

THE PASSPORT TO HEAVEN



Part **2** of 2

Svein-Magne Pedersen

The Passport to Heaven – Part 2

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Step 1 of 5 in Part 2 of 2

The entire course has been developed by evangelist Svein-Magne Pedersen.

**This is the
course literature for
Chapters 20 to 22**

*“He has also set eternity
in the hearts of men.”*
ECCLESIASTES 3:11



CHAPTER 20

SANCTIFICATION

The New Testament meaning of “sanctification” is to rid oneself of sin and become more like Jesus Christ. In the original language “sanctification” means “holiness”, or that we are separated from that which is unholy and unclean into a state of holy function. To sanctify simply means to be set apart for the use intended by its designer.

Human beings ultimately cannot sanctify themselves, God sanctifies us by His Spirit and He gives us the power to triumph over sin. We become more and more like Jesus by living close to Him.

Sanctification eliminates and triumphs over sin by the power of the Holy Spirit.

There are two sides to sanctification.

First of all it is a “finished product” we received when we get saved. We are justified and sanctified once and for all. Through justification God sees us without sin; we are saints made holy in God. How can He do that? You see, we

have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ. We are new creations through the sanctification of Jesus.

“...to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people...”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:2

“...so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” Acts 26:18

Secondly, sanctification is an ongoing process because “our flesh” or “the old Adam” still has a tendency to influence us. That is why sanctification is a daily duty for every believer:

"...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.."

PHILIPPIANS 2:12

Sanctification is very important, a necessity. We must not be lazy, but take care of the new life given to us. A passive attitude that let things slide out will eventually influence our life in God:

"Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."

HEBREWS 12:14

Sanctification is an ongoing process throughout our lives, until our Lord Jesus Christ returns. God wants to form us into the likeness of Him, so that we mature as Christians and start living the way Jesus did (COLOSSIANS 3:10; EPHESIANS 4:13; I JOHN 2:6).

We cannot make it in our own strength, the Holy Spirit strengthens us to triumph over sin and stay close to Jesus:

"For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live."

ROMANS 8:3

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

Every day we must lay our lives down as a sacrifice to the Lord:

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

ROMANS 12:1

"Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³ Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness."

ROMANS 6:12-13

Read more about the importance of sanctification here: JOHN 15:1 and 8:16, ROMANS 6:22, 2 CORINTHIANS 7:1, I THESSALONIANS 5:23, HEBREWS 12:1-4.

CHAPTER 21

NO JUDGEMENT

Even if we sometimes feel that God has not forgiven us we should believe it anyways because the word of God says so. Since Jesus took upon himself the punishment and judgment for our sins, God cannot judge the believer.

No judicial system judges a person two times for the same criminal offence they have committed. Jesus' suffering and death was the ultimate payment for every sin committed.

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

ROMANS 8:1

"And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

HEBREWS 10:10

"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."

1 JOHN 2:2

If you were to sin, don't feel condemned and left alone by God, instead get right with God by repenting of your sin. Rid yourself of all condemnation and rejoice in the Lord! In heaven, seated at the Father's side, is Jesus, your advocate and high priest pleading your cause. The devil accuses you before God, but Jesus is pray-

ing for you and with His blood He guarantees for you.

"But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One."

1 JOHN 2:1

Through Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension, He opened the door to the throne of grace for all mankind. Here He represents all those who seek Him for help. He is full of compassion and forgives our mistakes when we confess our weaknesses and wrongdoings:

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

HEBREWS 4:14-16

CHAPTER 22

COMMUNICATION WITH GOD

As a parent you know how talking with your children comes naturally. God is our father and a friend that you can talk to. Jesus taught us to pray “Our Father in heaven”, exemplifying communication with God (MATTHEW 6:9–13).

Jesus prayed to His Father as often as He could. Make it a habit thanking God for salvation, daily protection, provision, guidance, forgiveness and His gifts. Be thankful for answered prayers. A thankful heart is a joyful heart! Children who show gratitude toward their parents often tend to get more.

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

COLOSSIANS 4:2

God does not bless selfishness. Great demands often leads to having less. We should learn to pray having the right motives and a right attitude:

“When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

JAMES 4:3

Prayer is a key for God to release His divine power. God wants to shower us with His riches. He gives to those who seek Him, yet we will not ultimately get what we always want, but He gives what we need, when we need it.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

MATTHEW 7:7

The words “seek” and “knock” in Greek indicates that we sometimes have to pray several times before God answer that prayer. Sometimes our faith is tested because God wants us to develop perseverance in us. My



motto is: “The more we pray, the more we receive.”

“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”

LUKE 18:1

Paul said, “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”

EPHESIANS 6:18

Paul wants us to pray at all times: “Pray continually.”

1 TIMOTHY 6:17

Sometimes we, or our circumstances, need maturing. Even Jesus was sent to earth when “the fullness of the time was come” (GALATIANS 4:4 KJV). How can one pray “continually ?” I have figured out that I can have a prayer channel open all the time in my heart towards God. My spirit and the Spirit of God “groan” without words towards God (ROMANS 8:23,26–27). To God these groans are prayers, and He understands what they mean.

We should not only pray for ourselves, but also pray for our families, our church, friends, people in need, the leaders of our country, and



Prayer is more than just words

A couple years back a lady came to visit me seeking prayer. She couldn't believe that she was saved and that her sins were forgiven. She was depressed and looked downhearted. I gave her some scriptures of Gods promises about salvation, and encouraged her to seek God in prayer. She folded her hands she started praying out loud that God would help her believe the promises of salvation and forgiveness. Everything sounded very good, but God spoke to me, saying, "This lady has prayed like this hundreds of times, but hasn't experienced something because she doesn't believe in it. They are only religious words." When she said "amen" I told her, "It was nice that you prayed, but I think you prayed with a wrong attitude, not believing for an answer. Like Peter jumped out of the boat and walked towards Jesus on water, you too can take steps of faith on His word. Change the word "help" with "thank you." So, she did, "Dear God, I thank you for saving me! Thank you for forgiving my sins and living in my heart. Thank you for making me a child in your kingdom..." I looked at her when she prayed, and suddenly a smile appeared on her face. She took a step of faith and got a hold of the assurance of salvation. God answered her prayer and she left the prayer room with a light heart.

we should even pray for our enemies (ACTS 12:5; I TIMOTHY 2:1-2; MATTHEW 5:44). This is a good spiritual exercise that makes us more sensitive to the need around us instead of becoming self-centred and egoistic. Jesus prayed for those who crucified Him (LUKE 23:34). The deacon Stephen prayed for those who stoned him to death (ACTS 7:59-60). Within the lynch mob we find Paul who shortly after got saved, and no one was more zealous for God than him!

Through prayer we as believer receive the strength to live the Christian life:

"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

LUKE 11:13

The prayers God answers are done in faith and trust that He hears us when we pray in the name of Jesus. It must be after His will and through His authority:

"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

JOHN 16:24

God promised to answer a "prayer of faith":

"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

MATTHEW 21:22

Pray like Jesus did

It is important to learn how to pray. One of Jesus' disciples came to Him asking "Lord, teach us to pray" (LUKE 11:1). Jesus answered by teaching them "The Lords prayer," which is the most well known prayer of all time. "The Lords prayer" is centered on God through the three first prayers and the last four are centered on mankind. Prayer is something that can be learned and it is also important to set aside time to pray. Take some time, for example five minutes every morning, starting your day in prayer thanking Him and asking for His help. Jesus confirms that short prayers are something God hears as well (MATTHEW 6:7). The five minutes can then grow into ten minutes, fifteen minutes and so on. During the prayer in Getsemane three of Jesus' disciples

couldn't stay awake while praying with Him. They all fell asleep, but Jesus had a friendly take on their behalf (MATTHEW 26:36-41).

Fasting. Jesus also put emphasis to prayer and fasting as something important. Fasting means that you obtain from eating for a period of time, submitting yourself to prayer. Both Moses and Jesus fasted for forty days (EXODUS 43:28; LUKE 4:1-2). Such a long time is not advised for new beginners. Maybe start with a couple of meals, or a shorter period of time to start with, a day or two.

Jesus did not say, "If you fast" – He said, "When you fast" (MATTHEW 6:16). Obviously – He wants us to fast. He also said, "When you pray" – not, "If you pray" (MATTHEW 6:7).

A fast consisting of only eating fruits and vegetables for a period can also be a valuable asset. It gives the body a chance at cleansing it and eating healthy nutrients strengthens your body. It is important to drink a lot of water throughout the fasting.

When important decisions are to be taken, or the spiritual battle is tough, fasting is a strong weapon to release answer to prayers and fight against the powers of darkness (MATTHEW 9:15, MATTHEW 17:20, DANIEL 9-10).

Prayer had a prominent position in Jesus' life. Approximately 25 times prayer are mentioned in accordance to His works. Even if Jesus was tired sometimes He got up early to go to a place where He could pray alone (MARK 1:35), sometimes He even spent the whole night in prayer (LUKE 6:12). If He needed the Spirit and power, we need it even more!

The devil hates prayer. It distracts his evil plans, because that is what prayer does. It releases the power of God into the situation or the person we are praying over. The devil will want to distract you every time you plan to take some time in prayer. The phone might call, someone will come to visit you or other confusing occurrences might take place. It is important to know where the distraction comes from, and act accordingly.

One thing is for sure; we do not bring a case further if it is not done in prayer!



Part 2 of 2

The Questions

for **Step 1 of 5**



Study chapter 20 to 22 in this booklet, *The Passport to Heaven*.

Answer the question the best you can. Should you have any problems answering any question, you should still try to do your best. At the end of every letter there will be a chance to write down any questions you might have for the teacher.

