

# Foundations of the Faith Series

Bible Study Workbook—Course 101



*He shall be like a tree  
planted by the rivers of water  
Psalm 1:3a*

Prepared for the Safe Haven Berean Fellowship, Ministry of the Word  
by Pastor David Braden

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# Foundations of the Faith 101

## INTRODUCTION

This workbook is the first of four workbooks in the “Foundations of the Faith” series.

In this series of teachings, I am responding to the need of Christians in the body of Christ to be able to give an answer for the things they believe.

Some of the topics were identified by listening to the questions being asked by believers. The lessons in these booklets are designed to provide an introduction to the issues being addressed. Further study on the part of each student is encouraged to solidify the believer’s position relative to these topics. The believer is encouraged to study the scriptures provided and see if the things presented are true. (Acts 17:11)

Some lessons are provided in which the student is to “fill in the blanks.” The answers will be found in the scripture references provided.

Still other lessons are provided in which no “fill in the blanks” are provided. These lessons are generally the impartation of knowledge. This information is found in sources outside of the Bible such as Bible dictionaries and commentaries.

These lessons are prepared for use as homework for the Foundations of the Faith classes or study groups. It is recommended that each lesson be completed prior to the class time on that subject.

In order to maximize your benefits from this course, it is recommended that your homework efforts include a period of time to meditate and consider the things you discover in each lesson, rather than completing the assignment merely to “fill in the blanks.”

# BIBLE STUDY #1

## Salvation and the New Birth

One of the most important disciplines to embrace as a new Christian is memorizing Bible verses. In Psalm 119:11 the psalmist says, "I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You." Memorizing Bible verses and doing what they say, will help you to fight against temptation and instruct you to do what is right. We encourage you to memorize the verse below to give you a better understanding of the topic of salvation.

John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

### Part I: Salvation

John 3:3,7 – In replying to Nicodemus, Jesus declared, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"

In this verse Jesus issues a command saying, "You must be born again." In this lesson you should learn:

- A. Why we need to be saved (born again)
- B. How God has provided for our salvation
- C. How we can have that salvation personally
- D. What occurs when a person is "born again?"

Before you start, PRAY. Ask God's Holy Spirit to open your heart to receive His Word and to show you how to apply it in your life. Do not copy the scriptures, but answer the question briefly and in your own words.

- A. Why we need to be saved (born again)

Sin is the failure to obey any of God's commandments or laws.

1. How does the Bible describe sin?

I John 3:4 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the result of sin?

Romans 6:23 \_\_\_\_\_

James 1:15 \_\_\_\_\_

To better understand the effects of sin, think of death as:

SEPARATION

- A. Spiritual death -- Your sins have separated you from God.
- B. Physical death -- It separates the spirit and soul from the body.
- C. Eternal death -- If you remain lost in your sins, they will separate you from the mercy of God forever. (This is the greatest punishment of Hell.)

RIGHTEOUS means “the character or quality of being right or just”, or being “right” before God. It means that the requirements of a higher authority have been satisfied.

- 3. How many of us are righteous? Romans 3:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. How many of us have sinned? Romans 3:23 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. What word explains why God would send His only Son to die for us? John 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Does He love us as sinners or do we have to become good enough for God to love us? Romans 5:8 \_\_\_\_\_

B. How God has provided for our salvation

- 1. Read each of the verses below and indicate if we are saved by Jesus only or if God allows other ways for salvation to occur.

I Timothy 2:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 14:6 \_\_\_\_\_

God’s Word says sin causes death. Jesus took that penalty upon Himself in our place.

- 2. How did Jesus take the penalty of sin for us? I Corinthians 15:3 \_\_\_\_\_

C. How can we have this salvation?

- 1. What must we do to have Him save us from the penalty of sin?

Romans 10:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 16:30-31 \_\_\_\_\_

BELIEVE means “to cling to, trust in and rely on.” CONFESS means “to openly acknowledge,” to give your personal testimony (as in a court case).

2. The Bible uses several words to show the contrast between “works” and “faith.” Next to each of the following scriptures write the words that describe how we are saved.

Ephesians 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
Titus 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why does the Bible say we are not saved by our works?

Ephesians 2:9 \_\_\_\_\_

JUSTICE is getting what we deserve. If God were only a just God, we would all perish.

MERCY is not getting what we deserve. It is by His mercy He can forgive us.

GRACE is getting something we don't deserve at all. By God's grace (not our own merit) He sent us His Son.

FAITH is accepting as truth, things which cannot be proved by the senses. Faith is trusting God.

Faith is believing what God has said and acting upon it.

4. What should be the result of God's goodness and kindness to us?

Romans 2:4 \_\_\_\_\_

REPENTANCE means “to turn,” “a change of mind.” It occurs by a heart change that leads people away from sin and towards God. It should include:

- A. a genuine sorrow for sins,
- B. cleansing from continuous sinning, and
- C. a desire to submit to God's will.

5. When we repent, what happens in Heaven?

Luke 15:10 \_\_\_\_\_

When Jesus began to preach, His message was repent and believe for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Later, in the New Testament, in Paul's letter to the Romans, chapter 10:9-10, Paul says that if a person confesses with his mouth the Lord Jesus (i.e. gives his personal testimony that Jesus is his Lord) and believes in his heart that God has raised him (Jesus) from the dead, he will be saved.

