (**Exodus 17-Joshua 24**).
- XI. *Faith Wants: Rahab (v.31)*
Rahab is known for hiding the spies in her house and saving her family (**Joshua 2-6**).
- XII. *Faith Wins: Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, etc. (vs.32-40)*
All these people, and many others, are victorious, because of their faith (**I John 5:4**).

Conclusion: We should know that God will do as he has promised (**II Peter 3:9**). The Old Testament saints were given entrance into heaven because they hoped for salvation. Let's follow the examples of faith set before us. Let's share this wonderful word with others!

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hope

Introduction: We are studying great Bible words. Tonight we continue our look into what is probably the most famous triplet in the Bible: faith, hope, and love (**I Corinthians 13:13**). These are three great and powerful virtues. In tonight's lesson, I want to explore the subject of hope. Hope is an earnest expectation, or something for which we are longing and waiting. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. What Is Our Hope?

- A. We can have hope of a heavenly reward (**Matthew 6:19-20, Colossians 1:5**).
- B. We can have hope of resurrection (**Acts 23:6, I Corinthians 15**).
- C. We can have hope in the gospel (**Acts 28:20, Colossians 1:5, 23**).
- D. We can have hope of eternal life (**Titus 1:2, 3:7**).
- E. We can have hope of salvation (**Romans 8:24-25, I Thessalonians 5:8**).
- F. We can have hope in our calling (**Ephesians 1:18, 4:4**).

II. What Is The Nature of This Hope?

- A. Our hope is glorious (**Colossians 1:27**).
- B. Our hope is good (**II Thessalonians 2:16**).
- C. Our hope is blessed (**Titus 2:13**).
- D. Our hope is steadfast and sure (**Hebrews 6:19**).
- E. Our hope is joyful (**Hebrews 3:6**).
- F. Our hope is living (**I Peter 1:3**).

III. Why Do People Reject This Hope?

- A. Sinful living starts with a desire to sin (**James 1:15**).
- B. Sinful living continues to allow us to drift (**Isaiah 53:6**).
- C. Sinful living offers a very deceptive outcome (**I Corinthians 6:9**).
- D. Sinful living promises more than it can deliver (**Romans 6:6**).
- E. Sinful living is always destructive (**Romans 5:12**).
- F. Sinful living leads to eternal death (**Romans 3:23, 6:23**).

IV. How Can This Hope Transform Our Lives?

- A. Hope will challenge you to pursue the fruit of the spirit (**Galatians 5:19-23**).
- B. Hope will remove your condemnation (**Romans 8:1**).
- C. Hope will cleanse you from your sins (**I John 1:9-10**).
- D. Hope will cover a multitude of sins (**Hebrews 10:14**).
- E. Hope will reverse your condition (**Romans 5:9**).
- F. Hope will compel you to tell others (**I Peter 3:15**).

Conclusion: What was Paul's prayer in **Romans 15:13**? I need that hope. You need that hope. The world needs that hope!!! Are you full of hope? Let's share this wonderful word with others!

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Love

Introduction: We are studying great Bible words. Tonight we conclude our look into what is probably the most famous triplet in the Bible: faith, hope, and love (**I Corinthians 13:13**). These are three great and powerful virtues. In tonight's lesson, I want to explore the subject of love. Paul defines love (I Corinthians 13:4-8). What does love do? How can we have it? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Love Serves

"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many"
(**Matthew 20:28**)

II. Love Stirs

"And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength... You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (**Mark 12:30**)

III. Love Suffers

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." (**John 15:13**)

IV. Love Surrenders

"Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God." (**Romans 15:7**)

V. Love Speaks

"...speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ"
(**Ephesians 4:15**)

VI. Love Sacrifices

"Submitting to one another in the fear of the Lord... Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord... Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her."
(**Ephesians 5:21-22 25**)

VII. Love Saves

"...have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins." (**I Peter 4:8**)

Conclusion: How can we understand the power of love? Paul describes its compulsion and power (**Romans 8:38-39**). Jeremiah describes it as an everlasting love (**Jeremiah 31:3**). Something amazing happens when we learn to just follow God's instructions. God will slowly mold us and make us into His image! God is LOVE (**I John 4:8**)! And, since we are His children, we are LOVE! Let's share this wonderful word with others!



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Joy

Introduction: What are you seeking in this life? Are you looking for temporary things or eternal things? What can make you happy? We are studying great Bible words. Today we are going to focus on the word joy. The word joy means cheerfulness, gladness, rejoicing, and merriness. The word “chara” (joy) is closely associated with the word “charis” (grace) in the Greek language. Christians ought to be full of both grace and joy. How can we do that? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Joy is Found in the Grace of God

- A. Paul’s joyful letter starts with grace (**Philippians 1:2**).
- B. Paul’s joyful letter is filled with grace (**Philippians 1:7**).
- C. Paul’s joyful letter ends with grace (**Philippians 4:23**).

II. Joy is Found in Jesus Christ

- A. There is joyful praying in Christ (**Philippians 1:3-6**).
- B. There is joyful living in Christ (**Philippians 2:1-4**).
- C. There is joyful serving in Christ (**Philippians 2:5-11**).

III. Joy is Found in Knowing the Truth

- A. Truth is a key to joy (**Philippians 1:18**).
- B. Knowledge is a key to joy (**Philippians 3:9-11**).
- C. Perspective is a key to joy (**Philippians 3:12-14**).

IV. Joy is Found in Real Contentment

- A. We can always be full of joy (**Philippians 4:4**).
- B. We can always trust in the Lord (**Philippians 4:5-12**).
- C. We can always find the strength (**Philippians 4:13**).

Conclusion: Where is your joy? The true source of Paul’s joy was the work of the kingdom (**Philippians 4:1**). The work of God’s hand should give us exceeding joy! You need joy in your life. Have you been saved? You need to share that joy with others. Are you telling the good news? Let’s share this wonderful word with others!

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Humility

Introduction: We are studying great Bible words. Tonight we are going to focus on the word humility. The word humility is found 14x in the Bible and the word humble is found 70x in the NKJV. What does the Bible say about humility? What does it mean to be H.U.M.B.L.E.? It's more than just a word strewn across Charlotte's Web to describe Wilbur the pig. Let's study together...

Discussion:

"H" is for HONOR

Matthew 5:3-6, James 4:10, Romans 12:10

"U" is for UNITY

I Corinthians 1:10, Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 4:1

"M" is for MISSION

Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Matthew 25:34-40

"B" is for BOLDNESS

Acts 4:31, Acts 2:42-47, Luke 19:1-10

"L" is for LOVE

Matthew 22:37-40, Matthew 5:43-48, I Corinthians 13

"E" is for ETERNITY

I John 5:11, II Corinthians 9:15, I John 2:25

Conclusion: It's hard to eat a slice of humble pie but God knows we need it. Are you ready to practice humility? Will you humble yourself the presence of God? Will you live a life of Christ? Let's share this wonderful word with others!