This course has two separate parts, each containing 5 letters. You will receive a diploma after you have finished each part.

When you have answered the questions, please send the letter back to us, so that we can assess it. Your paper will be returned with the next letter.

Letter number 1, part 2, covers chapters 20–22. Please answer the questions below from these chapters.

CHAPTER 20

1. What is the theological term when you turn away from sin, to be more like Jesus?

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2. What is the meaning in the original language for this word?

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3. Name two aspects to this process and explain the meaning of each.

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4. The Bible names two designations of evil in our human nature. What are these?

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5. What will a nonchalant attitude towards sanctification lead to?

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6. Give three biblical references that talk about sanctification.

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7. Can we succeed in our own power in the sanctification process? Give two biblical references.

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CHAPTER 21

8. What Bible verse would you give to a believer who feels condemned because of sin he has done after he became a Christian?

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9. Why will he not be judged?

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10. If we were to sin, how can we know that our sins are forgiven when we confess them before the Lord? Who then takes care of our case?

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11. Name two titles that Jesus Christ has as our representative in heaven.

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2.

CHAPTER 22

12. How can we know that God wants to communicate with us through prayer?

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13. Name at least six things we should be thankful to God for.

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14. How often do you think we should pray? Give a biblical reference for your opinion.

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15. Is it possible to pray prayers that God will not hear? Explain your views.

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16. How can we say that prayer is a key? What happens when we use this key?

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17. Quote a word from Jesus that says we should not give up seeking God in prayer for a cause.

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18. What does it mean to “pray in the name of Jesus”?

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19. What “spiritual attitude” is necessary, for God to answer our prayers?

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20. Why do you think it is that the devil doesn't like us praying?

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21. Why do you think it is important to fast?

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22. What is your opinion on my statement: ”we do not bring a case further if it is not done in prayer.”

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Do you have a question for the teacher, please write it down here:

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Step 2 of 5 in Part 2 of 2

The entire course has been developed by evangelist Svein-Magne Pedersen.

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CHAPTER 23

WHEN GOD SPEAKS

Prayer should not just be a one-way conversation. God wants to speak to us through prayer. Learning to be quiet during prayer is essential for hearing His voice. The still, small voice inside you might as well be God speaking to you.

“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”

ROMANS 8:16

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

JOHN 10:27

Practicing the skill of distinguishing between your own thoughts, the voice of God or when the devil speaks is necessary. The devil wants to discourage you, criticise you and steal your faith and joy.

When the devil speaks to us he will likely point directly at our sin and make us believe there is no forgiveness found in God.

Then he will draw the line and say: “There is no hope for you, look at what you have got yourself into. You can forget about God forgiving your misdeeds. God is tired of you.”

But hear what the apostle Paul had to say about that:

“But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.”

ROMANS 5:20

The devil causes confusion and accuses you

The word “devil” comes from the Greek word “diábolos,” “slanderer,” “acuser.” The original word stress the meaning of disunity and separation, mostly used for someone who slan-

der, stain and curse others. In the book of Revelation (12:10) the devil is called “*the accuser of our brothers and sisters*.” We have to stay away from the spirit of slander!

The devil is also called Satan, (from Hebrew “satan”) which means “adversary.” The word “devil” is used to present him as an accuser, a slanderer and the word “Satan” to present him as an opponent to God, trying to prevent God’s salvation plan and hinder His work among people.

The devil is an expert at making us feel guilty and twist our mind and our conscious with deception and lies. Jesus calls him “*a liar and father of lies*” (JOHN 8:44). He can make sin of things that aren’t sin, and make human rules into commandments of God (MARK 7:1-13). But he can also point at sin in our life, sins that have been forgiven, in order to frustrate and take away the peace in the heart of the believers. He can mess up our minds and make us depressed.

The devil will do anything he can to take our focus away from Jesus, who is our anchor for peace and salvation.

*“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

ROMANS 5:1

The phrase “*peace with God*” speaks of our position in Christ, which is stable and unchangeable. The phrase “*peace of God*” speaks of our state right now. It can vary from time to time in our relationship with God, yet it doesn’t change our position with Christ. The “*peace of God*” is referred to like this:

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And **the peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

See also Colossians 3:15; John 14:27.

“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

We should also be aware that other times the devil will try to explain away sin so that we wouldn’t make our case straight and live right before God. He wants us to think lightly about sin, but it is a trap we are “lulled” into, that might end up with falling away from God (2 TIMOTHY 2:26).

“See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.”

HEBREWS 3:12

The spirit of God speaks with conviction

When the Spirit of God points at sin our lives, He convicts us of our sin without diminishing or enlarging it. He will not leave it at that, like the devil does. The spirit of God takes us further – after pointing at the sin He also points the way out of the problem through the cross of Jesus. Jesus died in our place so that we can be justified and righteous. The Holy Spirit gives us hope! If we do not believe that Jesus died for us the Holy Spirit will convince us that God will judge us for our sins. His judgement will always be just:

“When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment.”

JOHN 16:8

When it comes to the will of God – there is not a thing that prayer can’t do:

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

JAMES 5:16

“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

JOHN 14:13

Jesus here explains that He does not want to answer prayer only for our sake; He wants God honoured and praised for it. Maybe that is the main reason why He answers our prayer, that the Father may be glorified!

Prayer is like breath, a necessity for life. Without this spiritual activity our spiritual life will die. Prayer opens closed doors, releases the power of God and put angels to work. Jesus promised, *"For everyone who asks receives."* (MATTHEW 7:8). God will stay faithful to His word and His promises if we don't give in but keep praying until we receive the answer.

"We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised."

HEBREWS 6:12

Obstacles for answered prayers

It is important to live right with God and people so that our prayers are not hindered by sin:

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

JOHN 15:7

"...and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him."

1 JOHN 3:22

We often need to confess our sins, because doubt, disbelief and sins can hinder God's blessings (PSALM 66:18; ISAIAH 59:1-2; MARK II:25; HEBREWS 12:15; JAMES 1:6-7; 4:3; I PETER 3:7).

We also need to be aware of any false guilt. When we have repented our sins and confessed them before God, they are forgiven! We can now boldly come before the father:

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ..."

HEBREWS 10:19

CHAPTER 24

NUTRITION FROM THE WORD OF GOD

We should all develop a “spiritually nutritious” lifestyle! God gave us His word in the Bible for us to live by. They are not just “any other words”, or like something you read in the newspaper or a book. The Holy Spirit inspired the ones who wrote the Bible; it is the true, living and inspired word of God to us.

The words have power to convict, renew, change and heal us. God inspired those who wrote it down to every little detail:

“For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

2 PETER 1:21

“... Scripture cannot be broken.”

JOHN 10:35

The word of God convinces us about what is true and right:

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

HEBREWS 4:12

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ” so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

The word of God has the power and authority to cleanse us from sin:

“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.”

JOHN 15:3

The word of God has the power to heal and put length to one’s life:

“For they are life to those who find them and health to one’s whole body.”

PROVERBS 4:22

“He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.”

PSALM 107:20

On more than one occasion Jesus spoke life-giving words to the sick. The healing took place through the spoken word.

Strong faith

Some Bible critics once asked a woman if she believed everything in the Bible. Boldly she held up the Bible while looking into their eyes saying, “ I believe everything written between these two covers. I even believe in the covers!” She definitely didn’t have any problems believing all of God’s word.

The pastors “new” Bible

A liberal Pastor told his congregation that there were lots of mistakes found in the Bible. There were legends, stories and all kinds of faults according to him. One of his church members decided to rip out all the things the Pastor didn’t find trustworthy from the Bible. Then one Sunday he came to church with a thin book in his hand. Upon asked what kind of book this was, he replied, “This is the Bible, or what is left of it after I took out all the things you don’t believe in.”



This Pastor was by all means on a collision course with Paul, who believed that God inspired the whole Bible. Jesus believed that every word, even the smallest letters in the Bible, was inspired by God (MATTHEW 5:18). Even the prophetic word of God that has come to pass can serve as proof that God is behind every word. When Jesus came into the world, over 100 prophecies from the Old Testament were fulfilled. Many were fulfilled during his life and death, and over 300 prophecies are waiting to be fulfilled in the nearest future.

A theology professor's disbelief

A theology professor, who didn't believe in the wonders of the Bible, did everything he could to try to explain it away by giving a more reasonable approach to them. One day he lectured on when Jesus walked on water. The professor stated that he thought Jesus had to be coming towards them in a smaller boat that the disciples didn't see because they were in a much bigger boat. The waves kept them from seeing the little boat; it only looked like Jesus was walking on water. But, If Jesus was standing in a boat, how can we explain what happened to Peter? He walked on the water to meet Jesus!

The lump that disappeared

A woman one day called my office asking for prayer. She had found a large lump on her neck and was afraid that it was cancer. She got a hold of one of my books of healing, and a few days later she sat at home in her living room reading from it. She read some of the powerful testimonies from people who had been healed through prayer. She also read the promises for healing from the word of God. It filled her and lifted her spirit. After a couple of minutes she started to feel a warm sensation in her neck where the lump was. She could feel that the lump was getting smaller and within an hour the lump was totally gone! It never came back. The word of God released a healing power on the lump.

The word of God corrects us

Though the entire Bible is the word of God, it is a good idea to start reading in the New Testament to get to know Jesus first. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John describe the life and teachings of Jesus. You can for example start reading one chapter in the gospel of John every day. Even if you don't understand everything right away it will speak

to your inner being. Don't be frustrated if your thoughts wander, just concentrate on reading the word. It is the word of God to you! A good idea is to underline things or verses that stand out in particular to you. Without spiritual nutrition there will be no spiritual growth in your Christian life.

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation."