Also, in Acts 20:21, Paul says to the elders of the church of Ephesus: “I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.” (NIV)

The following table provides a summary of the elements of salvation:

**ELEMENTS of SALVATION (Initial)**

Element	Who does it?	Location within humanity	Scripture/Explanation
New Birth	God	Man’s spirit	John 3:3 Jesus to Nicodemus: “...unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
“...become like a little child...”	Man	Heart - Soul	Matt:18:3 humble themselves – recognize their need
Repentance	Man	Soul – mind (Note: the heart can be involved when a person experiences a godly sorrow over sin.)	Matt. 4:17 “to turn, a change of mind”
Believe (faith)	Man	Heart	Rom. 10:9
Confess	Man	Body – mouth - speak	Rom. 10:9 : “Jesus is Lord”
Decision	Man	Soul – will (a choice)	Mk. 1:16-20; Matt. 19:16-22

**Comments:**

1. From column 3, we see that the whole of humanity (body, soul and spirit) is involved in the “new birth” process.
2. God does His part when we’ve done our part.
3. The decision we must make = “Follow Jesus.”

Additionally, Paul provides a summary of his gospel in I Cor. 15:1-11.

Summarize Paul’s teaching in this passage on what the gospel is (4 things we are to believe):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Part II: The New Birth**

This section explores the question: “What happens when you are born again?”

When you, in faith, receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, many radical and significant changes occur. One of the important truths to know and understand regarding our salvation is that God has made full provision for our every need in His gift of salvation. This includes

- a. transferring us from the kingdom of this world into His family, the kingdom of God,
- b. full provision for our every need in our life on earth, and
- c. final glorification when we leave this life to be with Him.

In the passages of the New Testament, the following phrases are synonymous:

“born again”  
“new birth”  
“born from above”  
“born of God”  
“born of the Spirit”

I John 3:9 Whoever is born again is \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

This means that we have a new life within that comes directly from God. It is referred to in John 3:16 as eternal life. Because we now have the “seed of God”, we are now of the same essence/being as God and are called his children. This is similar to our natural birth in which we have the seed of our natural parents and are like them in many ways.

We are now a part of the family of God.

The family of God has many members, both male and female, Jew and Gentile, slave and free. Since there are other children in God’s family, what does that make your relationship with them? \_\_\_\_\_

And...you can now call God your \_\_\_\_\_.

Read the following passages and fill in the blanks.

I Pet. 2:9 God has transferred us from darkness into \_\_\_\_\_.

John 5:24 God has given us \_\_\_\_\_ in place of death.

John 3:18 The verdict upon us now is not condemnation but \_\_\_\_\_.

Rom. 5:19 We are no longer regarded by God as sinners but as \_\_\_\_\_.

I Pet. 2:10 We were formerly “not a people”. We are now the “\_\_\_\_\_”  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

Rom. 5:6 Formerly, we were unholy and ungodly.

II Thess. 1:10 Now we are \_\_\_\_\_.

Some other things that occur:

- The Holy Spirit comes to live within your spirit. Jn. 14:16-17
- All of your sins are forgiven and the judgment due to you because of your sins is removed. I Cor. 15:3; Jn. 3:18, Col 1:13-14
- You now have access to the Father through Jesus the Son. Eph. 2:13-19
- Jesus is now your shepherd. Jn. 10:11
- Jesus is at the right hand of the Father continually interceding for you in your life on earth. We have a divine intercessor at work for us. Rom. 8:34
- Jesus will work within you by the Holy Spirit to conform you to His likeness. Rom. 8:13
- Since the Spirit of God is now within you, you will begin to see evidences (fruit) of His presence. These evidences will include (but not be limited to) such things as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and brotherly kindness. Gal. 5:22, II Pet 1:5-7
- You will see changes in your affections and desires. II Cor. 3:18
- The Holy Spirit, working within you, will help you to put to death the "old nature." Rom. 8:13
- The promises of God as recorded in scripture are now available to you. e.g. "Ask and it will be given, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened to you." (Matt. 7:7)

Salvation begins with our new birth and is truly a new beginning.  
Our lives are changed radically.

God is now our Father, Jesus is our older brother and the Holy Spirit is now at work within us to change us and make us like Jesus.

We are members of the family of God with an imperishable hope of living forever in the kingdom of God in heaven.

Note: Even though we have the Holy Spirit, we are not yet complete.  
We have the down payment, the first installment.

Through the rest of our lives on earth, God will work in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, through trials and other means, to form the likeness of Christ within us.

## BIBLE STUDY #2

### Faith and Assurance

Begin memorizing I John 5:12-13a

*“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God, does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.”*

Hebrews 6:18-19 says: *“that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,”*

It is a comfort to know that God intends for us to be sure of our salvation. He simply wants us to have faith, trusting Him and believing He will do everything He said. In this lesson you should learn:

- A. God is faithful and keeps His promises.
- B. He promises us eternal life.
- C. We obtain His promises by faith.
- D. We can know that we have the eternal life He promises.

PRAY before you start! Answer the questions briefly and in your own words.

TRUST Firm reliance on the integrity, ability or character of a person  
Confident belief/faith

ASSURANCE means to have the evidence and proof to know for certain that something is true.

FAITHFULNESS refers to the character of someone who has shown he is trustworthy and can be relied upon to keep his word.

1. How is God described regarding His promise?

Hebrews 10:23\_\_\_\_\_

2. If we don't believe or have faith, what happens to God's faithfulness?

II Timothy 2:13\_\_\_\_\_

3. What does God promise us?

I John 2:25\_\_\_\_\_

Titus 1:2\_\_\_\_\_

4. How do we obtain or inherit the promises of God for ourselves?

Hebrews 6:12\_\_\_\_\_

Faith is the key that opens the treasure chest of God's promises. Faith means to have trust in; to be convinced of. Faith that pleases God is faith in Jesus Christ.

5. What pleases God?

Hebrews 11:5-6\_\_\_\_\_

6. Where do we get our faith?

Romans 10:17\_\_\_\_\_

7. Where does faith reside?

Rom 10:9 \_\_\_\_\_

Our feelings and emotions change from day to day. On some days we may not "feel" like God loves us. Do not be deceived by feelings and emotions. The devil can use them to put doubt (opposite of faith) in our minds to try to destroy our faith. We should not put our trust in feelings that will change.

