A background image featuring an open Bible with text visible on the pages, set against a textured, parchment-like background. The words "BIBLE STUDY" are printed in a large, serif font across the center of the image.

BIBLE STUDY

WEEKLY LESSONS

- LESSON 1 ■ "THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT - Part 1"
- LESSON 2 ■ "THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT - Part 2"
- LESSON 3 ■ "THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT - Part 3"
- LESSON 4 ■ "THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT - Part 4"
- LESSON 5 ■ "ANGELS WATCHIN' OVER ME - Part 1"
- LESSON 6 ■ "ANGELS WATCHIN' OVER ME - Part 2"
- LESSON 7 ■ "ANGELS WATCHIN' OVER ME - Part 3"
- LESSON 8 ■ "HOW NOT TO GET YOUR PRAYERS ANSWERED - Part 1"

3RD QUARTER - 2022

A quarterly publication of

THE CHURCH OF GOD – JERUSALEM ACRES

P O BOX 1207 ■ CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE 37364-1207

“THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT – Part 1”

LESSON 1 ■ For week ended August 6, 2022

Today’s lesson will focus on the question: What happens when someone is baptized in the Holy Spirit?

KEY TEXT: (Jesus speaking) “For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now” (Acts 1:5).

1. Jesus used the example of John the Baptist and his ministry of baptizing people in water.

- » Unlike today, where baptisms can consist of sprinkling or pouring of water over one’s head, John completely submerged the saints in water (Mark 1:5).
- » Please note that Jesus was our example in everything that He did. Read Mark 1:9-11. Notice that the scriptures refer to Jesus as “*coming up from the water*”—indicating a complete submersion in the Jordan River. Confirm this truth from Romans 6:4 which refers to baptism as a “burial.”
- » Water baptism is revealed in type in II Chronicles 4:6, where we see the example that reveals to us the necessity of water baptism. Before a sacrifice was accepted and offered on the altar, it was washed in water.
- » This reveals the fact that in order for us to present ourselves to God a living sacrifice which is acceptable to God (Romans 12:1), we must be baptized in water.
- » While water baptism does not wash away sins, it is, nevertheless, an essential outward sign of the repentance and born-again experience that has been attained inwardly.
- » Notice that Jesus includes baptism in the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:9,10.

2. With this understanding of how water baptism works and what it symbolizes, we can better comprehend why Jesus referred to it when promising the upcoming baptism in the Holy Spirit.

- » The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a complete surrendering—or immersion—to the Holy Spirit (Psalm 143:10).
- » This includes the surrendering of our tongue (speaking in other tongues).
- » This includes setting aside your will, your characteristics, your methods, or your way of doing something and opening yourself up to be used by the Holy Spirit to accomplish God’s will in your life (John 16:13).
- » The baptism in the Holy Spirit is about submission: You surrender your will to God. Even Jesus had to submit His will to the Father as demonstrated in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:42).

3. When an individual is seeking the baptism in the Holy Spirit, can anything be done to prepare his/her life or environment that will quicken the infilling?

- » There are steps that, if taken, will assist seekers. Understand that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift from God (Ephesians 4:7,8). It should be received with gratitude and giving of thanks to the Giver. It cannot be earned or merited. It can only be accepted with an open and willing heart.
- » Be fully persuaded that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is both biblical and doctrinally correct. Consider the promise of Jesus found in Acts 1:4-8.
- » Confess any known sins in your life and resolve to live a righteous life with God’s help.
- » Begin to worship the Lord with expressions of praise and adoration.
- » Express to the Lord, who is the Baptizer, a desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit for His glory.
- » Yield to any deep “welling up” within your spirit and allow that inner urge to break through in expressions of worship, praise, and adoration in a language unknown to you but meaningful to God.

“THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT – Part 2”

LESSON 2 ■ For week ended August 13, 2022

Today’s lesson will focus on the question: What is the Role of the Holy Spirit?

1. The Holy Spirit is the 3rd part of the Godhead which consists of the Father (Yahweh), the Son (Jesus-Yahshua), and the Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh).

- » An example of the 3 personifications of the Godhead shown together is found in **LUKE 3:22**, “*And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”*”
- » The Father was the voice from heaven; the Son was being baptized; and the Holy Spirit appeared in the shape of a dove. All three personalities of the Godhead were present and manifested in this scenario.

2. The Holy Spirit leads and guides us into truth—which is none other than Jesus Christ.

- » **JOHN 16:13**, Jesus speaking, “**However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.**”
- » “**But God hath revealed them to us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God**” (1 CORINTHIANS 2:10).

3. The Holy Spirit gives us power.

- » **ACTS 1:8**, Jesus speaking, “**But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**”
- » **LUKE 24:49**, Jesus speaking, “**And, behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.**”
- » Our most effective “witness” is to live a victorious life every day of the week.