1 PETER 2:2

Every day we are bombarded by words and impressions from media, the news, magazines and TV. This influence can cloud our minds and as a result we may part from the truth of the word of God. Through prayer and reading the Bible we are renewed and corrected to what is true and just. Like your car needs to adjust the start plugs once in a while, we need our lives adjusted to the guide line, which is the word of God.

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

PSALM 119:11

"He replied, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.'"

LUKE 11:28

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly."

COLOSSIANS 3:16

Like the farmer who sows the seeds in good soil and harvest with abundance; so should we as Christians sow the word of the living God in our hearts and then we will gradually see the harvest in our spiritual life unfold (MARK 4:26-29).

We need nutrition from the word of God just as often as we eat. Jesus said:

"It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

MATTHEW 4:4

Part 2 of 2

The Questions

for **Step 2 of 5**



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Answer the question the best you can. Should you have any problems answering any question, you should still try to do your best. At the end of every letter there will be a chance to write down any questions you might have for the teacher.

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When you have answered the questions, please send the letter back to us, so that we can assess it. Your paper will be returned with the next letter.

Letter number 2 covers chapters 23 and 24. Please answer the questions below from these chapters.

CHAPTER 23

1. One important thing to remember when we pray.

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2. What does The Holy Spirit love to tell us? (Romans 8:16)

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3. Is it possible to hear when God speaks to us? Give a Bible reference.

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4. You have three inner voices. Write the names of these.

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5. What is the difference when God speaks as opposed to when the devil speaks?

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6. What does the word "Devil" mean in the original language, and what does the word "Satan" mean?

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7. What is the devil called in the book of Revelation (Revelation 12:10), and what does that say about his intentions?

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8. What is one of Satan's favourite tricks?

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9. What is the difference between the terms "*peace with God*" and "*peace of God*"?

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10. Is it possible to fall away from life in God? Give a biblical reference.

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11. All of us can fall into sin. What is the difference between when God speaks to us and when the devil does?

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12. One important reason why God answers our prayers. What does Jesus have to say about that (John 14:13)?

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13. Name a Bible verse that says prayers are not always answered immediately.

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14. What do you think might hinder God from answering your prayers? Explain using examples from the word of God.

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CHAPTER 24

15. Give four examples of what the word of God has the power to do.

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16. Give four Bible references that confirm the word of God to be true.

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17. Give two biblical references that states there is healing in the word of God.

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18. What are your reactions to the story of “the pastors new Bible”?

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19. What are your thoughts on the story of the “unbelieving professor”?

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20. How will you explain what happened to the women who got healed in her neck?

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21. Why is it important to read in the Bible?

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22. How often should we read and study the Bible? Give reasons for your opinion with a Bible reference

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Do you have a question for the teacher, please write it down here:

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Step 3 of 5 in Part 2 of 2

The entire course has been developed by evangelist Svein-Magne Pedersen.

This is the course literature for Chapters 25 and 26

“He has also set eternity in the hearts of men.”
ECCLESIASTES 3:11



CHAPTER 25

EXPECT SPIRITUAL WARFARE

As I have mentioned before you now have a new enemy, his name is Satan or the devil. He is angry because he has lost the battle over you. He wants to use all kinds of tricks to get you back as a member of the kingdom of darkness. He will use lies, temptations, discouragements, sin and heresy through diverse sects and other forms of oppositions.

He might even come as an “angel of light”, which sometimes may be difficult to uncover right away (2 CORINTHIANS II:4). Jesus calls him “The father of lies” (JOHN 8:44) because he is a master at deceiving truth with lies. The devil has a strategy for everything that he does, which is to elude God’s plan and hinder the light of gospel from shining upon man:

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

2 CORINTHIANS 4:4

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

JOHN 10:10

Jesus came to set people free from the bondage of sin and destroy the works of the devil.

“The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”

1 JOHN 3:8

But remember this; the devil has already lost the battle over us. Jesus paid in full for our sins

by His death on the cross. At the cross Jesus disarmed the devil. Your sins are forgiven and the devil knows he has no claims over you anymore.

“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

COLOSSIANS 2:13-15

At the cross the devil was dethroned:

“Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

JOHN 12:31-32

The devil, who thought he would triumph over Jesus on the cross, surprisingly ended up being crushed. The kingdom of darkness had its deathblow! This was God ultimate plan for salvation; to triumph over the devil and destroy his grip on mankind. He could now forgive and restore unto him the relationship that had been broken in the Garden of Eden. At the cross the devil got a deathblow, but his kingdom has not yet been totally destroyed (I CORINTHIANS 15:22-28).

Our task is not to win the war over Satan because Jesus already accomplished that on the cross. Our task is rather to proclaim victory over Satan in Jesus name and win back what was lost.

The devil knows the battle is lost, but he wants to destroy as much as he can before he is thrown into hell (MATTHEW 8:29; REVELATION 12:12; 20:10).

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break

the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”

HEBREWS 2:14-15



The victory in Normandy

Lets look at an example from history to illustrate my point. On June 6th 1944, also referred to as “the D-day”, the Allied forces stood ready to invade the coast of Normandy. Little did Hitler know that they had crossed the British Channel. His weakened air resistance had kept him ignorant for what was about to come. Winston Churchill, the English Prime Minister, exclaimed victoriously “war is over”! Yet, still they had to fight until the war was totally won for the war to end, which did not happen until May 8th 1945.

What if some of the Allied Soldiers had pout down their weapons and started to celebrate instead of continuing the raid against Hitler? Hitler’s army would have slaughtered them down, as they were not yet fully disarmed.

In comparison: Jesus victory on the cross gave the devil his deathblow and his power was broken. But, Satan is still the “*prince of this world*” (JOHN 12:31), ruler of the kingdom of darkness. The world is still in darkness, “*under the control of the evil one*” (I JOHN 5:19), and the demons are fighting against the kingdom of God. The battle is not over before God puts an end to the world, and creates a new heaven and earth (REVELATION 20-21). The children of God must not put down their weapons or the armour of God. No victory without a battle:

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

EPHESIANS 6:12

Jesus did not only hurt the devil at the cross, He destroyed his power!

So our task is not to win the final victory over sin and the devil since Jesus already did that, our fight consists of winning the battle on a personal level over sin and apostasy (HEBREWS 12:4-II; I PETER 5:8; REVELATION 2:17). Besides, God wants us to win people for His kingdom and free them from Satan’s captivity (DANIEL 12:3; MATTHEW 12:29; ACTS 26:18).

In a vision John saw a great multitude of saved people coming into heaven, which was a fruit of evangelism:

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.”

REVELATION 7:9

Those victories are our responsibility. We are His disciples called to destroy the works of the devil. The devil will lead people into hell, but we want to win the lost souls for heaven and eternity.

The day Jesus died on the cross is the devils “D-day.” Who in his right mind likes to talk about the defeat he suffered, and who would want to be reminded of the one who caused it? To Satan the name of Jesus is more than the five letters; he trembles at the mention of that name! The demons, the devil’s helpers, and evil spirits have to surrender to this name:

“Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

LUKE 10:17

When the devil torments you with past sins, or make you doubt your salvation you need only

to remind him of the worst day in his life. Point out to him that Jesus’ death on the cross is a guarantee for your salvation. In fact, you might have to point that out to him several times. Quote from the Bible – words that have to do with the cross, forgiveness and salvation.

When Jesus had fasted for forty days in a desert, Satan came to Him and tempted Him three times. Every time Satan tempted Him, Jesus answered by quoting scriptures. He said, “it is written” (LUKE 4:4.8.12). Jesus did not only think these words, He spoke the words boldly and with authority, and Satan had to leave. Satan does not know everything and does not always know what we think; so make sure he hears you! Speak out in the authority of the name of Jesus (MARK 16:17; LUKE 10:17; ACTS 3:6-9.16).

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

JAMES 4:7

The name of Jesus means “the Lord saves” or “the Lord heals” and it is not just a name but also a confession. When you confess the name of Jesus in faith, it is a proclamation that Jesus won victory over the devil and that He can free us from the consequences from the fall: sin, sickness and death. When we proclaim the name of Jesus and the blood of Jesus, all the devil hears is: “You have lost, you have lost, you have lost, what a shame!”

After tempting Jesus in the desert, he left Him until “an opportune time” (LUKE 4:13), meaning he left Him for a while. He came back later, and he will keep coming back at us. Tell him to leave in the name of Jesus, and quote the word of the cross. This is a recipe for victory during trials:

“They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.”

REVELATION 12:11

“The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

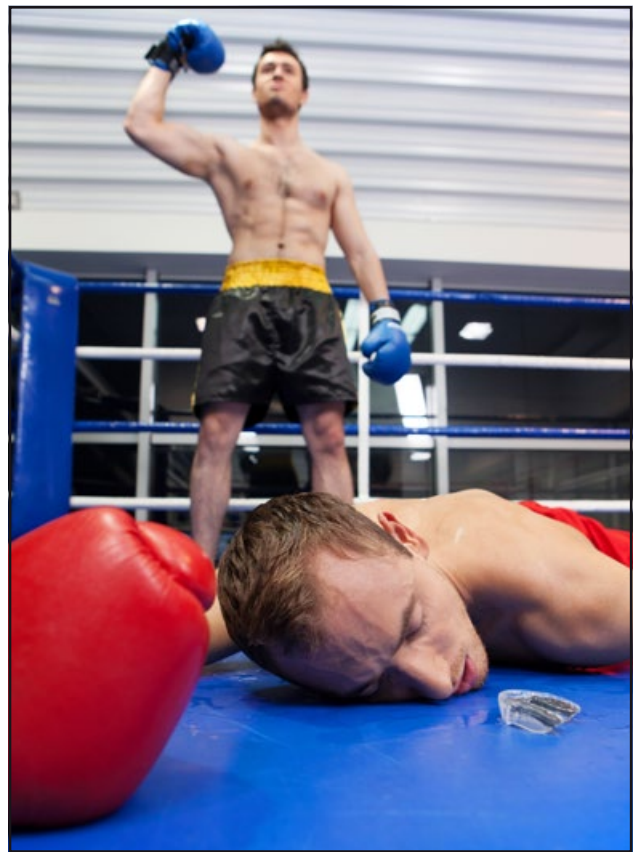
LUKE 10:17

The heavyweight boxer

Lets say that you were a heavyweight boxer champion. One day you were boxing against an opponent during a world championship, and to your surprise you were hit knockout in the first round. How long do you think you would have stayed on, defeated, when thousands applauded your worst opponent? You would want to get out of there as fast as possible. The disgrace would be too much!