8. Who or what should we trust in, that never changes?

I Peter 1:24-25\_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 13:8\_\_\_\_\_

While our feelings come and go, we can have our faith steady and solid by basing it on what God has said in His Word. Here are a few of the things God has told us.

9. When we come to Jesus, what is the one thing He has promised not to do?

John 6:37\_\_\_\_\_

10. What can separate us from the love God has for us?

Romans 8:38-39\_\_\_\_\_

11. When we yield to God's Spirit and let Him lead us, who does the Bible say we are?

Romans 8:14\_\_\_\_\_

12. We are told to love one another. What does the Bible say about those who have God's love?

I John 3:14\_\_\_\_\_

I John 4:7 \_\_\_\_\_

13. Because God (our Father) disciplines us when we go against His will, what does this tell us about our relationship with Him?

Hebrews 12:6-7 \_\_\_\_\_

14. How can we be sure that we know God?

I John 2:3 \_\_\_\_\_

15. If we have the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus in our hearts and believe in Him, what do we have?

John 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

I John 5:11-12 \_\_\_\_\_

16. Jesus is called the Good Shepherd. How do we know we are His sheep?

John 10:27 \_\_\_\_\_

17. Are you one of His sheep? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know for sure? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For more about FAITH, read Hebrews 11:1-40.

Additional scriptures for consideration:

Phil. 1:6 "He who began a good work..."

Ps. 138:8 "God will perfect..."

Sealing of the Holy Spirit:

II Cor. 1:21-22

Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30

From memory, write out your memory verse below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## BIBLE STUDY #3

### Who is God the Father?

If you have received Jesus as your Savior, you have been rescued from the kingdom of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of light, God's kingdom, God's family. You are now a child of God and He is your heavenly Father.

This lesson addresses the question: "Who is God the Father?"

The only one who knows the complete answer to this question is God Himself. Human thought and language fall far short in their efforts to define God. Fortunately for us, God has revealed enough of Himself in the world and in His Word to enable us to understand some aspects of His being. We have access to enough information about God to satisfy our life needs and our search for meaning.

In this lesson, we will begin by looking at the words used for "father" in the Old and New Testaments and how they are defined. We will look at some of the names of God to begin to know something of our new Father, who He is and what He does. We will look at how God has revealed Himself both in the Word Book (Bible) and in the World Book (Creation).

Our objective is not just to learn facts about Him, but "to know" Him. In the context of the Bible, this means to have an intimate relationship with Him.

John 17:3 says: "And this is eternal life, that they may know (have intimate knowledge of) you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

#### I. Definition

##### A. Old Testament

The key word for father in the OT is "*ab*." (Note similarity to the Greek word "*abba*.") This word occurs almost 1200 times in the OT, usually indicating a father or grandfather. It was also used as a title of respect for a ruling authority, a priest or a prophet.

It is used to indicate the father or founder of a tribe or family group (e.g. Abraham). It can also indicate the originator of a guild. Hence, Jubal is "the father of those who play musical instruments." (Gen. 4:21)

In the OT, the father was the dominant family member. He was the "head of the house." (Josh. 24:15) He was responsible for the well-being of the family unit (Deut. 1:31) and for its discipline. (Deut. 8:5)

The father's primary responsibility was religious. He was the family priest and teacher of the faith.

The father guarded and provided for his family. But his primary responsibility was to communicate a living faith in Yahweh to the next generation.

## B. New Testament

The primary Greek word which corresponds to “*ab*” is “*pater*.” It’s secular uses parallel the uses of “*ab*” in the OT. The most significant use of this word in the NT is its profuse use in reference to God.

OT references to God focus on His creative acts that describe Him as the originator. NT references to God (use of “*pater*”) reveal His nature and the depth of relationship to which He invites us.

The Father:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ people to come to Jesus. (Jn 6:37, 44, 65)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ us to share in the inheritance of the saints. (Col. 1:12-13)
3. is the one who \_\_\_\_\_ us from the power of \_\_\_\_\_. (Col. 1:12-13)
4. is the architect of our \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph. 1:4-5)

The awesome one whose Name pious Jews would not even pronounce, is now presented in a most loving and intimate way. John tells us that He will “come and make His abode in us.” (John 14:23)

Jesus often referred to God as His Father. (Matt. 7:21; 10:32-33; 12:50; 16:17; 18:10,19)

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray in Matt. 6:7-13, His first words were “Our Father.” He identified God as the Father to whom we should pray.

When believers are baptized, we are to baptize them in the Name of the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit. God, the Father, is the first person in the Holy Trinity.

Read the following passages and record the implications of God’s fatherhood in our lives:

Matt. 6:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 15:2; Heb. 12:7-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt. 6:6, 18:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt. 6:8; \_\_\_\_\_  
I John 3:1; Jude 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt. 7:11; Luke 11:13 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt. 10:29-30 \_\_\_\_\_  
Luke 6:36 \_\_\_\_\_  
Luke 12:32 \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:27 \_\_\_\_\_  
I Pet. 1:17 \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Names of God

### A. The Word Book (Special Revelation)

Throughout scripture, God provides us glimpses of who He is by the use of His various names. Look up the following scriptures and record the name of God and how it portrays God, showing who He is and/or what He does.

#### 1. Gen. 1:1 \_\_\_\_\_

In this passage, the Hebrew word for God is *Elohim*. It is a primary word used for God in the OT. "El" means strong and the plural ending (Hebrew) is an indication that God is more than one.

The first chapter of Genesis reveals God as the Creator of the universe and the great "life-giver." In His creative acts, he uniquely creates man for fellowship with Himself. This purpose has not changed over the ages. Note that the Bible does not try to prove the existence of God. It simply affirms that He exists. (*"In the beginning, God..."*)

#### 2. Gen. 14:20 \_\_\_\_\_

The name for God in this passage is *El Elyon* which means *God Most High*. This name tells us that God is the sovereign ruler of the universe. It is *God Most High* who has delivered Abraham's enemies into his hands.