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Peace

Introduction: We are studying great Bible words. The Bible uses the word “peace” nearly 400 times. It conveys concepts of harmony, tranquility, along with the absence of hostility, mental stress or anxiety (*Shalom & Eirene*). Who wants that? Do we need that peace? Jesus tells us in **Matthew 5:9** that we are to be peacemakers. Not peacefakers! How can we have peace? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Our God Is a God of Peace

- A. The Lord is the Prince of Peace (**Isaiah 9:6**).
- B. The Lord reconciles us to have peace with God (**Romans 5:1**).
- C. The Lord wants to fill us with ALL joy and peace (**Romans 15:33**).
- D. The Lord provides a peace that surpasses all understanding (**Philippians 4:6-7**).
- E. The Lord gives peace in EVERY way possible (**II Thessalonians 3:16**).

II. Our World Is NOT For Peace

- A. Peace can only come from a hopeful heart (**Isaiah 50:7**).
- B. Peace can only come from a quiet conscience (**Romans 8:31-35**).
- C. Peace can only come from a restful mind (**Philippians 4:6-7**).
- D. Peace can only come from a surrendered will (**Titus 3:1-7**).
- E. Peace can only come from a submissive soul (**Hebrews 13:20-21**).

III. Our Role Is To Be Peace-Makers

- A. Christians should be at peace with their enemies (**Matthew 5:44**).
- B. Christians should be at peace with their neighbors (**Galatians 3:28**).
- C. Christians should be at peace with their brothers & sisters (**Ephesians 4:3**).
- D. Christians should be at peace with their family (**Colossians 3:18-21**).
- E. Christians should be at peace with their Lord (**I Peter 3:8-12**).

Conclusion: Remember the story of Telemachus, the 4th century monk. If peace were easy to achieve then people would figure it out on their own... apart from God. **Romans 8:6** says, “*For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life AND peace.*” Do you need peace with God? Are you ready for peace with others around you? Are you ready to inherit eternal life? Let’s share this wonderful word with others!

Forgiveness

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: We are studying great Bible words. I thought it would be fitting to talk about forgiveness tonight because we talked about peace this morning. The literal definition of forgiveness is to set aside a debt. Therefore, when we talk about the forgiveness of God we have to recognize that He has paid our debt on the cross. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Our God Forgives

- A. God forgives us because He loves us (**I John 4:8, Romans 5:8**).
- B. God forgives us because He laments over us (**Genesis 6:5, I Samuel 15:35**).
- C. God forgives us because He longs for us (**John 17:20-21, Isaiah 30:18**).
- D. God forgives us because He leads us (**Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 18:21-35**).
- E. God forgives us because He listens to us (**Romans 10:9-10, Psalm 32:1**).

II. Our World Needs Forgiveness

- A. God knows the power of divine forgiveness (**Psalm 103:1-12, Ephesians 2:8-9**).
- B. God knows the power of human forgiveness (**Matthew 6:14-15, Colossians 3:13-14**).
- C. God knows the power of sin and death (**Psalm 32, Psalm 65, Psalm 86**).
- D. God knows the power of conflict (**Matthew 18:15-35, Galatians 6:1-2**).
- E. God knows the power of grace and mercy (**Romans 3:9-26, Hebrews 4:16**).

III. Our Role Is To Be Forgivers

- A. Forgiveness is a hard thing (**Romans 4:7, Matthew 18:15-22**).
- B. Forgiveness is a heart thing (**Ephesians 4:2, Colossians 3:13**).
- C. Forgiveness is a heavenly thing (**Matthew 6:14-15, I John 1:9-10**).
- D. Forgiveness is a hopeful thing (**Matthew 5:10-12, Romans 12:17-21**).
- E. Forgiveness is a humble thing (**Ephesians 4:31, Luke 23:34**).

Conclusion: We can choose to be forgiven and we can choose to live a life of forgiveness. People need to see Christ in you! How would Jesus react to your pain? What should you be doing to show forgiveness to those around you? Are you dealing with the conflict in your life? Have you been forgiven of your sins? Let's share this wonderful word with others!

Generosity

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: We are studying great Bible words. One of the topics submitted for this series was giving, but we are going to extend that to include generosity. What does it mean to be generous? What does the Bible say about giving to God? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Generosity Through Tithing

- A. Tithing had a spiritual purpose (**Leviticus 27:30-33, Deuteronomy 5:1-5, 12:6-7, 16:17**).
- B. Tithing preceded the Old Law (**Genesis 14:20, 28:20-22**).
- C. Tithing was commanded by God (**Numbers 18:20-28, Deuteronomy 12:5-18, 14:22-27**).
- D. Tithing was commanded in God's house (**Deuteronomy 12:5-14, II Chronicles 6-7, 31**).
- E. Tithing was used to support the Levites (**Numbers 18:21-24, Deuteronomy 14:22-27**).
- F. Tithing was often ignored or abused (**Isaiah 1:11 -13, Haggai 2:14, Malachi 1:6-14, 3:8-10**).
- G. Tithing is in the New Testament (**Matthew 23:23, Luke 11:42, Luke 18:12, Hebrews 7:4-9**).

II. Generosity Through Offerings

- A. The sacrifice offering (**Genesis 8:20-21, 22:15-18, II Samuel 24:24**).
- B. The special projects offering (**Exodus 25:1-8, 35:4-9, 36:5-7, II Kings 12:4-12**).
- C. The census offering (**Exodus 30:14-15, Numbers 25-28**).
- D. The first-fruit(s) offering (**Exodus 34:19, Leviticus 2:12-14, Leviticus 23:20**).
- E. The thanksgiving offering (**Leviticus 22:29, Psalm 50:14, Psalm 107:22, Psalm 116:12**).
- F. The welfare offering (**Deuteronomy 15:7-11, Proverbs 19:17, Proverbs 28:27**).
- G. The prophet offering (**I Samuel 9:6-9, I Kings 17:10-24, II Kings 4-5, Matthew 10:41**).