This is exactly the same way the devil feels when you use the cross and the name of Jesus at him. He will flee! Getting into a discussion using intellectual arguments to win over him is not the way to go. The devil was once one of the angels in heaven (Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28) a guardian cherub, both wise and beautiful. To come against him in your own power is doomed to fail. He will win and we will end up frustrated and discouraged. If you want to win, use what God has given; like the armour of God and other readily available resources described in the Bible (2 CORINTHIANS 10:4; EPHESIANS 6:10-18; I PETER 5:8-11).

Paul's letter to the Ephesians mention the armour of God consisting of six different parts. If we are to win a full victory over the devil, we must use all of these parts of the armour:



"Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

EPHESIANS 6:13

In the next chapter we will look at the different parts of the armour of God.

CHAPTER 26

PREPARED FOR SPIRITUAL WAR

Here is an overview of the armour a Roman soldier would wear at the time of Jesus. It is made up of six parts (Ephesians 6:10–17), but Paul mentions one necessary addition to the armour: the weapon of prayer (EPHESIANS 6:18).

“The belt of truth”

A life built on truth

The belt played a crucial role in the effectiveness of the soldier’s armour. It held the wool tunic in place and from being in the way when going into battle. It would be devastating if a soldier were to stumble in it. Figuratively speaking this means that as believers we must remove eve-

rything that hinders us in becoming effective warriors in the army of God (EXODUS 12:11; LUKE 12:35; 1 PETER 1:13). We must be true and genuine in our journey and follow the truth in the word of God (2 CORINTHIANS 13:8). There is no victory over the devil without disciplining yourself and being obedient. Hypocrisy and falsehood are hinders for victory because the devil will have something to accuse us of. Such behaviour hurts our fellowship with God, it keeps God from blessing our life and we are unusable to Him (JOSHUA 7; PSALM 66:18; PROVERBS 28:9; 1 JOHN 5:14).

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

ROMANS 12:2

We have been called to win over the works of the devil, *“that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand”* (EPHESIANS 6:13). This requires self-discipline to subdue our own lusts and fight against sin and indifference in our own life (1 CORINTHIANS 9:27; HEBREWS 12:4; REVELATION 3:16–17). So, truth should cleave to us as a belt would on our body.

Previously I have been talking about the word of God as the truth (2 TIMOTHY 3:16). The Holy Bible was given by inspiration of God. So this is Jesus’ prayer for us, that the Father would reveal the truth to us:

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

JOHN 17:17



Make sure that you have secured the belt of truth around your waist!

“Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favour and high esteem in the sight of God and man.”

PROVERBS 3:3-4

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 TIMOTHY 2:15



“The breastplate of righteousness”

A right heart relationship

The breastplate was made of metal and provided protection for the torso, which contains vital organs such as the heart, lungs and so on, against fatal and deadly attacks from spears, swords and arrows. This means that you have to have a right heart with God (Isaiah 59:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:8).

“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”

PROVERBS 4:23

The Church of Laodicea said about herself that she was “rich”, and “wealthy” and did not

have need for “anything”, but according to Jesus she was “wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked” (REVELATION 3:17). They were actually “lukewarm” (V.16). They probably had the right teachings, confessions and had an impeccable outward appearance, but they lacked an earnest heart condition. Christianity had become an activity or a hobby. Sin had made a way into their hearts causing the lack of love for God.

We must live a life that is characterized by righteousness and holiness. In the heat of the fight we must keep our head calm and our hearts warm. Because the righteousness of Christ has become available to us through faith, it should lead us to perfecting holiness in God with a right way of life (ROMANS 3:25-26; 1 PETER 2:24; 2 CORINTHIANS 7:1).

“Having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace”

Peace in the midst of battle

Can you imagine going out into battle without the shoes on your feet? The shoes allow us to run freely without the fear of getting hurt. The Roman soldiers often wore shoes that had nails, or spikes, fitted to help them hold firm in the ground. Paul described the shoes “as the preparation of the gospel of peace” (EPHESIANS 3:15).

What is the gospel of peace?

The Greek word for gospel means “good news.” The Gospel about Jesus death and resurrection is a safe ground to build your life on. This is a truth that gives us access to receive grace and forgiveness on a daily basis, under all conditions.

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

ROMANS 5:1

The two feet of the gospel (good news) are Jesus death and resurrection. Having Jesus on our side in the battle against the devil assures faith and security:

*“What then shall we say to these things?
If God is for us, who can be against us?”*

ROMANS 8:31 (Also read verses 37–39.)

*“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give
to you; not as the world gives do I give
to you. Let not your heart be troubled,
neither let it be afraid.”*

JOHN 14:27 (NKJV)

The term “having shod your feet” makes me think of **ROMANS 10:15**:

*“How beautiful are the feet of those who
preach the gospel of peace, who bring
glad tidings of good things!”*

Unfortunately Christians have kept the liberating news of the Gospel to themselves. We must put our feet into action, and preach the good news to a lost world. Many, many people live in darkness, but you have the light of the world inside of you, so, go! God has called us to go from victory to victory, if we follow His commandments:

*“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the
Lord and in the power of His might.”*

EPHESIANS 6:10

“The shield of faith”

God gives victory through our faith

The shield of a Roman soldier was huge and it covered most parts of his body. It was made of metal or wood and often covered with hide or skin. The shield's purpose was to stop the fiery arrows of the enemy (which were often dipped in combustible material and set afire). The shields were soaked in water before a battle to withstand the fiery attacks.

The shield is different from the other parts of the armour we have talked about, because we are required to make an effort in holding it up and using it. Paul tells us that the shield is something we must pick up, *“above all, taking the shield of faith”* (Ephesians 6:16).

Whereas the shield would give physical protection the shield of faith gives spiritual protection. Through faith in Jesus Christ we should



be able to *“quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one”* (Ephesians 6:16). The shield of faith will hinder the devil from destroying us with deadly arrows, and it gives us the reassurance that God is with us every day and in all kinds of circumstances (JUDGES 6:12.16; MATTHEW 28:18–20; ACTS 18:10).

Because Jesus already won the victory over the devil, we also *“are more than conquerors through Him who loved us”* (ROMANS 8:37). The devil comes towards the believers with temptations and different kinds of opposition (the fiery darts). He wants us to fall for those temptations and into sin. His goal is to make us frustrated and discouraged. We need to understand where the fiery darts come from and go against them with the shield of faith.

*“This is the victory that has overcome
the world – even our faith.”*

1 JOHN 5:4



The faith that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has won victory and stands with us through everything. Therefore, it is very important that we read the word of God, get inspired by teachings and take time to be with other believers (ROMANS 10:8, ACTS 2:44, 4:31-32).

“The helmet of salvation”

Assurance of salvation

The helmet protected the most vital part of the soldier’s body- his head. A punch in the arm or a leg might cause a broken bone, but a punch against the head can be deadly. The helmet is vital in the fight against the enemy.

I believe Paul here is thinking about the assurance of salvation. This assurance, that we are children of God, is a prerequisite to win over the devil. Uncertainty makes us grope around in suspense, and we are at risk of giving up or pull back, giving the devil victory. He is an expert at tormenting Christians who are suffering from this faith-less condition. He makes us doubt the word of God. The serpent said to Eve in Paradise, *“Has God indeed said”*, (GENESIS 3:1) and she started doubting what God really meant – literally. Then she fell into sin, by going against what God had instructed. A lot of times believers are

uncertain if they are saved at all. The devil have been sowing seeds of doubt in their hearts and they no longer have *“joy and peace in believing”* (ROMANS 15:13). Saying, *“I really hope so”* should be exchanged with *“I know that Jesus lives in my heart!”* (1 JOHN 4:4; 5:10-13) Then comes *“the joy of your salvation”* (PSALM 51:12).

Others might have lost their assurance of salvation because they live a dull Christian life. They got lazy and started compromising on the truth, which puts you in danger of turning away from the living God and a relationship with Him (HEBREWS 5:11; 6:12; 3:12).

“Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble.”

2 PETER 1:10

“We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized.”

HEBREWS 6:11

See also 3:6.14.

In chapter 12 to 14 I have written about the assurance of your salvation. That is your *“helmet of salvation.”*

“The sword of the Spirit”

God’s word as a weapon

At the time of Jesus the Roman soldiers only wore one weapon, the sword. The sharpened two-edged sword with a tapered point was used in close combat. Paul explains that the sword represents the word of God, *“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (EPHESIANS 6:17). All believers are called to battle and there is “no victory without a battle” as the saying goes. The word of God *“lives and abides forever”* Paul states in I. PETER 1:23. It does what it says! The spirit of God works in accordance to His word and that is why it is so powerful, it has such authority! The spirit of God follows the word of God like electricity follows the wires. Jesus said:

“The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life”

JOHN 6:63

It guides us and instructs in the truth, it convicts us, leads us to healing, sanctification and salvation.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

PSALM 119:105

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

HEBREWS 4:12

See also PSALM 107:20; JOHN 17:17.