Read Dan. 4:34-35 to see what Nebuchadnezzar understood about who God is after God had returned his senses to him. Record what you find.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. Gen. 17:1 \_\_\_\_\_

God revealed Himself to Abraham as *El Shaddai*, the strong, all sufficient One. *Shaddai* indicates One who pours forth blessing. Whenever you see the English translation Almighty God or God Almighty, it is *El Shaddai*, our father God who is sufficient for our every need.

#### 4. Gen. 16:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Hagar now knows God as *El Roi*, the God who sees. This name gives us assurance that God does see us. As we study other scriptures we discover that God not only sees us but that He has intimate knowledge of us.

5. Gen. 15:2 \_\_\_\_\_

In this passage, Abraham calls God *Adonai*, the Hebrew word for Lord which means master. This word indicates a relationship in which He is our Lord and Master. In the covenants God made with Israel in the Old Testament, He was the Suzerain (Lord) and they were the vassals (servants.)

6. Ex. 3:14 \_\_\_\_\_

When Moses asked God: "Who shall I say has sent me?" God revealed Himself as the Self-Existent One, *Jehovah* (also *Yahweh*). This phrase "I Am Who I Am" indicates that God has no beginning or end. This is the most common name for God in the Old Testament and is used almost 7000 times. This is the name by which He revealed Himself as the faithful, covenant-keeping God.

7. I Sam. 17:42-47 \_\_\_\_\_

David, as he goes to battle with Goliath, refers to God as the Lord of Hosts (*Jehovah-Sabaoth*). "The Lord of Hosts is with us. The God of Jacob is our stronghold." (Ps.46:7) This name means not only that he is our deliverer but also our judge.

8. Ps 23:1 \_\_\_\_\_

He is *Jehovah-raah*, our shepherd. A shepherd is one who takes care of sheep. He does this by providing food, shelter, protection and guidance. He also takes care of them when they are sick or suffering from an infestation of parasites.

9. I John 4:8 \_\_\_\_\_

While this is not a name of God (*agape*), it does tell us who God is in His very nature. This is good news because everything God does flows out of a heart of love for His Creation. He is not capricious or mischievous as some of the mythical gods are described. He is perfectly reliable and dependable in every action. His intentions for us are to do us good and not harm.

B. The World Book (General Revelation)

1. Genesis 1 \_\_\_\_\_

(Elohim) is revealed as the One who has created all things...heavens, stars, planets, the earth, trees, fish, animals, and most of all, mankind.

2. Rom. 1:19-20 \_\_\_\_\_

Paul speaks of God's creative results and says that in them (all of creation) we can see God's eternal power and deity.

This creation reveals to us that God has no limits, that He is beyond us (transcendent) and that He is a God of order and purpose. He is shown as a God of power who speaks into existence something out of that which is not seen.

3. Ps. 8:3 The \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are the work of His fingers.

8:5 He made \_\_\_\_\_ a little lower than the \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Ps. 19:1 The \_\_\_\_\_ declare the glory of God.

In Psalm 19:4, what does the phrase “their line has gone out through all the earth” mean? \_\_\_\_\_

### III. A Special Psalm

Psalm 145 was written by David near the end of his life. This Psalm reflects his experiences of a life-time of getting to know God.

Read this Psalm and observe the many different words that describe who God is and what He does. (There are approximately 40 of them.)

### IV. God in the Old and New Testaments

The God of the New Testament is the God of the Old Testament.

God begins to reveal Himself to us in the acts and descriptive words of the OT. In the NT, God is still the same eternal, sovereign, loving and righteous God revealed in the OT. But, in the NT, God’s attributes are further explored and the implications of each are developed.

In the OT, we see his righteous dealings with the sinning generations in Israel. In the NT, we see His righteousness in a new light, as the Son offers up His life as payment for the sins of a lost humanity.

We saw God’s love operate in His free choice of Israel as His own special people. Now we see God’s love in its full glory as Jesus comes with the message of the gospel to all mankind.

In the OT, the conviction of who God is focuses on His creative activities and that He is the source of everything, the giver of life. In the NT, “Father” is a relational term that emphasizes the intimacy of the relationship we have with God in Christ.

The OT hints at God’s triune nature. The NT presents the Son and the Holy Spirit as persons in their own right, yet linked in undivided unity with the Father.

The God who began to communicate Himself to us in the OT acts and descriptive words now shares Himself fully with us in Jesus in the NT. Jesus said: “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father.”

## **V. Conclusion:**

These are just a few of the many names and descriptions of God that begin to tell us who God is and what he does. His revelation to each of us is progressive throughout our lives.

As you continue your walk with God, remember that He is the Creator, the Sovereign ruler of the universe, always sufficient for every need and that He sees us in our every circumstance. He is our Lord and master. He has no beginning or end. He will never cease to exist.

He helps us in our times of difficulty and He truly is our Father, our good shepherd, our provider, feeding, protecting, guiding and healing us.

# BIBLE STUDY #4

## Who Is Jesus?

Begin memorizing Philippians 2:10-11

*“that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

Matthew 16:13-16 – *When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

It is very important to know who we believe in. If Jesus is ONLY a man or a teacher or a prophet or a philosopher, then our faith is in vain, but He is much more! In this lesson you should learn:

- A. What others said about Jesus.
- B. What Jesus said about Himself.
- C. The Bible teaches that Jesus is God.

RABBI means teacher or master.

MESSIAH or CHRIST means the Anointed One, the One promised of God as the Great Deliverer.

1. What are these people saying Jesus was?

John (John 1:29, 34) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Andrew (John 1:40-41) \_\_\_\_\_

Nathaniel (John 1:49) \_\_\_\_\_

Samaritans (John 4:42) \_\_\_\_\_

Peter (John 6:68-69) \_\_\_\_\_

Thomas (John 20:28) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who did the Father say Jesus was?