III. Generosity Through Good Works

- A. Good works bless many others (**Psalm 37:26, II Corinthians 9:5-6, I Timothy 6:18**).
- B. Good works build character (**Matthew 10:8, II Corinthians 9:7, Galatians 5:22-23**).
- C. Good works become part of Christian living (**Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 2:11-14, Titus 3:1-14**).
- D. Good works bring glory to God (**Matthew 5:13-16, Ephesians 5:8**).
- E. Good works baffle the unbeliever (**I Peter 2:11-12, I Peter 3:1-2**).
- F. Good works bolster our faith (**James 1:27, James 2:14-17**).
- G. Good works bear the image of Jesus (**Luke 6:46, Acts 10:38, Ephesians 5:23**).

Conclusion: We are no longer under the old law, therefore, we are not obligated to give 10% (tithe), or 1/3 of our net worth (Jews), plus additional offerings. Nor are we bound by the 100% giving of the early Christians which had disastrous consequences (**Acts 2-6**). However, we are commanded to give (**I Corinthians 16:1-2, II Corinthians 8:1-5, 9:7**). We can choose to stingy or generous with what God has given us. Which would God prefer? Will you be generous today with your offering? Will you be generous telling others of how God has been generous to you? Will you acknowledge the gift of Jesus? Will you allow God to purchase your sins? Let's share this wonderful word with others!

Assurance

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: We are studying great Bible words. One of the topics suggested for our study is the word "assurance." What does it mean to have assurance? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. God Promises Us Assurance

A. God always keeps His promises.

Psalms 37:23-24, 94:14, 119:89-91, Isaiah 40:31, Jeremiah 32:4, Hebrews 13:5, Jude 24

B. God knows our wants and needs.

Matthew 6:33, 19:14, John 6:37-40, I Corinthians 10:13, Philippians 4:19, James 1:12

C. God knits things together.

John 14:14, 17:11-12, Acts 4:12, Ephesians 1:4-5, 3:12-20, Colossians 2:2, II Timothy 1:12

D. God kindles our spiritual fire.

Psalms 25:5, Proverbs 15:29, John 10:27-28, Galatians 6:1-2, Hebrews 13:5, II Peter 1:10

II. Jesus Provides Us Assurance

A. Jesus can give us assurance in life.

John 3:16-17, 10:28-29, Hebrews 6:11, 10:22, 12:1-2, I Peter 2:25

B. Jesus can give us assurance in death.

Psalms 23:4, I Corinthians 15:55-57, II Timothy 1:9, 4:6-8, Revelation 1:18

C. Jesus can give us assurance in the resurrection.

I Corinthians 15, II Corinthians 4:14, Philippians 3:20-21, I Thessalonians 4:16, I John 3:2

D. Jesus can give us assurance in heaven.

II Corinthians 5:1, Philippians 2:10, I Thessalonians 4:16-17, Hebrews 11:16, I Peter 1:3-4

III. The Holy Spirit Proves This Assurance

A. The Holy Spirit lives in us.

Acts 2:38-39, Romans 8:14-16, Galatians 4:6, Ephesians 1:3, 4:30, II Corinthians 1:22, 5:5

B. The Holy Spirit fills us with fruit.

Matthew 7:20, John 3:5-8, 15:1-8, 16:8-13, Galatians 5:22-23, Titus 3:5, II Peter 1:5-10

C. The Holy Spirit strengthens our faith.

Acts 13:48, Romans 3:22-30, 8:1-2, 10:9-10, Ephesians 2:8, Hebrews 6:11-19, I John 5:13

D. The Holy Spirit comforts our souls.

Luke 24:49, Romans 8:26-27, 15:19, Acts 1:8-9, 2:4, 4:8, 31, 9:17, II Corinthians 3:18, Ephesians 5:18, II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:20-21, Jude 20

Conclusion: When we study assurance we need to take a close look at Romans! Paul wants us to know the assurance he knew in Christ. God planned for your salvation, provided Jesus for your salvation, and has given the Holy Spirit as a proof of your salvation. However, if you are outside of Christ you do not have this assurance. Fix that today! Are you walking in the light of assurance? Are you telling people about this assurance? Let's share this wonderful word with others!

Integrity

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: We are studying great Bible words. One of the topics suggested for our study is the word “integrity.” Job faced the challenge of holding on to his integrity and he succeeded. What does it mean to have integrity? How can we hold onto it? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. The Effectiveness of Christ’s Integrity

- A. The integrity of Jesus is seen in His righteousness (**Psalm 51:6**).
- B. The integrity of Jesus is seen in His honesty (**John 14:6**).
- C. The integrity of Jesus is seen in His purity (**II Corinthians 5:21**).
- D. The integrity of Jesus is seen in His example (**I Peter 1:15-16**).

II. The Expediency of Integrity in Scripture

- A. Integrity is a part of God’s plan (**Proverbs 10:9, 11:3, 19:1, 20:7, 28:6**).
- B. Integrity is a part of God’s way (**II Timothy 3:16-17**).
- C. Integrity is a part of God’s purpose (**John 17:17**).
- D. Integrity is a part of God’s revelation (**Acts 2:37-40**).

III. The Exploits of Satan to Thwart Integrity

- A. The devil is an enemy of truth (**Genesis 3:4-5**).
- B. The devil is our adversary (**Revelation 12:10**).
- C. The devil opposes all good things (**I Peter 5:8, II Thessalonians 2:9**).
- D. The devil imitates some good things (**II Corinthians 11:14**).

IV. The Emphasis of Integrity Today

- A. Integrity is embraced by believers (**Ephesians 5:2, 8**).
- B. Integrity is empowered by the Holy Spirit (**John 16:13, Psalm 41:12**).
- C. Integrity is exemplified by great leaders (**Psalm 78:72, 101:3-8, Titus 1:7, 2:7**).
- D. Integrity is evidence of a changed life to the world (**Matthew 5:14-16**).

Conclusion: There are many great stories of integrity. One great story is of Navy Lieut. Cmdr. Butch O’Hare in World War II. We all need to seek integrity like to do the right thing... Without regard to personal safety or popularity or political correctness. God deserves our very best. His way is the only way. We must hold to integrity if we hope to survive in this world and give God the glory. Do you have integrity? Do you encourage men/women of integrity? Are you following the great example of our Savior Jesus Christ? Let’s share this wonderful word with others!

Atonement

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: We are studying great Bible words. One of the topics submitted for this series was atonement. You can't study this word without recognizing that it is about AT-ONE-MENT with God, meaning God meant for us to be ONE with Him! What do we know about atonement? What does the Bible have to say about it? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Specifics of Atonement

- A. God required a perfect sacrifice (**Exodus 12:5, John 1:29**).
- B. God required blood for our atonement (**Leviticus 17:11, Hebrews 9:19-22**).
- C. God required a regular remembrance (**Leviticus 16:1-34, 1:3-4, 4:13-20, 5:5-10**).
- D. God required His Son to be the last atoning sacrifice (**Isaiah 53:3-12, Romans 3:23-25**).
- E. God required reconciliation with His people (**Isaiah 6:7, Isaiah 27:9, Daniel 9:24**).