The power, truth and authority of God’s words make the devil, who is the *“father of lies”* (JOHN 8:44), tremble. The prince of darkness shakes when the word of God is proclaimed. Notice that Jesus used the Bible to counter Satan’s attack. The devil fled after tempting Jesus when He proclaimed *“it is written”* (LUKE 4:4–12).

We are weak when we are on our own, but with the word of God in our hearts and on our lips we are unconquerable.

“I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.”

1 JOHN 2:14

“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4–5

To become skilled soldiers in God’s army we must practice. We should not accept defeat in the kingdom of God anymore. We are called to be offensive and not to retreat. It is not enough to hide the word of God in our hearts; we must act upon them and use it in the battle against the devil and his demons (DEUTERONOMY 6:6–9). As soldiers in God’s army it is our responsibility to use what He has given us. His word will help us discern the truth and cut through the defense of the enemy.

“Pray in the Spirit”

God’s power unleashed

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

EPHESIANS 6:18

Here Paul talks about prayer as a powerful weapon to win victory in the fight against the enemy. Everything we do before God and men should be infused in prayer. Prayer unleashes the power of God, and His Spirit and angels are put to the task.

When Peter once was put in prison by King Herod *“the church was earnestly praying to God for him”* (ACTS 12:5). An angel appeared before Peter in prison releasing him from the chains. *“Quick, get up! he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.”* (12:7). The angel led Peter out of the prison passing two guards. The gate *“opened for them by itself”* and Peter was free! (ACTS 12:10)

“But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Spirit.”

JUDAS 1:20

To “*pray in the Spirit*” means that God inspires our prayers. The Spirit leads us to pray for certain important things. It also could mean to pray in tongues, because that means edification of oneself (1 CORINTHIANS 14:4).

It is important to keep on praying until the answer comes. If we give up in the process we might miss the answer to our prayers. Why? Because God made an eternal law that His Spirit follows our faith.

“If you believe, you will see the glory of God.”

JOHN 11:40

We should practice having an open heart towards God every day. The Spirit will help us when we don't know how to pray.

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.”

ROMANS 8:26

We are to pray for all the saints for they are in a constant spiritual battle since the “*enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour*” (1 PETER 5:8). We are also to pray for the unsaved, that their eyes are opened to see they are sinners in need of a saviour (2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-4; ROMANS 9:1-5). Our prayer life can basically cover everything:

“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer”

MATTHEW 21:22

See JOHN 14:14

When we pray, we confuse the devil and it disrupts his planned attacks on God's people and His kingdom. We release the power of God upon those who are blinded by and bound by the devil. We are to pray for and about, but also against. If you read about Moses and the

fight against the Amalekites you will recognise the spiritual battle that was going on as well (EXODUS 17:8-16).

Prayer stops planned rock concert

Prayer is an effective weapon to overthrow the schemes of the devil. An American magazine some time back told a story about a worldly rock band coming to an American town, singing their praise to honour Satan. Instead of being judgemental, the believers of this town got together to pray in the power of God against the underlying evil spirits.

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

EPHESIANS 6:12

They called to God for help and at the same time attacked Satan and his demons with the mighty weapon of prayer. Several prayer meetings were held, until the Spirit of God one day told them that the battle was won. Then they stopped praying.

The believers walked around town telling people that there would be no concert, because God had told them so. They were probably not taken seriously, but they were certain of their case. The day arrived when the concert was going to take place. Six thousand people came to listen to this band sing their praise to Satan. I guess there was a lot of tension in this town that day. Would the band play or not? The band got staged ready to play and was just about to hit the first chords when someone in the band had to reconnect some cables. Somehow there was a short circuit and the sound system went up in flames. In a matter of seconds the sound system suddenly lay in ashes and the concert was cancelled. Satan lost the battle because some believers attacked the spiritual powers of the dark world that operated these musicians.

Mankind is not our enemy; they are victims of the enemy. Many believers fight against other believers on something they disagree on. That

is a fatal misunderstanding. Like Paul said in Ephesians,

"Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of darkness."

EPHESIANS 6:12

God has given us the resources; the full armour of God in the battle against the enemy. God does not want His Church to suffer or make a retreat.

The girl who faced the devil

A newborn, Christian, young lady once told what she did when the devil came around knocking on the door to her heart: "Satan expected me to open the door for him, but I didn't. I asked Jesus to open the door, which He did. 'I didn't know you were here,' Satan exclaimed all afraid and upset. Then he ran off, and I was so happy!"

The girl was right, the devil is not afraid of us but he is terrified of Jesus living in us.

"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

1 JOHN 4:4

A soldier's opportunity to win the battle depends on the resources at his disposal. To win he must use them! This is true about Christians as well. God's inexhaustible resources are at all times available to us. We have now dealt with six important spiritual resources. Use them all!

"Put on the full armor of God!"

EPHESIANS 6:11

Be a winner in Jesus name!

Part 2 of 2

The Questions

for **Step 3 of 5**



Study chapter 25 and 26 in this booklet, *The Passport to Heaven*.

CHAPTER 25

1. Our enemy, the devil, has many tricks up his sleeve that he wants to use against us to make us leave Jesus and our salvation. Name seven of these tricks.

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What is the devil called in 2 Corinthians 4:4?

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2. What are the most common reason people don't get saved (2 Corinthians 4:4)?

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3. The Devil has three things on his agenda (JOHN 10:10). What are they?

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- 3.

4. Quote one Bible verse that describes Jesus' agenda.

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5. Describe with your own words what Jesus' victory on the cross consists of.

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6. What does it mean to you when you know that the devil is dethroned?

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7. Knowing that Jesus prevailed Satan victoriously at the cross, what is our main task then as believers?

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8. Why is it wrong to lay our weapons down and passively trust in Jesus' victory over the devil?

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9. What is the main reason we are still here on earth?

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10. What is the worst name the devil can hear- and why does it give him so much pain?

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11. What does the name Jesus mean in the original language?

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12. Why is it, do you think, that the devil doesn't like us quoting scriptures to him?

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13. What are the six important components of the armour of God given to the believer?

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CHAPTER 26

14. What does "*the belt of truth*" mean?

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15. What does the "*breastplate of righteousness*" mean?

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16. What does "*having shod your feet*" mean?

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17. What does "*the helmet of salvation*" mean?

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18. Why is it important to proclaim the name of Jesus when you pray?

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19. Why is it wrong to attack other believers?

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20. Quote one Bible verse showing us that Jesus lives in our hearts and gives us the boldness to fight against the devil?

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Do you have a question for the teacher, please write it down here:

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Step 4 of 5 in Part 2 of 2

The entire course has been developed by evangelist Svein-Magne Pedersen.

**This is the
course literature for
Chapters 27 and 28**

*“He has also set eternity
in the hearts of men.”*
ECCLESIASTES 3:11



CHAPTER 27

CALLED TO BE A WITNESS

In the Bible the believers are called by many titles and one of them is “witness.”

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8

See also LUKE 24:48; JOHN 3:11; 15:27; ACTS 4:20.

As a witness to something you are supposed to testify of what you have seen, heard or experienced. While I was pastoring a Church in Canada a few years ago a man once came knocking on my door in the middle of the night. I didn't dare to open the door, so I opened a window and asked the man what he wanted. The man, in his thirties, told me he wanted to sell some of his tools. He showed me a red, big toolbox, but I sensed some mischief about it so I turned the man down and then he left.

The next morning the police came to my door and told me that a toolbox had been stolen from an auto shop in town. A taxi driver had seen the man walk towards our house carrying a toolbox like that. The police was interested in my story and I told them everything I had seen and heard. I told them what time the man had come to my door and I described what the man looked like; his age, clothes and what he said. I was a witness.

As a witness for Christ we can tell about our life prior to salvation, how we got saved and what the new life in Christ has meant to us. In Acts 26:1–23 you can read Paul's testimony. I call it “a three points” testimony. Paul tells about his life *before* he met Jesus, *how* he met Him and what his life was like *after* he got saved.

If you have always been a Christian you can tell about that, which is a great testimony in itself, because you have been spared from a



life separated from God. Then you can explain what salvation is all about and how they can be saved. Our testimony of salvation is the strongest weapon we have when it comes to winning souls for eternity. Who can argue against what we have experienced? A witness is not an expert; he is only called to testify of the things he has experienced.

In John 4 we can read about the Samaritan woman who won her hometown of Samaria for Jesus. She ran and told everyone about her meeting with Jesus at the well. In Mark 5 we read about a man who was possessed, but got healed and saved. Jesus wanted the man to tell other people about what had happened and not just keep it to himself.

“Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”

MARK 5:19

A newborn Christian is often, because of their joy and zeal in finding salvation, the best at winning souls. Their joy is contagious!

Evangelizing in the original language means: “to preach the good news.” The gospel which is the good news has three main points, that Christ died for our sins, that He was buried and that He was raised from the dead on the third day (1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-4). It is by this gospel that we are saved. Through His death our sins were obliterated, they belong to the past. The resurrection of Jesus witness about our new life in him, which is the eternal life.

One of the greatest sins we as Christians can commit is keeping the good news to ourselves. This is selfishness of the worst kind, because you keep the best in life to yourself. If a scientist were to find the solution to cancer, it would be highly unethical to refrain from sharing that knowledge with people. We can testify by our words and our life:

Testimony through words:

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message.”

JOHN 17:20

Testimony through deeds:

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

MATTHEW 5:16

We should live and preach so that people would know we are Christians:

"You yourself are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tables of human hearts."

2 CORINTHIANS 3:2

We are not saved only to have a good time or to feel secure about eternity. We are saved so that we can also share and be a witness to other people about the greatness of God.