Matthew 3:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 17:5 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What terms did Jesus use to describe Himself?

John 4:25-26 \_\_\_\_\_

John 6:33-35 \_\_\_\_\_

John 9:5 \_\_\_\_\_

John 10:7 \_\_\_\_\_

John 10:11 \_\_\_\_\_

John 10:36 \_\_\_\_\_

John 11:25 \_\_\_\_\_

John 13:13 \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:6 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Read John 10:22-33. The Jews asked Jesus for a plain answer. How did He answer them in verse 30?

\_\_\_\_\_

The Jews knew exactly what He meant by that answer. What did the Jews claim that Jesus was saying about Himself in verse 33?

\_\_\_\_\_

In Exodus 3:13-14 Moses asked God what he should tell the Israelites His name was. God said His name was "I AM." Jesus also refers to Himself by saying "I AM!" In some translations the word "he" is added in italics after I AM for clarification. The word "he" does not appear in the Greek text.

5. What happened when Jesus answered "I AM" to the Roman soldiers? John 18:4-6

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How did Jesus respond to the Jews question of how Abraham had seen Him? John 8:58

\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus also claimed to be "I AM" in John 8:24, 28.

7. What characteristics of the Father can be seen in the Son? see Hebrews 1:3

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What does Jesus say about anyone who has seen Him? see John 14:8,9

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The Greek word LOGOS translated WORD in the book of John means “divine expression.”

When John refers to Jesus as the LOGOS or WORD, he means Jesus is the exact image of the invisible God (see also Heb 1:3). The Father chose to reveal Himself to us through the Son.

9. Read John 1:1-5, 14, 18 and answer these questions:

How long has the WORD been around?

Verse 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Who does the Bible say the WORD is?

Verse 1 \_\_\_\_\_

What things were made by the WORD?

Verse 3 \_\_\_\_\_

What can be found in the WORD?

Verses 4-5 \_\_\_\_\_

Did the WORD stay in Heaven only?

Verse 14 \_\_\_\_\_

Who has the Son revealed to us?

Verse 18 \_\_\_\_\_

Read Colossians 1:15-20 and compare it to the scriptures in the last question.

10. Who do you say Jesus is? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

From memory, write out your memory verse below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# BIBLE STUDY #5

## The Person and Filling Of The Holy Spirit

### Part I: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

#### I. Who is the Holy Spirit?

Look up the following scriptures and record what is shown about the Holy Spirit:

1. I Cor. 2:12 He is the Spirit who is \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Matt. 28:19 What does this verse indicate about the Holy Spirit?  
\_\_\_\_\_

We know from Scripture that God is eternally existent in three separate persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

3. John 16:5-15

Note the use of the personal pronouns He and Him. What does this tell you about the Holy Spirit?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Acts 1:8 Jesus used two words to identify the one that would come upon them. What are these words and what do they indicate?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Names of the Holy Spirit

Review the following scriptures and identify the names of the Holy Spirit:

- a. Rom. 1:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. John 14:17; 16:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Rom. 8:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Rom. 8:15 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Acts 2:38; 10:45; John 14:16-17a; Gal. 3:2

What special feature do these 4 scriptures reveal about the Holy Spirit?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What does this mean for you?  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. John 7:38-39 What are the "rivers of living water" spoken of in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

Who will have these “rivers of living water”? \_\_\_\_\_

John 1:33 What is the source of the “rivers of living water”? (where will they come from?) \_\_\_\_\_

8. The Bible uses 3 words to describe the position of the Holy Spirit relative to persons. Review the following 2 scriptures and see if you can identify the 3 words that describe His position.

John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8

\_\_\_\_\_

## II. What does the Holy Spirit do?

We know that the Holy Spirit is active in the affairs of God upon the earth. Look up the following scriptures and identify what the Holy Spirit does.

1. John 16:7-11 a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

2. John 14:26 \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:13 \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 1:8 a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

Rom. 5:5 & 15:30 \_\_\_\_\_

Rom. 8:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Rom. 8:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Rom. 8:26 \_\_\_\_\_ (Intercession)

I Cor. 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_

II Cor. 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Eph. 1:13-14 \_\_\_\_\_

3. I Cor. 12:4-11      What does the Holy Spirit give to men? \_\_\_\_\_  
 How many gifts are listed in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_  
 I Cor. 12:7      Who can have Spiritual gifts? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What is the purpose of the gifts given by the Holy Spirit?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. I Cor. 12:3      How are we able to say: "Jesus is Lord."?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Closing Comments for Part I

Please note that many of the works by the Holy Spirit shown in this study indicate that He is a communicator. He does reveal to us the plans and purposes of God for us.

We can hear from the Holy Spirit.

God has provided the Holy Spirit to us so that we can:

1. overcome sin,
2. be conformed to the image of Christ, and
3. transform you into a powerful witness for the Lord."

He is not given the Holy Spirit to us so that we might have an ecstatic spiritual experience, but that we may have the power of God to live for Jesus.

### Part II: The Filling of the Holy Spirit

Begin memorizing Acts 1:8

*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

*Acts 1:4-5 – And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

Jesus did not want His disciples to immediately begin telling others about Him. He told them to wait for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, because He knew the POWER they were to receive was essential for the task ahead of them. In this lesson you should learn:

- A. who the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for
- B. what the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is designed to accomplish, and
- C. how to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

BAPTISM means to be immersed or dipped into something.

So that you will not become confused, you need to know that there are several terms which refer to “The Baptism of the Holy Spirit,” and they all mean the same thing.