II. The Selflessness of Christ's Atonement

- A. His sacrifice was for our atonement (**Luke 4:18-19, I Peter 1:18-19, 2:21-25**).
- B. His sacrifice was willingly offered in our place (**John 10:17, 15:13, I Peter 3:18**).
- C. His sacrifice secured our salvation (**Acts 20:28, Colossians 1:13, Ephesians 2:13**).
- D. His sacrifice was for our sins (**Ephesians 1:7, I Corinthians 15:3, Isaiah 53, Hebrews 9:22**).
- E. His sacrifice was for our glory (**Romans 3:25, I Corinthians 5:7, Hebrews 9:12-14, 9:28, I John 2:2, 4:10**).

III. The Significance of Christian Atonement

- A. We are purified/cleansed of sin (**I Corinthians 7:23, Ephesians 1:7, Titus 2:14, I John 1:7**).
- B. We are freed from the weight of sin (**Romans 3:23, 6:23, Revelation 1:5**).
- C. We are redeemed/reclaimed/reconciled (**Romans 3:24-25, 5:9-10, I Peter 1:18**).
- D. We are given everlasting peace (**Colossians 1:20, Ephesians 2:14-17, Philippians 4:7**).
- E. We are released from the power of death (**Colossians 2:15, Hebrews 2:14, Romans 6:1-10**).

Conclusion: Have you ever lost something? Was it restored to you? Remember the story of Deb Savely and her restored treasure. YOU are the lost treasure of God! God wants to make you ONE with Him! He wants you to find your way back home! He wants you to feel His presence in your life! We need to seek atonement with God. Do you have it? Do you need it? Are you sharing it? The Bible is full of stories about lost things. This will be the theme of our VBS this year: Lost in Space = The Parables of Lost Things (lost sheep, lost coin, lost boy, and lost talent). Why do we have these stories in the Bible? To help us see that God is seeking us out... One lost treasure at a time. Let's share this wonderful word!

Victory

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: We are studying great Bible words. One of the topics submitted for this series was victory. **I Corinthians 15:50-58** is a familiar passage that identifies our victory in Christ, also we might think of **Romans 8**. However, I want us to focus on **James 1:1-4**. We need to take a close look James' perspective on trials for the Christian. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. *The Principle of Victory*

James says: "*count it all joy, my brothers*" (v.2)

- A. Joy is planted by the Spirit of God (**Galatians 5:22**).
- B. Joy is rooted in assurance and faith (**Hebrews 11:1, 6**).
- C. Joy grows in our obedience (**Hebrews 11:33-40, Genesis 15:16**).

II. *The Problem of Victory*

James says: "*when you meet trials of various kinds*" (v.2)

- A. Christianity is the only true faith (**Ephesians 4:5**).
- B. Christianity is a tested faith (**John 16:33, Matthew 5:10**).
- C. Christianity is a trained faith (**II Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17**).

III. *The Promise of Victory*

James says: "*for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness*" (v.3)

- A. God allows trials to steady us (**I Peter 1:3-6**).
- B. God allows trials to strengthen us (**Romans 8:35, II Timothy 4:12**).
- C. God does not allow trials to smother us (**I Corinthians 10:13**).

IV. *The Profit in Victory*

James says: "*And let steadfastness have its full effect*" (v.4)

- A. Steadfastness produces a stronger faith (**Luke 17:6**).
- B. Steadfastness produces a self-less faith (**Luke 6:35, Romans 12:1-2**).
- C. Steadfastness produces a sober faith (**I Peter 5:8-9**).

V. *The Prize of Victory*

James says: "*that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing*" (v.4)

- A. Our trials help us to become perfect (**Matthew 5:48**).
- B. Our trials help us to become complete (**Romans 5:1, Hebrews 13:21**).
- C. Our trials help us to become sufficient (**Matthew 6:33, Acts 5:41**).

Conclusion: Every believer faces trials in this life. James gives us an interesting perspective. He wants to challenge us to re-think trials. Do you want to be a winner or a loser? Are you ready for the trials of life? Are you ready to have victory in Jesus? Let's share this wonderful word with others!

Compassion

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: We are studying great Bible words. This morning we are going to focus on the word compassion. In today's society, the meaning of the word love has become so distorted that the Christian meaning has been diminished. Some view love as a feeling, but it is a decision followed by action, which is compassion. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Compassion For The Displaced

- A. What can we learn from Jesus? (**Matthew 9:35-37**)
- B. What should we do? (**Mark 16:15-16**)

II. Compassion For The Discouraged

- A. What can we learn from Jesus? (**Matthew 14:13-14**)
- B. What should we do? (**Hebrews 12:12-13**)

III. Compassion For The Deprived

- A. What can we learn from Jesus? (**Matthew 15:32**)
- B. What should we do? (**Matthew 25:34-35**)

IV. Compassion For The Depressed

- A. What can we learn from Jesus? (**Matthew 18:21-36**).
- B. What should we do? (**Ephesians 4:32**)

V. Compassion For The Dejected

- A. What can we learn from Jesus? (**Matthew 20:29-34**)
- B. What should we do? (**Romans 15:1-7**)

Conclusion: We must not forget to seek out those in need. *"Remember the prisoners as if chained with them – those who are mistreated – since you yourselves are in the body also"* (**Hebrews 13:3**) We must not forget to seek help when we need it. *"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."* (**James 5:14**) Are you ready to receive compassion from God? Are you ready to show God's compassion to others? Let's share this wonderful word with others!

Prayer

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: It is such a blessing to communicate with God through prayer! If my math is correct the word prayer is used in 109 verses, the word pray is used in 310 verses, and the word praying is used 20 verses. There is no doubt that Bible puts a lot of emphasis on prayer. I want us to consider three things that can help us understand prayer. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Praying Like Elijah (I Kings 18:41-46, James 5:16-18)

- A. A focused prayer from a prophet (**I Kings 18:1, James 5:16**).
- B. A powerful prayer from a man (**I Kings 18:41-45, James 5:17-18**).
- C. A righteous prayer from a believer (**James 1:6, James 5:15**).
- D. An answered prayer from a servant (**I Kings 17:1, James 5:17**).