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

1 PETER 2:9

Jesus first commandment to His disciples was this:

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

MATTHEW 4:19

His last commandment, before He went to heaven, was similar to the first one He gave them:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8

The first evangelist in the New Testament that we read about is Andrew, one of Jesus' twelve disciples. The first thing Andrew did after meeting Jesus, was finding his brother Simon Peter, to tell him that he had found the Messiah. He then brought Simon Peter to Jesus. This is what we call "one to one evangelism" or "personal evangelism." It seems only natural to share the good news with our closest family and friends. Jesus commandment to His disciples was that they should be witnesses first in their own town, Jerusalem, then in the province of Judea, then Samaria and then to the ends of the earth (ACTS 1:8).

None of us are born as soul winners; this is a process of learning. There are many ways in which we can evangelize, but most of them are summarized in two main points: We can proclaim the gospel directly to people or we can build a relationship over time with people who are non-believers. This is called "friendship evangelism."

By proclaiming the gospel to people wherever we go, we might meet people with some religious background, who understand some terms and concepts, and have an interest in Christianity (LUKE 9:2-6; ACTS 2:41). Some of them are ready to be harvested into the Kingdom.

Friendship evangelism works well among all non-believers and is very effective for those who are not familiar with the Christian faith, or has no church background. They are not used to religious thoughts. People usually listen more closely to a friend than to a stranger. As friends you might share in the same interests; like sports, hobbies or other activities. By spending time together you cultivate their hearts to be open to the things you share. This may also include removing cultural and religious barriers and incorrect perceptions about Christians and towards Christianity. Then one day the seed will fall "on good soil" (MATTHEW 13:23). The harvest is much easier when the fruit is ripe. This produces a fruit that lasts.

Jesus used both methods. He proclaimed the gospel and taught people about the Kingdom of God, but He was also "a friend of tax collectors and sinners" (MATTHEW 11:19). Multitudes of people were won for the Kingdom through a friendship with the Master.

Every Christian should have friends that are non-believers. The power of influence from a friend is far greater than of a stranger. “You have to make yourself worthy of attention,” as the saying goes. “You must earn the right to be heard,” is another saying. Non-believers want to *see and feel* that the Christian alternative is better than something else before they endorse the gospel. They want to make sure that the relationship with God is a real thing. Our faith and our lifestyle should be attractive to non-believers. There must be coherence between our lives, our words and actions. Pointing you finger judgementally to a non-believer will only drive them away.

CHAPTER 28

AN EFFECTIVE SOUL WINNER

Without a love for the lost, evangelism can be mechanic and powerless. If you want to become an effective soul winner you should take notice of this:

- Love God more than anything else and live solely for Him.
- Love people, even if they are great sinners.
- Be ready to present a clear message.
- Expect that God will use you.
- You have to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Evangelism does not happen by itself, it is often hard work. We are called to be soldiers of Christ (2 TIMOTHY 2:3). One of the greatest challenges of the church today is the need for evangelism. It has been claimed that 95 percent of Christians never have led a soul to salvation. The need for soul winners is

extremely great. Jesus encouraged His disciples to pray for more soul winners:

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

MATTHEW 9:37-38

See also LUKE 14:23; JOHN 4:35;

ROMANS 9:1-3; 10:1; 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23.

Jesus came to save people, and that’s why evangelism is close to God’s heart. Where have you put this on your list of priorities? Jesus said:

“For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

MATTHEW 9:13



We should develop a lifestyle of evangelism. A soul winner once told God, “Write the word ‘eternity’ on my eyes so that everything I see is through the light of this message.”

The call to be a witness is not just for a few elect (the evangelists). Countries that only send their officers into war are doomed to fail. The Christian Church unfortunately has a lot of lazy soldiers sitting on the fence criticising the “officers” (the preachers), who are fighting the battle against the enemy. But our enemy is not other people; it is the devil and his demons. No wonder why so many churches are almost empty! We have not been faithful to the great commission Jesus gave us:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

MATTHEW 28:18-20

Instead of sharing their faith in God to non-believers, many Christians have selfishly taken the blessings of God and kept it to themselves. Jesus admonished us that we are supposed to be “*the salt of the earth*” and “*light of the world*” (MATTHEW 5:13-14). We should have a strong influence in our society that is permeated by materialism, secularism, rationalism, atheism, humanism and sectarianism. All Christians are called to be soul winners in one way or another, some at full time, some part time. This is called the ministry of reconciliation:

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18

Every believer has been called to be “*ambassadors*” for Christ. It is a privilege and carries a responsibility. We represent the highest authority there is, with delegated authority to preach the gospel on reconciliation and salvation:

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20.

Ask God to show you who you can be a witness. Pray for wisdom what to say, when to say it and how to present your testimony. A good idea is to write down your testimony first and practice with a good friend that can give some valuable feedback and advice. It shouldn’t be longer than 300-400 words; otherwise people might lose interest in it. Avoid religious clichés and difficult religious words and phrases that are hard to understand for a non-believer.

Sign up for courses or events in evangelism. A lot of the fears we have when it comes to evangelism disappear when we know how to do it. Like an army doesn’t send out its soldiers into battle without giving them proper training, so it should be for the church. Jesus spent three years among His disciples, training them and equipping them to become soul winners. Theory and practice went hand in hand.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

1 PETER 3:15

See also COLOSSIANS 4:6.

Jesus – a great soulwinner

Jesus was a great soulwinner and a good example for us. He saved several people through personal evangelism:

- The chief taxcollector Zaccaeus.
(LUKE 19:1-9)
- The Samaritan woman.
(JOHN 4:4-42)
- He saved the adulterous woman.
(JOHN 8:3-11)
- A criminal who was crucified with him
(JOHN 23:39-43). He was a soulwinner to his last breath!

The polite Pastor

One day a Pastor was out driving when he met a woman in the neighbourhood who was out walking. He slowed down, rolled down the window, smiled at her and said politely, "Hello, how are you?" She smiled and greeted him back. This little meeting created a contact with this woman and the pastor couple, which later on led them to sharing the gospel with her and she got saved!

Evangelism is not always as hard as you would think. The Spirit of God will lead us, give us power to witness and convince the non-believer their need of salvation. Among the many methods for evangelism there is one main method: the Holy Spirit method.

We must make ourselves available to God so that He can use us. God needs people to fulfill the task! Let us start by asking God for opportunities to be a witness to others and start friendship evangelism. It is our responsibility to take that opportunity when it comes. None of us are called to win the whole world, but God will often lead people our way so that we can be a witness to them. Some evangelists win thousands of people for the kingdom, but most of us are called to be a witness, winning one by one for Jesus. We have a God-given responsibility to win this person for the kingdom, no matter the method we use. The fear of God and the love for the lost is the driving force:

"Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others."

2 CORINTHIANS 5:11

"Ship your grain across the sea; after many days you may receive a return."

ECCLESIASTES 11:1

"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever."

DANIEL 12:3

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise."

PROVERBS 11:30



"Plastic bag evangelism"

Wise was the evangelist who saw several men fishing by the river one day. He got a hold of some plastic bags, put some Christian pamphlets inside and tied them. He went further up the river and released the plastic bags into the stream. Soon the fishermen caught interest in the plastic bags that came floating down stream. They were served the gospel in a highly unusual and original way. The evangelist was smart! Don't be afraid to use unorthodox methods to evangelize to a lost world!



"Knife to the throat"

A Christian barber decided one day to witness to a client while shaving him. He used a razor and was just about to get started when he asked the man, "Tell me, are you ready to die today?" The client thought he was about to cut his throat. He screamed, jumped out of the chair and ran out the door. It wasn't wrong in itself, wanting to share the gospel, but the timing and the choice of words were absolutely incorrect.

Part 2 of 2

The Questions

for **Step 4 of 5**



Study chapter 27 and 28 in this booklet, *The Passport to Heaven*.

CHAPTER 27

1. What does it mean to be a witness?

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2. How does Jesus describe being a witness? (JOHN 3:11 and MARK 5:19)

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3. What three main points should a testimony consist of?

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2.
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4. Why is the testimony so important in a situation where you are able to share the gospel with someone?

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5. What does the word “evangelism” mean in the original language?

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6. Name three main points of the gospel, as referred to in 1 Corinthians 5:1-4.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

7. What is one of the greatest sins a Christian can commit? Give reasons for your answer.

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8. What are two important ways you can be a witness? Use biblical references to confirm your answer.

- 1.
- 2.

9. What was Jesus first commandment to His disciples?

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10. What was Jesus last commandment to His disciples?

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11. Who was the first evangelist of the New Testament, and what did he do?

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12. How would you describe the term “personal evangelism?”

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13. Name two important way to evangelize.

- 1.
- 2.

14. Which of these two suits you best? Give reasons for your answer.

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15. How would you describe Jesus as an evangelist?

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16. As Christians we are examples to the non-believers. What may seem repulsive to a non-believer when it comes to our words and our life?

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CHAPTER 28

17. Name four important things to be an effective soul winner.

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2.
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4.

18. What is one of the things closest to God's heart? Give reasons for your answer.

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19. Write down in your own words what the great commission is about.

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20. How many are called according to the word of God to be soul winners, and what percentages of Christians are doing that today? Why do you think it is that way?

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21. What does Paul call this ministry, and what is the word for it in the original language?

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22. What do we mean by the term “ the Holy Spirit’s method?”

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23. Quote a Bible verse describing the driving force of evangelism (2 CORINTHIANS 5:20).

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24. What blessing or reward will the person who led people to God receive in eternity?

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25. Write down the “ catechism ” (a summary of the principles of Christian faith) of the gospel (COLOSSIANS 4:4-6).