- Acts 2:4 – filled with the Holy Spirit
- Acts 2:33 – the promise of the Holy Spirit
- Acts 2:38 – the gift of the Holy Spirit
- Acts 11:15 – Holy Spirit fell (came) on them.
- Luke 24:49 – the promise of my Father

1. Who does the Bible say the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for?

Acts 2:38-39 \_\_\_\_\_

Has God called you to salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this promise for you? \_\_\_\_\_

In John 14:16-17, Jesus told His disciples that the Spirit had been WITH them and would soon be IN them. The Spirit came INSIDE them in John 20:22. After Jesus had been resurrected, He spoke to them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Before we are saved, the Holy Spirit is WITH us calling us to repentance, to Jesus. When we are born again, the Spirit comes INSIDE us to teach and guide us. All true believers have the Holy Spirit living INSIDE them. But Jesus went on to tell His disciples in Acts 1:8 that the Spirit would also be ON or UPON them.

2. What did Jesus tell His disciples would occur when the Holy Spirit came UPON them? Acts 1:8 (2 things)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Greek word for POWER is “dunamis,” from which we get our words “dynamite” and “dynamic.” It is also translated strength, ability, authority, and might.

Jesus knows our weaknesses and that we do not have the strength we need to continually follow Him or do things for Him, so He supplies us with the POWER (dunamis) we need. We do not have to do it on our own nor can we manufacture it by our own abilities!

3. The Father strengthens us through the power of His Spirit in our inner being for what purpose? Ephesians 3:16-17

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WITNESS – To be a witness, means to testify that something is true. The disciples went out testifying that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God and Savior of the world.

4. When Peter and John were released from jail, they gathered together and prayed. What did they pray for the Lord to enable them to do?

Acts 4:29 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. The Lord answered Peter and John’s prayer almost immediately. What did the Lord do to give them the boldness they asked for?

Acts 4:31 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. When Saul (later his name was changed to Paul) was filled with the Holy Spirit, what did he begin doing right away?

Acts 9:17, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Another aspect of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is that the Holy Spirit wants to give each of us “spiritual gifts” or supernatural abilities to EDIFY (build up faith or strengthen) ourselves and other believers. The Bible refers to believers as the “body of Christ.” Jesus is the head and each of us is given a gift or gifts that empower us to function as a part of that body.

7. Who decides which spiritual gifts each of us will have in the body of Christ? I Corinthians 12:11 \_\_\_\_\_

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8. What are some of the gifts that the Spirit gives to different parts of the body? I Corinthians 12:8-10

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9. What should we desire to do with our spiritual gifts? I Cor. 14:12

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10. When all the spiritual gifts are working properly in the body of Christ, what will the body do for itself? Eph. 4:16

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11. How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit? Luke 11:11-13 \_\_\_\_\_

If you want to know more about the Body of Christ, read Rom. 12:4-8 and I Cor. 12:1-31.

The Holy Spirit is like an electrical outlet in your house. The power is always there. Our responsibility is to plug into it. With the power of the Holy Spirit, your “plug” is faith. When you ASK, believe that God will answer your prayer and you will plug into His power.

In Eph. 5:18 the Bible commands us to “be filled with the Holy Spirit.” It is better translated “be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit.” It is talking about REFILLS. It is not just a one time filling, but we are continually in need of God’s power. We get refills in the same way we get the first filling, JUST ASK!

If you have not already been filled with the Holy spirit or if you need a refill, just pray a simple prayer like this: “Father, my power is not enough. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and give me the power I need. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

From memory, write out your memory verse below.

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# BIBLE STUDY #6

## The Church

Count them (if you will)... 67 different names for the church in the New Testament; Review the selected NT passages below and record the name given to the church in each passage. Consider what each name means and what characteristic or quality it describes about the church.

Matt. 16:18 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 10:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
Rom. 9:25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Rom. 12:4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Eph. 5:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Eph. 3:14-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. 5:10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. 19:7 \_\_\_\_\_

In this proliferation of names describing His bride, we see the evidence of Jesus' tremendous love for His people, His chosen ones, His called out ones, His holy ones.

Outline of this lesson:

- I. What is the church?
- II. Who is in the church?
- III. Purpose and vision of the church
- IV. Structure of the church
- V. What does the church do?
- VI. Summary

### I. What is the church?

The church is not a building or place, an institution, or "groups of Christians who have formed their own beliefs and forms of worship."

The English word church comes from Greek *kuriakos* meaning "belonging to God."

In the NT, the new community of Christians broke with the Greek meaning of *ekklesia* (a political assembly), and infused the word with a new, distinctively Christian meaning. The gospel proclamation called lost people out of the world to gather together in a unique fellowship. Joined-together believers formed a

new community, a community committed to Jesus and the radical lifestyle expressed in God's Word.

In the Christian community, *ekklesia* came to mean the "called out assembly", the community of believers. The church is therefore, those who are called out by God, those who belong to Him. In a broad sense, it refers to all Christians. In the local sense, it indicates a local congregation of Christians.

When we speak of the church today, we infer the New Testament church, the congregation of the New Covenant, those who have believed the gospel of Jesus Christ, those who have been washed by His blood and have experienced the new birth. These believers are called to live in relationship with one another in a community that is the visible expression of a supernatural body.

The church is not a specific denomination (e.g. Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, etc.), but people who have received life through Jesus Christ. As such, it is a living organism, both physical and spiritual.

- IMPORTANT:**
1. God started it. (Acts 2)
  2. God powered it. (Acts 2)
  3. God guided it. (Acts 10:19ff; 13:2-4)
  4. God grows it. (Acts 2:47b)

## II. Who is in the church?

1. Read 1 Cor. 1:2 and record your findings.

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2. Unique - exclusive

The church is unique in that it is exclusive, only Christians are a part of it; and yet, it is open to all.

How: Not by filling out a form or going through a class – but by receiving the new birth.

Receiving the new birth ushers you into the family of God and, therefore, into the church.

### III. Purpose & Vision of the Church

Read the following passages and record the purpose and vision.