II. Praying Like Jesus (Matthew 6:5-15, John 17)

- A. Jesus identifies the pretense of prayer (**Matthew 6:5-7**).
- B. Jesus identifies the power of prayer (**Matthew 6:8**).
- C. Jesus identifies the passion of prayer (**Matthew 6:9**).
- D. Jesus identifies the path of prayer (**Matthew 6:9**).
- E. Jesus identifies the purpose of prayer (**Matthew 6:10**).
- F. Jesus identifies the provision of prayer (**Matthew 6:11**).
- G. Jesus identifies the pardon of prayer (**Matthew 6:12**).
- H. Jesus identifies the protection of prayer (**Matthew 6:13**).
- I. Jesus identifies the praise of prayer (**Matthew 6:13**).
- J. Jesus identifies the persuasion of prayer (**Matthew 6:14-15**).

III. Praying Like Paul (I Thessalonians 5:16-17, II Corinthians 13:7-10)

- A. Take time to pray for yourself (**Colossians 1:9-12**).
- B. Take time to pray for your family (**Ephesians 5:21-6:4**).
- C. Take time to pray for your community (**Romans 14:19**).
- D. Take time to pray for your church family (**Philippians 1:9-11**).
- E. Take time to pray for your nation (**I Timothy 2:2**).
- F. Take time to pray for those who are sick and shut-in (**Ephesians 6:10-20**).
- G. Take time to pray for those who are poor and oppressed (**Galatians 2:10**).
- H. Take time to pray for those who are outside of Christ (**Romans 10:1**).

Conclusion: What is your relationship with God? Do you have a right to say, "Abba, Father"? (**Galatians 3:26-27, John 3:3-5**). If you are already a child of God, are you a faithful child of God (**John 3:31, Psalms 66:18**)? Have you asked others to pray for you? Are you ready to pray for others? Let's share this wonderful word with others!

Lead

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: Leadership is a great challenge because the world is filled with many followers but few real leaders. The Bible is full of great stories that reveal men and women leading God's kingdom. Many books are named after those leaders. Have you ever noticed how many books are named after someone or a group of people? Let's study this great Bible word together...

Discussion:

I. The Lord's Church Needs Biblical Leaders

A. Old Testament Leaders

1. Family Leaders (**Numbers 2:3, Joshua 9:15, I Kings 8:1**)
2. Government Leaders (**Judges, I-II Samuel, I-II Kings 14:7**)
3. Military Leaders (**Judges 11:6, Isaiah 3:6**)
4. Worship Leaders (**Nehemiah 11:17, Leviticus 16**)
5. Spiritual Leader (**Joshua 24:31, Nehemiah 4:16**)

B. New Testament Leaders

1. Family Leaders (**Ephesians 5:21-6:4, I Timothy 5:1-16**)
2. Government Leaders (**Romans 13:1-7, Hebrews 13:7, I Peter 2:17**)
3. Worship Leaders (**I Corinthians 14, Ephesians 4:1-16, II Timothy 4:1-2**)
4. Spiritual Leader (**Acts 20:17, I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5**)
5. Ministry Leaders (**I Timothy 3:8-13, Philippians 1:1**)

C. Church Leaders (**I Timothy 1:3-4, 3:1-13, 4:1-16, II Timothy 4:1-2, Titus 1:5-9**)

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Social Qualities | 4. Spiritual Qualities |
| 2. Moral Qualities | 5. Communal Qualities |
| 3. Mental Qualities | |

II. The Lord's Church Needs Spiritual Leaders

- A. Leadership is High Calling (**Philippians 3:13-14, Acts 2:36-39**)
- B. Leadership is Holy Calling (**II Timothy 1:8-9, Romans 8:28**)
- C. Leadership is Heavenly Calling (**Hebrews 3:1, II Timothy 1:11**)
- D. Leadership is Hopeful Calling (**Ephesians 1:17-18, 4:4, Jeremiah 29:11**)

III. The Lord's Church Needs Visible Leaders

- A. We Need Leaders That Serve (**Mark 10:42-44, Luke 19:10**)
- B. We Need Leaders That Equip (**Ephesians 4:11-12, Hebrews 13:21**)
- C. We Need Leaders That Work (**I Timothy 3:8-13, Colossians 3:23**)
- D. We Need Leaders That Minister (**II Timothy 4:1-5, II Corinthians 3:6**)
- E. We Need Leaders That Teach (**Titus 2:7, II Timothy 2:15**)
- F. We Need Leaders That Shepherd (**I Peter 5:1-5, I Timothy 3:1-7**)

Conclusion: If you keep studying leadership, I know it will be a blessing to you! We need to consider our direction. The future is bright if we will keep building up leaders. God is waiting for His people to rise up! He's waiting for leaders to take up His armor to fight the good fight. Are you ready to follow Him? Are you ready to be a leader? Let's share this wonderful word with others!

Goodness

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: We are studying great Bible words. One of the topics submitted for this series was goodness. Have you ever noticed that you can't spell "GOODNESS" without "GOD"? How can we show goodness? Not without seeing God first! We need His Holy Spirit! Also, remember that David speaks of God's goodness and mercy following us in the 23rd Psalm. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Goodness Is Proven By God's Spirit

- A. Goodness is part of His nature.
I Corinthians 1:18-21, Psalm 100:5, Psalm 136:1
- B. Goodness is seen in His creation.
Psalm 19:1, Psalm 33:4-6, Psalm 148:1-5
- C. Goodness is obvious from His salvation.
Titus 3:4-5, Romans 8:28, Romans 1:16
- D. Goodness is evident from His blessings.
Psalm 135:3, Psalm 135:5-6, Proverbs 30:7-9

II. Goodness Is Perfected in God's Son

- A. Goodness is seen in His life.
John 1:14, I Thessalonians 1:11-12
- B. Goodness is seen in His sacrifice.
Romans 5:8, John 3:16, Luke 19:10
- C. Goodness is seen in His wisdom.
Romans 11:22, I Corinthians 1:30, Mark 10:18
- D. Goodness is seen in His gifts.
Psalm 84:11, I Corinthians 4:7, James 1:17, Ephesians 1:3

III. Goodness Is Personified in God's People

- A. God's goodness flows from His children.
II Thessalonians 1:11-12, Galatians 5:22-23, I Timothy 1:18-19
- B. God's goodness is on the lips of His children.
Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, I Thessalonians 3:6
- C. God's goodness is on the hearts of His children.
Acts 4:9, Acts 6:3, Acts 9:36, Acts 11:24, Acts 22:12
- D. God's goodness is in the hands of His children.
John 15:1-8, Colossians 1:10, Ephesians 5:8-9, II Corinthians 9:10-11

Conclusion: If we keep studying goodness, it will be a "fruitful" study! We can see that this word, along with others submitted for this series, are in the list of the fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**). We need to re-evaluate what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how it is improving our life. Are you sharing the good news? Are you ready to show the goodness of God to others? Are you bearing good fruit? Let's share this wonderful word with others!