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Do you have a question for the teacher, please write them down here:

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Step 5 of 5 in Part 2 of 2

The entire course has been developed by evangelist Svein-Magne Pedersen.

**This is the
course literature for
Chapters 29 to 33**

*“He has also set eternity
in the hearts of men.”*
ECCLESIASTES 3:11



CHAPTER 29

THE POWER STATION

Before Jesus ascended to heaven He promised His disciples to send the Holy Spirit from heaven and into their hearts. In that moment they were to receive power to be His witnesses.

This happened on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit was sent from heaven to live in the hearts of all the believers. You can read more about this exciting event in the second chapter of Acts.

Winning people for God was not supposed to happen in our own power, dependant on human talent alone. The third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit, was sent to equip us with power and spiritual gifts (a spiritual “talent” that He gives every believer in addition to their natural talents). There are approximately 20 spiritual gifts mentioned in the word of God. You can read more about the spiritual gifts in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 and 14 and Ephesians 5. Each believer has at least one gift:

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 PETER 4:10

The power of the Spirit filled Peter on the day of Pentecost as he went fearlessly forward preaching about repentance. 3000 people got saved that day as the Holy Spirit came down equipping the ones who believe in him. Healings and wonders followed the apostles. Jesus ascended to heaven, but the Holy Spirit switched place with him and now He is doing what Jesus did – through us, the believers (JOHN 14:12. 16–17. 26; 16:7. 13–15). If we have accepted Jesus, we have also received the Holy Spirit into our hearts:

“And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.”

ROMANS 8:9

See also JOHN 7:39; 14:17; ROMANS 8:15–16;
1 CORINTHIANS 2:12; 3:16; 2 TIMOTHY 1:14;
1 JOHN 3:24; 4:13.

The Holy Spirit is the spokesman in our hearts, reminding us of the words of Jesus. He is our guide and help, and He testifies to our spirit giving us the power to live a victorious Christian life (JOHN 14:15–26; 16:4–15). This is God’s power station in our hearts!

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8

“Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.”

JOHN 7:38–39

This power is available for us to use, and we must serve people with what God has given us. Streams of joy and living water shall flow from our hearts as we do. We are fully dependant on the Holy Spirit to help us, and every day we need to be filled with His power. The “batteries” of our faith have to be re-charged daily.

“And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”

ACTS 13:52

See also 2:4, 4:8 and 4:31.

When we are filled with His Spirit, it means that we let him control, strengthen and equip us to serve. We receive this power in faith through prayer and surrendering to His Spirit. To be filled with the Spirit is just like receiving salvation; you don’t have to feel anything to experience the effect of it. We believe, pray and receive with thankfulness the power to serve him. There is an admonition from God that He wants every believer to obey:

“Do not get drunk on wine, which will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”

EPHESIANS 5:18

“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

LUKE 11:13

The words “be filled” in the original language indicates an ongoing process, something we must do continuously, like a daily experience. It is something God does in our lives, not something we receive for “long and faithful” service. It is a free gift, given by God in His mercy and love towards us, because of what Jesus did on the cross. God wants to fill us with His Holy Spirit, it is up to us to receive that gift and live life inspired and strengthened by His power. Paul wants every believer to experience this:

“So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”

GALATIANS 5:16

To live by the Spirit means that we are led by and inspired by him. We “walk the walk and talk the talk.” We are online with him waiting for him to speak to us, to lead us into what He wants us to do; where He wants us to go and what to preach. The Holy Spirit speaks directly into our hearts, through His word and spiritual gift, dreams and visions, through other people and situations in our lives.

In Acts we read about Philip, the evangelist, who was led by the Spirit to an Ethiopian eunuch sitting in his wagon reading from one of the prophets in the Bible:

“The Spirit told Philip, ‘Go to that chariot and stay near it.’”

ACTS 8:29

There are nine spiritual fruits that the Spirit of God grows in the life of every believer:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

GALATIANS 5:22-23

The fullness of the Holy Spirit is increased through these gifts. On the day of Pentecost God gave them a new gift; the gift of speaking in tongues:

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

ACTS 2:4

See also 10:44-46; 19:6; 1
CORINTHIANS 12:10:30; 14:1.

CHAPTER 30

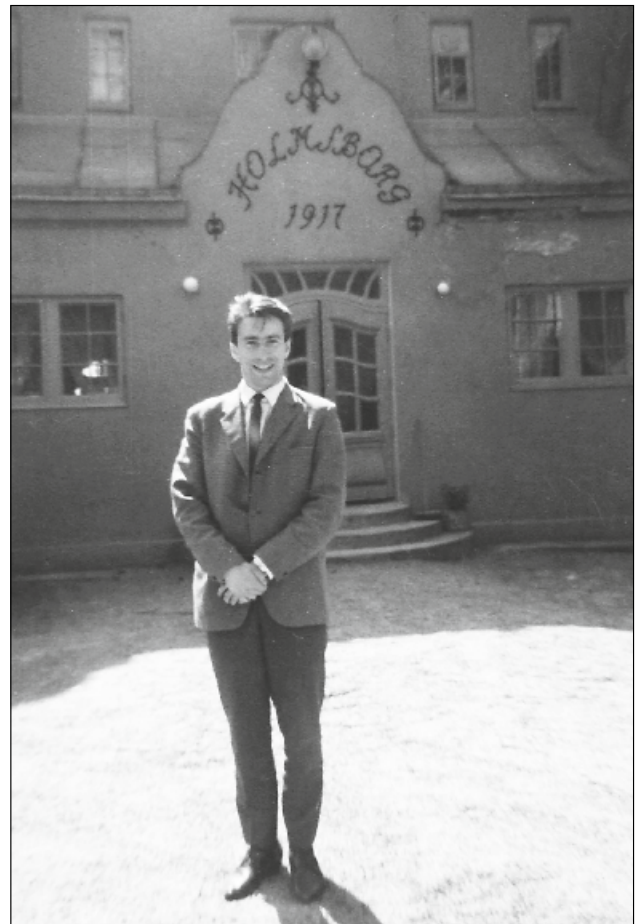
MAY 29, 1971

I remember well the day I got filled the Holy Spirit. It was May 29, 1971. I studied theology at Ansgar Theological Institute in Oslo, Norway, a place for educating Pastors and preachers.

This happened towards the end of my second year. On that day there was a guest speaker from USA, Herbert Mjorud, who was engaged in an interdenominational movement called the “charismatic movement.” A lot of focus was put into the gifts of the Spirit, something that many longed for. Speaking in tongues, prophecy, the gift of healing were amongst the most prominent. All of these were gifts on my list that I desired.

For a long time I had longed to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and besides I wanted the gift of tongues. (It is when you speak in a language unknown to you. It is a language God gives you.) It is called a “heavenly language” in which only God understands the words that you speak, if nobody receives the interpretation. For many years I had prayed to receive these gifts, and I had an impression that I had to make myself deserving of it. I studied my Bible, prayed and witnessed to a lot of people because I wanted to impress God. I wanted God to notice all the good things that I did for him so that He would reward me with these gifts. I was spiritually “dry” and I longed to experience this, but my religious strive didn’t help.

I did a good thing studying the word of God and witnessing to other people, but I made a tragic mistake when I wanted to “pay” for these gifts by religious works. A spiritual gift is a gift of grace, and not payment for works (ROMANS 11:6; GALATIANS 3:5). For as long as I kept on with this unbiblical practice God held back His blessing. He did not want me to experience this for the wrong reasons, and I walked in the “spiritual desert” for years.



Filled with the Spirit: When Svein-Magne Pedersen was studying theology at a theological seminary in Oslo, God baptised him in the Holy Spirit.

Filled with the Holy Spirit

Herbert Mjorud spoke to the students that the Holy Spirit is a gift God wants to give to His children. He wants to give us a “prayer helper” and the gift of speaking in tongues. It was not something you had to wait for, you only had to pray for God to give it to you. Then you were to receive it with faith, not concerned about how you felt. It was as simple as getting saved.

After the meeting I went up to my room, locked the door and bent down beside a chair.

I decided to stay there until God had given me the Holy Spirit or the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” (MATTHEW 3:11; ACTS 1:5). I asked God to give me this gift according to His promises (LUKE 11:13; 1 JOHN 5:14-15). After praying I thanked him for giving it to me, without caring about what I felt, and I seized it by faith. The frustration I had felt previous had been replaced with faith and rest. It was as simple as that! It was just as simple as to receive a gift and be thankful for it. I had now received the power to be a witness.

A heavenly language

Then came the next step. On the day of Pentecost “*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them...*” (ACTS 2:4). I longed for this to happen to me also, so I prayed and I received it with faith believing that God had given it to me at that moment. Herbert Mjorud had told us not try to speak in Norwegian, but leave the tongue to the Holy Spirit and in faith speak out what He put in our hearts. The key was to let the Holy Spirit lead us, and not speak our own words. At Pentecost the disciples didn’t speak uncontrollably like in a daze. It was not the Holy Spirit who spoke, but the disciples: “... *began to speak in other tongues ...*” On the other hand the Holy Spirit inspired the disciples. He gave them the words, but they had to speak them “...*as the Spirit enabled them...*”

Fumbling, a little scared and careful I did just that. In faith I now spoke words that I could not understand, but I knew they were from God and that He understood. I had received a new tongue, a heavenly prayer language to edify (to build and uplift) my spirit (1 CORINTHIANS 14:4).

The gift of healing

Pastor Mjorud also emphasized praying for the sick. He prayed for several of the students and God did many miracles. I had been longing for this also since the day I got saved, in 1964. Around that time I read a book by the American evangelist T. L. Osborn: *Healing the Sick*. His message moved me. I thought: “I really *should* have, *want* to have and *must* have that



Perfect feet: Grethe Gundersen – healed for flat foot.

power.” I was only sixteen at that time and God knew that I had to grow in maturity, He could not just give such a powerful force to a young boy who had just been saved.