Matt 28:19-20 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:42, 47 \_\_\_\_\_

Eph 4:11-16 \_\_\_\_\_

#### Picture of a healthy church

- Apostles (sent out), prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers exercising their unique gifts and ministries
- Working together (unity) to build up and strengthen the people in:

FAITH – KNOWLEDGE – DOCTRINE – TRUTH

- Results – personal spiritual growth, a joining together, people being saved and added to the church
- Building up one another, growing together in love
- Having an effect on the world around us...making known the manifold wisdom of God to principalities and powers in the heavenly places. (Eph 3:8-13)

### IV. Structure of the Church

1. Who is the head of the church?  
Eph. 5:23 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Are there to be leaders?  
I Pet. 5:1-4; Acts 20:27-28 \_\_\_\_\_

(There are to be leaders, appointed by God, submitted to God, who are to serve as shepherds of God's flock.)

Who selects leaders and the specific roles that people will fill in the church?

Eph 4:11 \_\_\_\_\_

What is the responsibility of those appointed to positions of leadership?

I Pet. 5:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

What is the responsibility of those they oversee?

Heb.13:17 \_\_\_\_\_

**V. What does the church do?**

**A. Practice – in the Service**

1. Assemble together (Heb. 10:23-25)
2. Worship God (see Ps 84:4; Ps 95:1-7, Ps 150, Eph 5:29, Col 3:16)
3. Teach the Word (Col 3:16; Acts 2:42)

What is the purpose of teaching the Word?

2 Tim 3:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 Tim 4:13-16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Minister to one another**

1 Cor 14:12 What is the purpose for ministering in spiritual gifts?

\_\_\_\_\_

Heb 10:23-25 What do these verses tell us we should do?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. List the activities of the early church as delineated in Acts 2:43-47.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Practice – anytime**

**1. Minister to one another**

1 Peter 4:10 What does this verse teach us to do?

\_\_\_\_\_

James 5:13-16

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Judge – assisting in disputes

Not judging as in *krino* “to condemn” (See James 4:11-12)  
But to *diakrino* – to discern, to examine and make a determination

(assisting discernment) *1 Cor 6:1-4*

See also Matt 18:15-17

The church is the place where believers can come to have a problem or difficulty resolved by Godly counsel.

It is the place where we can bring our differences or disputes to the church leadership. The godly leaders of the church will assist us by exercising discernment with the word of God and the Holy Spirit to help to help us work out biblical solutions. In this way, the resolutions will be a blessing and bring reconciliation to the body.

The Objective: reconciliation – reunite – healing of the body

Correction – see Heb. 12:5-6; Gal. 6:1; I Cor. 5:1-6

Why: If there is sin within the body that would defile the body (as in the example Paul gives us in I Cor. 5), that person must be removed so as not to defile the body of Christ.

C. Relationships – Unity

Read 1 Cor. 12:12

This significant passage regarding the body of Christ tells us:

1. That we are all connected, Paul calls it the “fellowship of the Spirit” (Phil. 2:1)
  - a. We are connected to one another by the Spirit of God – just as He pleased.
  - b. We cannot say that we are independent. (“Let nothing be done of selfish ambition...let each esteem others better than himself” Phil 2:3-4)
2. In the church, we are inter-connected in ways that we don’t fully understand.
3. Problems occur when one part decides to act independently, not considering the body of Christ.

4. Being connected has its advantages because the weaker parts can be strengthened by the stronger parts.

D. Relationships - love and encourage one another

All of this coming together and working together speaks of a special relationship born of the Spirit. As members of one body, we ought to love one another.

Read 1 John 4:7-11

1. We know God through love.
2. We love, not to earn merit from God, but because He loves us!

Read Gal 5:22 How is love defined in this passage?

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- a. We cannot make ourselves love. It is against our nature.
- b. But as we stay close to the Lord, we take on His nature.
- c. We can “see” – “everyone who loves is born of God and knows God”

Read 1 John 3:16 How is love described in this passage?

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What do the following verses instruct us to do?

Col 3:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Eph.4:31-32 \_\_\_\_\_

These verses speak directly to our interpersonal relationships.

- a. “bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking” These are all things that are not characteristics of God, but rather of Satan.
- b. “put them away” - because of our sin nature, these feelings may well enter into your heart.
- c. When they do – YOU HAVE A CHOICE – will I embrace them, or put them away?

And instead, by the power of God’s Spirit that lives in me, to “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

These are in the nature and character of God. As I grow, becoming more like Christ with more of His character and nature in me, then His nature and character are manifested in my life!

*Col 3:12-15 "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. (we are to forgive!) 1 4 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful."*

## **VI. Summary**

We have examined a large selection of instruction from the word of God regarding the "beloved of God", the bride of Christ:

- Names and metaphors for the church
- Purpose: preach the gospel, make disciples, equip the saints
- Submitted to Christ and the church leaders
- Assembling together – Worship/Word/Prayer
- Ministering to one another
- Praying for one another
- Judging (assisting discernment) one another
- Correction
- Unity – loving and nurturing – the bond of peace
- Love

In all of this we see the tremendous love of God for His people and His incredible design and plan for the ages. It is our great privilege and responsibility to be a part of what God is doing in the world, to be a part of His kingdom, to be His child.

Eph 4:11-16

*11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

## ABOUT PASTOR DAVID

I grew up in Illinois; my wife, Brenda, in Oregon. It was a path of many twists and turns to get the two of us connected in California! We entered into our marriage covenant in 1986 after she had agreed to my proposal for a life of adventure. Brenda claims that she scarcely comprehended the adventure that our life would be simply by saying those two little words (I do).



We had both been Christians for a number of years and determined to make God the center of our marriage. In order to make a good beginning, we structured our wedding vows around the instructions of Scripture. We are convinced that this is the reason for our successful, growing relationship.