Kindness

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: Last week we focused on the word “goodness” and noticed it as a sign of excellence and moral integrity. Today we will talk about a word that often gets confused with goodness... the word kindness. I find it interesting that both words are listed BACK TO BACK as fruit of the spirit: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23) Let's study this great Bible word together...

Discussion:

I. Acts of Kindness in the Old Testament

- A. Kindness from the very beginning (**Genesis 1-2, 6:20, 7:14**).
- B. Kindness shown by Rebekah (**Genesis 24:9-25**).
- C. Kindness shown by David (**II Samuel 9, Acts 13:22, I Samuel 18:3**).
- D. Kindness shown by God to His people (**Isaiah 54:8, 10**)

II. Acts of Kindness in the New Testament

- A. Kindness from the very beginning (**Matthew 1-2, Ephesians 2:6-9, Titus 3:4**).
- B. Kindness shown by the good Samaritan (**Luke 10:30-37**).
- C. Kindness shown by Jesus (**John 13:3-17, Isaiah 52:13, 53:11**).
- D. Kindness shown by the early Christians (**Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-37, 6:1-7**).

III. Acts of Kindness in the Church of Christ

- A. Kindness from the very beginning (**Acts 2-28, Mark 16:15-16**).
- B. Kindness from other sinners (**Romans 2:3-4, 3:10, 12**).
- C. Kindness without hesitation (**Matthew 5:38-42, Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 4:32**).
- D. Kindness toward all people (**I Timothy 5:15, II Timothy 2:24, II Peter 1:5-7**).

Conclusion: Did you know there is a World Kindness Day (November 13)? There are dozens of websites dedicated to telling stories about random acts of kindness. Do you know what is better than random acts of kindness? Planned acts of kindness! Consider the story of Todd Mason, from Jackson County, FL. There are many more stories just like this one. This wasn't just a few random acts of kindness... it was a community effort. Christians should mobilize like this when we see a need. We need to be watching for opportunities. If you are not a Christian, please let us show you some kindness today? Would you let us pray with you? Are you ready to show kindness? Are you bearing good fruit for God? Let's share this wonderful word with others!

Service

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: What are the benefits of Christian service? What holds people back from serving? It is often difficult to serve others because we might feel unappreciated. However, the Bible speaks often about servanthood (over 1,000 passages). Leadership roles of “deacons” and “ministers” bear these titles in their job description. All of us are called to serve! Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Christians Are Called To Serve

- A. We are called to serve effectively (**Colossians 1:24-2:5**).
- B. We are called to serve reasonably (**Romans 12:1-2**).
- C. We are called to serve functionally (**Ephesians 4:11-16**).
- D. We are called to serve naturally (**I Corinthians 12:12-30**).

II. Christians Are Blessed To Serve

- A. We are blessed to shine our light (**Matthew 5:13-16**).
- B. We are blessed to show our talents (**Matthew 25:14-30**).
- C. We are blessed to share our gifts (**John 15:1-8**).
- D. We are blessed to serve our God (**Deuteronomy 13:4**).

III. Deacons Are Needed To Serve

- A. They are men of dignity (**I Timothy 3:8**).
- B. They are not double-tongued (**I Timothy 3:8**).
- C. They are not addicted to wine (**I Timothy 3:8**).
- D. They are not fond of disreputable gain (**I Timothy 3:8**).
- E. They are holding to the mystery of faith (**I Timothy 3:9**).
- F. They have a clear conscience (**I Timothy 3:9**).
- G. They have been tested (**I Timothy 3:10**).
- H. They are beyond reproach (**I Timothy 3:10**).
- I. They are the husband of one wife (**I Timothy 3:12**).
- J. They are good managers of their children (**I Timothy 3:12**).
- K. They are good managers of their household (**I Timothy 3:12**).

IV. The World Needs Christian Service

- A. The necessity of Christian service (**James 2:14-24**).
- B. The goal of Christian service (**Colossians 4:12**).
- C. The cost of Christian service (**Luke 9:23**).
- D. The reward of Christian service (**Matthew 25:31-46**).

Conclusion: When we offer ourselves to serve the Lord He can do some amazing things! Don't worry about whether or not you'll fail, just serve God to the best of your ability! Are you ready to serve? A bright future awaits you! Let's share this wonderful word with others!

Repentance

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: Some people are opposed to change. We don't like to repent. The word re-pentance is interesting. It might be better expressed as re-penitent. We essentially get a re-do or a do-over. The word *penitent* means "contrite, sorry for sin or fault; disposed to making amends." The word *repent* means: "to feel self-reproach; contrition for past conduct; changing your mind with regard to past action; feeling sorry for sin or fault; disposing of something to change your life for the better." What does it mean to repent? Let's study this great Bible word together...

Discussion:

I. The Blessing of Repentance

- A. Repentance is an offering from God.
Luke 3:7-8, 5:32, Acts 11:18
- B. Repentance is an opportunity for change.
Luke 24:47, Acts 5:31, II Timothy 2:25
- C. Repentance is an open door for salvation.
Luke 13:3, 5, 15:7, Romans 2:4

II. The Need For Repentance

- A. Repentance reveals an open heart.
Job 42:6, Jeremiah 17:9, Acts 2:38
- B. Repentance reveals an open soul.
Romans 10:17, Proverbs 16:25, James 1:21
- C. Repentance reveals an open mind.
Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 12:14-17, II Corinthians 7:9-11

III. The Life of Repentance

- A. Repentance is part of a daily walk.
Ephesians 4:17-32, James 5:19-20, I John 1:7-10
- B. Repentance is part of a deliberate walk.
Psalms 130:3-4, Matthew 6:14-15, Luke 17:4
- C. Repentance is part of a dynamic walk.
Romans 1:16, Ephesians 1:18-20, II Peter 3:9

Conclusion: The Bible tells us that our sins will find us out (**Numbers 32:23**), but if we confess our sins we shall have mercy (**Proverbs 28:13**). Don't hide your sin! Are you ready to repent? Are you ready to start walking right? Are you ready to put your past behind you? A clean slate awaits you! Let's share this wonderful word with others!

Patience



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: When we are determined to do something we always find the strength to do it. Even if it is against all odds or if it is painful. Almost everything we do in life requires perseverance and patience. **Romans 8:25** says, "But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." We have an earnest expectation (hope) of eternal life with God. Let's study this great Bible word together...