So, my third prayer this afternoon, as you can imagine, was that God would by His grace give me the gift of healing. I am not sure if I received it there and then, but a few weeks later I had the chance to pray for my sister-in-law who had distinctly flat feet. She was healed instantly and got beautiful visible arches under her feet! This filled me with delight, and it felt like a world of endless opportunities lay at my feet. My sister-in-law, Grethe Jakobsen, is trained as a nurse and still has a pair of healthy feet today!

A few years later God gave me a healing ministry and every year I pray at about 70,000 prayers for sick people. Thousands give back praise reports that they have been healed of many kinds of ailments and sicknesses, in addition to those who do not give feedback. Through campaigns around the world many are healed. It all started right after I was filled with the Holy Spirit. I can never forget that day, May 29, 1971, at the Theological Seminary in Oslo.

CHAPTER 31

HEALING – A “TASTER” OF GOD

It is necessary to have the power of God in our lives if we are to grow and succeed in the calling He has given us. I have discovered that miracles are the best “taster” of who God really is.

To many this is far greater and more interesting than a TV-show or movie on a Saturday night. Signs and wonders are like a magnet that lifts our faith to a new level. Moses knew. Jesus knew. The disciples knew. The Church is finally getting to understand that too.

If I were to buy a car, I would like to give it a test drive before deciding. Wouldn't you? You don't want to end up buying something that is worse than you already have. People choose Jesus when they see that He has something to offer them that are far better than what they already have. God wants to illustrate this by using signs and wonders.

People in the western world are not getting saved because they have seen too little of the living Jesus. People will not take your word

for granted, and most of them are at a state of mind where they are saying, “There are so many churches and everyone thinks they are right. Religion is too difficult for me. Good bye!”

Tasters at the supermarket can be crucial whether you buy or not. People today want to “taste” the product before they buy it, to *see* before they believe and *feel* before they dare to bet on something. They have often wasted a lot on something that promised the moon and the stars, but left them with nothing. Naturally they have become reserved to some Christians because they have left them disappointed rather than blessed. Jesus was then unfortunately put on the shelf. But when people are healed, they are drawn to Jesus, and many are saved.



Praying for the sick: Every year Svein-Magne Pedersen prays for about 70.000 individual sick persons. Here he is praying for the sick in India.

CHAPTER 32

A MIRACLE IS IRREPLACEABLE

When God wants to do something powerful for His kingdom, and when He wants to promote His case effectively, He presents himself as the God of miracle.

Signs and wonders are like “tasters” to His greatness and goodness. Through ten great wonders in Egypt, God delivered His people who had been over 400 years in captivity (GENESIS 7-14)

When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came from the fiery furnace untouched, King Nebuchadnezzar worshipped God. In fact, he ordered everybody throughout His kingdom to worship the God of Israel. Fear of God came over all the people of Babylon (DANIEL 4:1-3).

The same thing happened when King Darius saw Daniel come out of the Lions dens alive. Fear of God spread throughout the Kingdom (DANIEL 6).

God answered the prophet Elijah when he confronted the prophets of Baal, when He sent fire from heaven to consume the offering as well as the water that was in the trenches.

When the Israelites saw this they fell down on their faces saying, *“The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God.”* (1 KINGS 18:39) A wonder created a revival throughout the land. Nothing can replace the wonders of God!

Some Bible scholars say that two thirds of Jesus’ ministry were about signs and wonders and healings. What did that lead to?

“Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name.”

JOHN 2:23

Through the apostle Peter’s ministry the paralyzed man Aeneas was healed:

“Aeneas, Peter said to him, ‘Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat.’ Immediately Aeneas got up. All those

who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.”

ACTS 9:34-35

Through the apostle Peter’s ministry, Tabitha was raised from the dead:

“This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.”

ACTS 9:42

Our task is to preach the gospel and expect God to give the results,

“Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.”

MARK 16:20

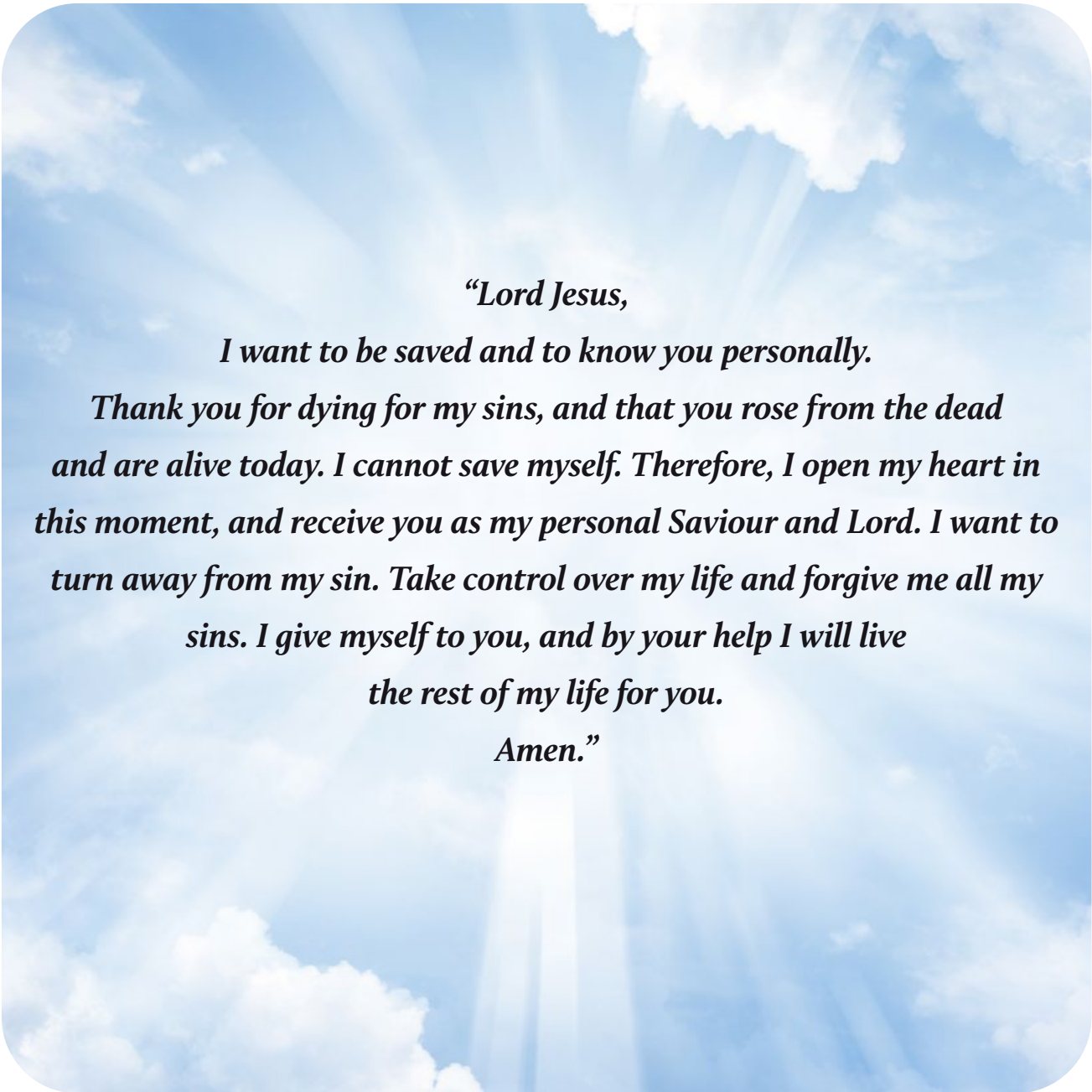
We do not follow signs and wonders, signs and wonders follow us! When we read about or experience God’s miracles we have no excuse for disbelief:

“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

JOHN 20:30-31

Thank you for follow me through this Bible course about salvation and a victorious Christian life. I hope that everyone who read this book are saved. If not – here is the prayer of salvation.

Why wait when you have the chance to do it right now!



***“Lord Jesus,
I want to be saved and to know you personally.
Thank you for dying for my sins, and that you rose from the dead
and are alive today. I cannot save myself. Therefore, I open my heart in
this moment, and receive you as my personal Saviour and Lord. I want to
turn away from my sin. Take control over my life and forgive me all my
sins. I give myself to you, and by your help I will live
the rest of my life for you.
Amen.”***

Part 2 of 2

The Questions

for **Step 5 of 5**



Study chapter 29 and 32 in this booklet, *The Passport to Heaven*.

CHAPTER 29

1. Explain what a spiritual gift is.

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2. What is the difference between a spiritual gift and a talent?

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3. How many spiritual gifts are mentioned in the Bible and where can you find them?

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4. Give three biblical references that state every Christian has received the Holy Spirit?

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3.

5. For what cause is it important to be filled with the Holy Spirit? See Acts 1:8.

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6. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

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7. What does the Holy Spirit supply to a Christian?

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8. How often should we be filled with the Holy Spirit? Explain by giving references to the Bible.

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9. How do you receive the power of the Holy Spirit?

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10. What spiritual gift was released on the day of Pentecost?

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CHAPTER 30

11. What mistake did I do when I wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

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12. God desires to give every believer the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues. How do you receive it?

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CHAPTER 31

13. What do I mean by healing being a “taster”?

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14. How can we explain why so few people in the western world have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour?

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CHAPTER 32

15. What do I mean by saying “the miracle is irreplaceable?” Give five reasons using biblical references.

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2.
3.
4.
5.

Do you have a question for the teacher, please write them down here:

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