I received my BS in Civil Engineering in 1966 from the University of Missouri. Having taken ROTC in college, I next served as an officer in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany.

After returning home to the states, I attended Golden Gate Seminary in California and received a Master of Divinity in 1972.

I worked for three Engineering companies before settling in with GE Nuclear Energy in San Jose, California. I finished my engineering career with 25 years of service at GE.

I was ordained a minister of the gospel in 1991.

Brenda is blessed with musical gifts and has played numerous instruments, e.g. bassoon, flute, guitar, piano, bass. She taught piano to children for 14 years until our move to Wilmington, NC. I also had some musical inclinations, growing up in a musical family in which everyone played at least one instrument. Brenda also has a heart for and is involved in a local "Special Touch" ministry, a ministry to people with disabilities.

Several years ago, we began attending Calvary Chapel San Jose, CA where Don McClure was pastoring. The emphasis on God's Word and the presence of God's Spirit in the worship kept us coming back until we felt confident that this was to be our church home.

Brenda became involved with the Praise team playing flute and singing. She also led the worship for two Women's Bible studies. I became involved in the teaching ministry working principally with the mature adults class (ages around 50-95, they called themselves the "Sonshiners") and also a young married couples class.

Even though we felt like we were settling into the San Jose Fellowship, in early 2004 we were presented with a company relocation, and we began to feel that God was leading us to a significant change, relocating from the West Coast to the East Coast. Little did we know what was in store for us in Wilmington, NC.

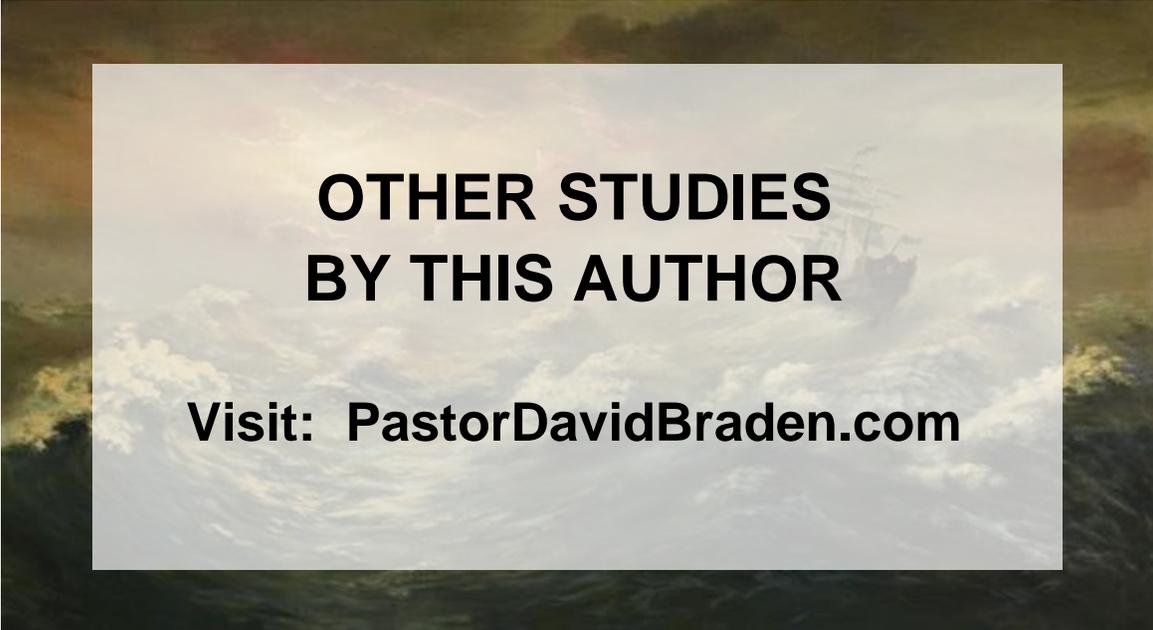
We often felt like Abraham who was told to leave his homeland but was given no information regarding what he would encounter when he arrived at his destination.

The next very shocking surprise was my early retirement, something we had not even considered when planning the move to the east coast. Nevertheless, God made it very clear that my engineering career of 37 years was soon to be ended. The retirement occurred almost 5 years in advance of my plan. But God had a bigger (and better) plan. One of my reoccurring supplications to God has been that I would rather be expending the main energy of my life teaching the Word of God than pouring it into the management of engineering projects and writing technical engineering reports. Now, God was giving me the desire of my heart.

I eventually came on staff with a local church and served for 7½ years as an associate pastor teaching Bible studies and ministering principally in the Equipping the Saints ministry. Brenda was involved in several ministries... Praise Team, Special Touch, hospitality/helps, Home Fellowships, to mention a few.

After a 1-year sabbatical in 2014, God has led us to begin a new fellowship which is called Safe Haven Berean Fellowship. Our focus is principally on the Word of God, with both Bible book studies and doctrinal teachings in progress at this time. Principal focuses are on the assurance of salvation, knowing what God in Christ has done for us, learning to live in a way that honors and glorifies God, and a continual focus upon our End Times preparations for our coming King.

Looking back now over the years that led us to this place in life, we are amazed at the Sovereignty of God and how he has orchestrated the events that have brought us to this place in this time. His loving and merciful hand has been seen time and again as he has opened doors and brought us quickly to where He wants us to be. He is, without question, an awesome God.

A painting of a ship on a stormy sea with a bright light breaking through the clouds. The scene is dramatic, with dark, turbulent waves and a sky filled with heavy, grey clouds. A bright, golden light source, possibly the sun or moon, is breaking through the clouds in the upper center, creating a strong glow and illuminating the scene. A large, multi-masted sailing ship is visible in the distance, struggling against the waves. The overall mood is one of struggle and hope.

**OTHER STUDIES  
BY THIS AUTHOR**

**Visit: [PastorDavidBraden.com](http://PastorDavidBraden.com)**