Discussion:

I. The Bible Speaks of God's Patience

- A. God's Patience in the Patriarchal Age
I Peter 3:20, Genesis 6-8, 11:1-9
- B. God's Patience in the Mosaical Age
Psalm 103:8-18, Nehemiah 9:16-21, Acts 7:2-53
- C. God's Patience in the Christian Age
I Timothy 1:17, Romans 2:3-4, II Peter 3:7-9

II. The Bible Speaks of Patient People

- A. The Patience of God's Servant Job
Job 1-42, James 5:10-11, Romans 15:4-6
- B. The Patience of God's King David
I Samuel 13:14, 24:1-22, 26:1-25, II Samuel 7:1-17, Psalm 37:7, 40:1
- C. The Patience of God's Apostle Paul
II Timothy 4:2, 3:10-11, II Corinthians 6:4, Colossians 1:11

III. The Bible Speaks of Steps Toward Patience

- A. Know That God Wants To Be With You
Colossians 1:9-12, Luke 22:31-32, I Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 13:5
- B. Know That God Wants To Bless You
Colossians 1:9-12, Romans 8:31, II Peter 3:9, Job 42:1-10, Matthew 28:20
- C. Know That God Wants To Glorify You
Colossians 1:9-12, Matthew 19:30, 20:16, James 4:10, Genesis 22:1-19
- D. Know That God Wants To Use You
**Colossians 1:9-12, Job 42:7-10, I Corinthians 13:4-8, Ephesians 4:1-3
II Thessalonians 3:5, II Timothy 3:10**

Conclusion: If we seek patience we have to wait upon the Lord. We have to trust in Him. The Lord says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (**Psalm 46:10**). Are you ready to wait on the Lord? Are you ready to have patience to endure? Let's share this wonderful word with others!

Temperance

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: We often see the words temperance, temperate, and self-control in the Bible. We also read in several places that we need to control our temper. What does that mean? Why is this last thing mentioned as a fruit of the Spirit? Let's study this great Bible word together...

Discussion:

I. Who Should Practice Temperance?

- A. Husbands & Wives Should Practice Temperance (**I Corinthians 7:5**)
- B. Single Christians Should Practice Temperance (**I Corinthians 7:9**)
- C. Athletes Should Practice Temperance (**I Corinthians 9:25**)
- D. Young Women Should Practice Temperance (**I Timothy 2:9**)
- E. Preachers Should Practice Temperance (**I Timothy 4:12**)
- F. Elders Should Practice Temperance (**Titus 1:8**)
- G. Older Women Should Practice Temperance (**Titus 2:1**)
- H. Older Men Should Practice Temperance (**Titus 2:2**)
- I. Young Men Should Practice Temperance (**Titus 2:6**)

II. What Does It Mean To Practice Temperance?

- A. The Temperance of the Holy Spirit Removes Our Fear (**II Timothy 1:6-7**)
- B. The Temperance of the Holy Spirit Fuels Us With Power (**John 14-16**)
- C. The Temperance of the Holy Spirit Provokes Us To Love (**I Corinthians 13**).

III. Why Should We Practice Temperance?

- A. Temperance Establishes Our Perspective (**I Thessalonians 5:5-8, Matthew 26:41, I Corinthians 10:12-13, Ephesians 6:18-20**)
- B. Temperance Ignites Our Spiritual Flame (**I Peter 4:7, 5:8, I Thessalonians 5:19**)
- C. Temperance Equips Us For Spiritual Warfare (**John 4:24, 16:5, Romans 8:1-38, Ephesians 3:16-20, Titus 3:5**)

IV. When Should We Practice Temperance?

- A. Temperance Will Be Hardest When You Face Adversity (**II Timothy 3:1-5, Job 1-42**)
- B. Temperance Will Be Hardest When You Feel Alone (**Deuteronomy 31:8, Zephaniah 3:17, Matthew 20:28**)
- C. Temperance Will Be Hardest When You Are Surrounded By Sin (**Romans 8:13, Colossians 3:5, 8-9, Galatians 3:27, Colossians 3:10-14**)

Conclusion: We need to re-evaluate what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how it should be improving our life. Paul hopes that we will live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit! It's time to bear fruit! Are you ready to obey God's will? Are you ready to show temperance? Do you need to repent of your lack of self-control? Let's share this wonderful word with others!

Salvation

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: We often see the words save, saves, saved, and salvation in the Bible. Have you ever wondered who could be saved? People have asked similar questions (**Matthew 19:25, Luke 18:18, Acts 2:36, Acts 16:30, 22:10**). There are dozens of verses in the Bible that deal with the subject of salvation. Let's study this great Bible word together...

Discussion:

- I. You Can Be Saved If You Believe & Are Baptized***
Mark 16:15-16, Matthew 28:18-20, I Peter 2:10-21
- II. You Can Be Saved If You Enter the Sheepfold***
John 10:9-10, Acts 20:28, Ephesians 5:23, I Peter 5:1-2
- III. You Can Be Saved If You Repent & Are Baptized***
Acts 2:39-39, 3:19, 22:16, Romans 10:13
- IV. You Can Be Saved No Matter Your Nationality***
Acts 10:35-48, 11:14, 15:11, Romans 1:16
- V. You Can Be Saved By The Blood of Jesus***
Romans 5:9-11, 18, Hebrews 9:14, 22, I John 1:7, I Peter 1:18-19
- VI. You Can Be Saved If You Confess the Name of Jesus***
Romans 10:9-12, Matthew 10:32, Acts 4:12
- VII. You Can Be Saved If You Remain Faithful***
Revelation 2:10, I Peter 4:12, I Corinthians 3:10

Conclusion: We need to be saved from our sins. Have you believed? Have you entered into the sheepfold? Have you repented of your sins? Have you been covered by the blood of Jesus in baptism? Have you confess the name of Jesus in the presence of witnesses? Are you remaining faithful? Let's share this wonderful word with others!

Church

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: Immediately after Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost about 3,000 souls were added to the group. Before the chapter ends Luke tells us more about this group, or assembly, referring to them as the church (**Acts 2:41, 47**). The word in the original Greek text is "ecclesia" and it is found hundred and 14 times the New Testament. One of the references tells us that collectively they were called the churches of Christ (**Romans 16:16**). Let's study this great Bible word together...

Discussion:

I. The Church of Christ Is/Was A Pure Church

- A. The church must remove sin (**Joshua 7:13, Acts 5:1-11**).
- B. The church must represent righteousness (**I Corinthians 6:11, Ephesians 5:1-5**).
- C. The church must remain pure (**Titus 1:15, Ephesians 5:25-27**).
- D. The church must regard church discipline (**I Corinthians 5:6, II Thessalonians 3:6**).

