

— OUTLINE —

- I. When God's Word first comes to you, Satan immediately tries to steal it (Matt. 13:19).
 - A. However, he can only do so if you don't have understanding.
 - B. That's why you need to comprehend what takes place the moment you accept the Lord.
 - C. Understanding prevents the devil from talking you out of your salvation benefits.

- II. God's Word promises **"that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation"** (Rom. 10:9-10).
 - A. **"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"** (Rom. 10:13).
 - B. Have you done this?
 - C. If your answer is yes, then you've been saved!
 - D. You were saved the very moment you sincerely committed your life to Jesus Christ.
 - E. The truth of His Word instantly came to pass as you believed in your heart and confessed with your mouth.

- III. You're in good hands now!
 - A. John 10:28-29 says,

I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.
 - B. Since you've committed your life to Him, He'll keep you.

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

2 TIMOTHY 1:12
 - C. God will be faithful even when you aren't!

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

2 TIMOTHY 2:11-13

- D. When you make mistakes or feel discouraged, just remember—God can't deny Himself, because He always keeps His Word!
- IV. Knowledge from God's Word helps you comprehend what took place in your life at salvation.
 - A. Knowing and following Him will bring you unspeakable joy.
 - B. Salvation isn't just going to heaven when you die; God wants you to start experiencing your salvation benefits immediately.
 - C. This requires knowledge from His Word.
 - D. As you understand and act on that knowledge, you'll experience the benefits of your salvation.
- V. God has given you everything you need for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him.

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 PETER 1:2-4

- A. The knowledge of God gives you access to His promises.
- B. By believing and acting on them, you'll partake of His divine nature.
- C. This means you'll experience all of God's love, joy, peace, health, deliverance, prosperity, etc., that's already in your spirit now by Christ Jesus!
- D. As your thinking changes to line up with your born-again spirit, your life will change too.
- E. Just because you were born again doesn't mean that all of your negative attitudes and thought patterns have changed yet.
- F. As the Word changes the way you believe, speak, and expect things to be, you'll start experiencing your salvation benefits!
- VI. Your whole outlook will change as you grow in the knowledge of God and His promises.
 - A. This is called "renewing your mind."

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

ROMANS 12:1-2

- B. The way you think must match your born-again spirit.
 - C. Your born-again spirit is always in agreement with God.
 - D. The Word will renew your mind to what's already happened in your spirit.
 - E. By submitting yourself to His Word, your life will change like a caterpillar transforming into a beautiful butterfly.
 - F. Be transformed by the knowledge of God, and your life will increasingly reflect Christ Jesus.
- VII. Some people don't understand the spiritual nature of the radical change that occurred when they committed their lives to Christ.
- A. They don't feel any different, and their circumstances certainly haven't changed.
 - B. Discouraged by this lack of immediate outward transformation, they incorrectly conclude that nothing really happened at salvation.
 - C. Because of this, many never go on to renew their minds and enjoy the benefits of salvation.
 - D. Your body and soul (mind, will, and emotions) didn't change at salvation the way your spirit did.
 - E. Your mind isn't instantly changed; it's your spirit that's been made new!
 - F. Since you can't see or touch your spirit, God's Word is the only way you can know what has happened within: **"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life"** (John 6:63).
 - G. Faith is simply trusting what the Word says happened in your spirit more than what you see in the natural.
- VIII. Feelings change, but the truth doesn't!
- A. If you genuinely committed your life to the Lord, the truth is He will always honor that commitment.
 - B. Your relationship with God is secure.
 - C. Whether you felt anything or not, radical change took place in your spirit, and you're now a brand-new person—trust that God's Word to you is true!
 - D. You'll experience your salvation more as you renew your mind.
 - E. When you think according to the flesh (i.e., what your five senses tell you) and give in to negative external influences, you won't be able to enjoy God's benefits.

- F. However, as you trust the truth of God's Word by keeping your mind on the Lord and thinking in line with your born-again spirit, you'll experience God's love, peace, joy, etc. (Gal. 5:22-23).
- G. The choice is yours—begin renewing your mind today!

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. According to Matthew 13:19, what does Satan immediately try to do when God's Word first comes to you?

2. Understanding the Word prevents what?

3. God's Word promises in Romans 10:9 **"that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead,"** you will be what?

4. **"For _____ shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"**
(Rom. 10:13).

5. True or false: You weren't saved until at least an hour after you sincerely committed your life to Jesus Christ.

6. Since you've committed your life to Him, what will God do for you?

7. God will be _____ even when you aren't!

8. How do you start experiencing the salvation benefits God has provided for you?

9. According to 2 Peter 1:2-4, what has God given you through the knowledge of Him?

10. As your thinking changes to line up with your born-again spirit, what will happen to your life?

11. True or false: As the Word changes the way you believe, speak, and expect things to be, you'll start experiencing salvation benefits.

12. Your whole outlook will change as you grow in the knowledge of God and His promises—Romans 12:2 tells you this is called _____.

13. What must match your born-again spirit?

- A. Your furniture
- B. Your way of life
- C. Your thinking
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

14. Your life will increasingly reflect Jesus when you are what?

15. When people are discouraged by the lack of immediate outward transformation and conclude that nothing really happened at salvation, what do many never do?

16. Did your body and soul (mind, will, and emotions) change at salvation the same way your spirit did?

17. Since you can't see or touch your spirit, what is the only way you can know what has happened within?

18. _____ is simply trusting what the Word says happened in your spirit more than what you see in the _____.

19. If you genuinely committed your life to the Lord, will He always honor that commitment?

20. True or false: Your relationship with God is unstable.

21. When you think according to the flesh (i.e., according to what your five senses tell you) and give in to negative external influences, what will you not be able to enjoy?

22. How will you experience God's love, peace, joy, and all the other things listed in Galatians 5:22-23?

23. Is the choice yours to make?

— SCRIPTURES —

MATTHEW 13:19

When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

ROMANS 10:9-10

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. [10] For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

ROMANS 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

JOHN 10:28-29

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. [29] My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

2 TIMOTHY 1:12

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

2 TIMOTHY 2:11-13

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: [12] If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: [13] If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

2 PETER 1:2-4

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, [3] According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: [4] Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

ROMANS 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

JOHN 6:63

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

MATTHEW 10:32

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

HEBREWS 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.