II. The Church of Christ Is/Was A Sound Church

- A. The church must be sound in the faith (**I Timothy 1:10, Titus 1:9, 13, 2:1-2, Jude 3**).
- B. The church must be sound in doctrine (**II Timothy 1:13, 4:3, II Peter 2:1**).
- C. The church must be sound in living (**Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 2:5, II Peter 3:17**).
- D. The church must not be sound asleep (**Revelation 2-3, Ephesians 5:14**).

III. The Church of Christ Is/Was An Evangelistic Church

- A. The church must be aware of the Great Commission (**Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16**).
- B. The church must be aware of the lost souls (**II Thessalonians 1:7-9, Luke 19:10**).
- C. The church must have a love for the lost (**Romans 1:14-17, 10:1, Hebrews 5:12-14**).
- D. The church must seek and save the lost (**Luke 19:10, Acts 1:7-8, 2:42-47**).

IV. The Church of Christ Is/Was An Educated Church

- A. The church must read the Bible (**Acts 17:11, II Timothy 2:15, I Peter 3:15**).
- B. The church must follow the Bible (**Psalms 119, II Timothy 1:5, 2:14-15**).
- C. The church must teach the Bible (**Hebrews 5:12-14, II Peter 2:22, 3:18**).
- D. The church must encourage people to be good teachers and preachers (**II Timothy 2:2**).

Conclusion: We need to be added to the church of Jesus Christ so that we can work, worship, and walk together in the kingdom. Have you been covered by the blood of Jesus in baptism? Have you confessed the name of Jesus in the presence of witnesses? Have you repented of your sins? Are you living a faithful life in Christ as a new creature? Let's share this wonderful word with others!

Worship

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: The concept of worship is on nearly every page of the Bible. However, the word does not appear in our English Bible until **Genesis 22:5**. After that occurrence we can find the word over 100 times. Let's study this great Bible word together...

Discussion:

I. The Action of Worship

- A. Worship is an encounter with the living and holy God (**Exodus 3:1-6**).
- B. Worship is reserved for God alone (**Exodus 20:1-3, 34:14**).
- C. Worship is to give the Lord the glory due him (**Psalms 29:1-2**).
- D. Worship is done in spirit and in truth (**John 4:23-24**).
- E. Worship must be done with the right attitude (**I Corinthians 14:25, I John 3:16-19**).

II. The Attitudes of Worship

- A. Worship involves inspiration (**Exodus 3:1-6, I Timothy 1:17**).
- B. Worship involves admonition (**Exodus 20:1-6, 34:14**).
- C. Worship involves commendation (**Psalms 29:1-2, Revelation 19:1**).
- D. Worship involves devotion (**John 3:16, Hebrews 10:1-10**).
- E. Worship involves reflection (**I Corinthians 11:28, James 4:8**).

III. The Activities of Worship

- A. Worship includes a cappella singing (**Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16**).
- B. Worship includes public prayer (**Acts 2:42, I Timothy 2:1-2, James 5:16**).
- C. Worship includes preaching and teaching (**Ephesians 4:16, Acts 2:42**).
- D. Worship includes communion (**Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 11:20-31, 16:1-2**).
- E. Worship includes an offering (**I Corinthians 16:1-2, II Corinthians 8:1-5, 9:7**).

IV. The Approval of Worship

- A. Worship is on the Lord's day (**Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 16:1-2**).
- B. Worship must meet God's approval (**Matthew 6:1-18, John 4:21-24, Philippians 3:3-6**).
- C. Worship is offered because of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf (**Hebrews 10:1-10**).
- D. Worship is given with reverence for God (**Hebrews 12:28, Matthew 6:9**).
- E. Worship allows us to draw near to God, then He draws near to us (**James 4:8**).

Conclusion: We need to worship the Lord our God and serve Him while we still have time on the earth. Have you been baptized into Christ? Have you confessed the name of Jesus? Have you repented of your sins? Are you living a faithful life in Christ as a new creature? Let's share this wonderful word with others!

Baptism

G R E A T B I B L E W O R D S

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: Baptism may be one of the most understudied subject in the Bible by many Christians. The word appears over 100 times in the Bible. Let's study this great Bible word together...

Discussion:

I. *The Emphasis of Baptism for Conversion to Christ*

- A. Baptism involves much water (**Acts 8:36, 10:47, John 3:23**)
- B. Baptism involves going into the water (**Acts 8:36, Matthew 3:5-6**)
- C. Baptism involves a burial (**Romans 6:3-5, Colossians 2:12**)
- D. Baptism involves a planting (**Romans 6:5**)
- E. Baptism involves a washing (**Acts 22:16, Ephesians 5:26, Titus 3:5, Hebrews 10:22**)
- F. Baptism involves a birth (**John 3:3-5, 1 Peter 1:22-25**)
- G. Baptism involves a resurrection (**Acts 8:39, Romans 6:1-4, Colossians 2:12**)
- H. Baptism involves coming up out of the water (**Acts 8:39**)

II. *The Examples of Baptism for Conversion to Christ*

- A. Baptism of about 3,000 on Pentecost (**Acts 2**)
- B. Baptism of the Samaritans (**Acts 8**)
- C. Baptism of the Simon the Magician (**Acts 8**)
- D. Baptism of the Ethiopian Eunuch (**Acts 8**)
- E. Baptism of Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 9, 22, 26**)
- F. Baptism of Cornelius & his household (**Acts 10-11**)
- G. Baptism of Lydia (**Acts 16**)
- H. Baptism of the Philippian Jailor & his household (**Acts 16**)
- I. Baptism of Corinthians (**Acts 18**)
- J. Baptism of Ephesians (**Acts 19**)

III. *The Effects of Baptism for Conversion to Christ*

- A. You are born again as a new creature (**John 3:3,5, Romans 6:3-4, II Corinthians 5:17**)
- B. You obey Christ (**John 14:15, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 10:48**)
- C. You are saved from sins (**Mark 16:15-16, I Peter 3:20-21**)
- D. You get added to the church of Christ (**Acts 2:37-47, I Corinthians 12:13**)
- E. You have remission of sins (**Acts 2:38, Luke 24:46-47**)
- F. Your sins are completely washed away (**Acts 22:16, Hebrews 9:22, 10:22, I Peter 3:21**)
- G. You get into Jesus Christ (**Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 3:27**)
- H. You walk in newness of life (**Romans 6:3-5, Colossians 3:1**)
- I. You put on Christ (**Galatians 3:26-27**)
- J. You become a child of God (**Galatians 3:26-27**)

Conclusion: We need to take this important step of faith! Have you been baptized? Are you making disciples and baptizing others? Let's share this wonderful word with others!