4. The Holy Spirit draws us.

- » **JOHN 6:44**, Jesus speaking, “**No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.**”
- » God uses the Holy Spirit to draw them. Jesus explained this in **JOHN 16:8** when He said, “**And when He [Holy Spirit] has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.**”

5. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us. The word *intercede* simply means *to intervene on behalf of another*.

- » **ROMANS 8:26,27**, “**Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**” [27] *For He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*”

6. The Holy Spirit gives us gifts.

- » **I CORINTHIANS 12:1,7,8,11**, “**Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant...[7] the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: [8] for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit...[11] But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.**”

7. The Holy Spirit is our Helper/Comforter.

- » **JOHN 14:26**, “**But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name. He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**”

“THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT – Part 3”

LESSON 3 ■ For week ended August 20, 2022

Today’s lesson will focus on the question: What happened on the Day of Pentecost after Jesus’ death and resurrection?

1. After the resurrection of Jesus, He appeared to His disciples and gave them certain instructions.

- » **JOHN 20:19-22**, “Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. [20] And when He had so said, He showed them His hands and His side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. [21] Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you. [22] And when He had said this, **He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.**”
- » This scripture is evidence that the disciples had received the initial indwelling of the Holy Spirit from Jesus before they were baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- » However, Jesus later instructs them to wait for the promise of the Father (the Holy Spirit) because that is when they would receive the power to be effective for their witness to Christ (**ACTS 1:5,8**).

2. So, what happened on the Day of Pentecost?

- » **ACTS 2:1-4**, “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. [2] Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the house where they were sitting. [3] And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. [4] **And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**”
- » When the town’s people began to ask what-in-the-world was going on, Peter stood up and declared, “*But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; [17] And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.[18] And on My servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy*” (**ACTS 2:16-18**).

3. How does the baptism in the Holy Spirit change us?

- » A perfect example is the account of Peter. Peter was one of the original disciples (**LUKE 5:1-11**). That means he was taught by Jesus for a period of approximately 3 ½ years.
- » It was Peter who answered Jesus in **MATTHEW 16:15,16**, “*He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? [16] And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*”
- » It was Peter who resorted to physical violence while trying to protect Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane when he cut off the ear of the High Priest’s servant (**JOHN 18:10**).
- » It was also Peter that denied Christ 3 times just prior to His crucifixion. **MARK 14:71,72**, “*Then he began to curse and swear, “I do not know this Man of whom you speak!” [72] A second time the rooster crowed. Then Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” And when he thought about it, he wept.*”
- » What’s the point? Peter was a disciple that was taught at the feet of Jesus. He witnessed miracles, saw lives transformed, he even watched as Jesus was transfigured before his very eyes (**MATTHEW 17:1-9**), and yet when push-came-to-shove, he denied even knowing Jesus. Peter was limited by the confines of his fleshly body. Even though he witnessed a miraculous Jesus, he did not possess the power to be true to his convictions. An **EXPERIENCE** is not enough to sustain us, we need a **RELATIONSHIP** with God!

4. After Peter received the baptism in the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, he had the power to live what he already believed.

- » Instead of hiding and denying that he even knew Christ, Peter stood up boldly and addressed the crowds on the Day of Pentecost without fear (**ACTS 4:8-13**).

“THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT – Part 4”

LESSON 4 ■ For week ended August 27, 2022

Today’s lesson is entitled: Commonly asked questions about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

1. Do Christians receive the Holy Spirit when they are initially saved? If so, how is this experience different from the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

- » Yes, when a person accepts Christ, the Holy Spirit begins a great work in their lives. The Spirit convicts them of sin (**JOHN 6:44; 14:17**); convinces them of righteousness (**ROMANS 8:9,10**); and dwells with them (**I CORINTHIANS 12:13**).
- » No one becomes a Christian without this gracious work of the Holy Spirit.
- » However, there is an additional and distinct ministry of the Holy Spirit called the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- » The baptism is an empowering gift from God the Father that is promised to every believer (**MATTHEW 3:11; LUKE 11:13; 24:49; ACTS 2:33,38**).

2. So what’s the big deal about “speaking in tongues”?

- » Did you know that God spoke about “speaking in tongues” in the Old Testament?
 - 1) **ISAIAH 28:11**, *“For with stammering lips and another tongue shall He speak to this people...”*
 - 2) “Speaking in tongues” is an age-old method in which God chooses to manifest Himself through the sons of God.
- » In **JAMES 3:2-8** we are taught about the power of our tongue. It is summed up in the last verse, *“But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”*
 - 1) This is why God requires speaking in tongues before one is completely saturated or baptized with His Spirit. **There is only one power that can conquer and tame the tongue, and that is the Holy Spirit of God.**
 - 2) When one becomes so full of the Spirit of God that he loses his vocabulary and begins to stammer and speak with a tongue of which he is not familiar, then, and only then, has he been completely conquered and become entirely subject to the will of God. So by these truths we can see why God requires speaking in tongues.
- » **I CORINTHIANS 14:22**, *“Wherefore tongues are for a sign...to them that believe not.”*

3. Why are some people baptized in the Spirit immediately, while others seek so long without receiving the experience?

- » Some believers have received the baptism almost immediately; others have waited for various periods of time. Why?
- » First, because the Holy Spirit is sovereign, some will require a period of waiting before they are prepared to yield themselves fully to His divine control.
- » Second, because “the infilling” may involve a process with the baptism coming after a wonderful and meaningful time of waiting in God’s presence. Seekers should realize that any period of “waiting” only brings them closer to the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- » God has promised to give you the gift of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Are you ready to receive it? It is the power to live the life that God has promised to you through the help of His Holy Spirit.

4. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the power to live a life free of sin.

- » **ROMANS 7:15, NLT**, *“I don’t really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do what I hate.”* This is exactly what happened to Peter. There is no doubt that he loved Jesus, but he ended up cursing and denying that he ever knew Him. However, once he was baptized in the Holy Spirit, he received power to overcome his flesh.
- » Paul continues in **ROMANS 8:13,14**, *“For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. [14] For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”*

“ANGELS WATCHIN’ OVER ME - Part 1”

LESSON 5 ■ For week ended September 3, 2022

The word “angel” comes from the Greek word *aggelos* [*ang’-el-os*], which means “messenger.” Angels are God’s messengers. Angels praise, worship, and serve God, just like we do. We are not to worship Angels. Angels are created by God, and are used by God for many different purposes—to deliver messages from God to us, guide us, protect us, minister to us, strengthen us, encourage us, deliver us, etc. There are armies of angels serving God, and doing God’s will.

KEY TEXT: *“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16).*

1. In the beginning...

- » The Bible tells us emphatically that God created all things. So, angels are spirit beings that have been created by God. It is obvious that at one time they had the freedom to choose whether to serve God or not.
- » **COLOSSIANS 1:16-17**, *“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”*

2. Here’s what the Bible says about the characteristics of angels:

A. THEY ARE CALLED “MORNING STARS” AND “SONS OF GOD.”

- » **JOB 38:4-7**, *“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?”*

B. ANGELS ARE IMMORTAL.

- » **LUKE 20:36**, *“for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.”*

C. ANGELS EAT AND THEY CAN COOK.

- » **PSALM 78:25**, *“Man did eat the bread of angels; He sent them food in abundance.”*
- » **I KINGS 19:4-6**, *“But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, “It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!” 5 Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, “Arise and eat.” 6 Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.”*

D. ANGELS ARE INNUMERABLE.

- » **HEBREWS 12:22**, *“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,”*

E. THE ONES WHO REMAINED IN HEAVEN ARE HOLY.

- » **MARK 8:38**, *“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”*

F. THEY ARE MIGHTY AND THEY OBEY THE WILL OF GOD.

- » **PSALM 103:20**, *“Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!”*

G. THEY DO NOT MARRY.

- » **MARK 12:25**, *“For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.”*
- » For all those people who think their spouse is an angel—we have ample Scriptures that say that’s not so☺!

“ANGELS WATCHIN’ OVER ME - Part 2”

LESSON 6 ■ For week ended September 10, 2022

Angels are ministering spirits of God. They may be visible or invisible. They may appear in a spectacular manner, shining in glory, dazzling light, etc; but they often also take on the appearance of men. Like us, angels were all created to be holy and to worship and serve God. There are, however, some angels that are “fallen”, rebelling against God, under Satan’s leadership. These fallen angels are often called *demons*. Satan is a fallen angel. We are encouraged to test every spirit, make sure it is from God, because not every spirit is of God.

1. **What do angels look like? Since we were created in the image of God, we can assume that angels look like we do.**

A. ANGELS APPEAR TO BE MASCULINE—THEY LOOK LIKE MEN. THE ONES WHO ARE NAMED IN THE BIBLE HAVE MASCULINE NAMES (MICHAEL, GABRIEL) AND THEY ARE REFERRED TO AS “THE SONS OF GOD.”

» **JUDGES 13:6**, *“Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, “A man of God came to me and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. And I did not ask him where he came from, nor did he tell me his name.”*

B. THE ANGELS WHO APPEARED AT THE TOMB OF JESUS.

» **MATTHEW 28:3**, *“And his appearance was like lightning....his clothing as white as snow.”*

» **LUKE 24:3-5**, *“Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, **two men stood by them in shining garments.** 5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”*

C. THERE ARE RANKS AMONG THE ANGELS.

» **JUDE 1:9**, *“**But Michael the archangel**, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”*

» The Greek word translated *archangel* actually means *chief angel*.

2. **Before the time of Creation, Satan, also an angel, led a rebellion against God. Satan and the angels that he deceived were cast out of heaven. These fallen angels are what we call “demons.”**

A. FALLEN – ISAIAH 14:12-15, *“**How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!** How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 13 **For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;** 14 **I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’** 15 **Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.”***

B. WAR – REVELATION 12:7-9, *“**And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,** 8 **but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.** 9 **So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”***

» How many angels were cast out? Revelation 12:4a, *“**His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth...**”*

C. WHAT IS GOD’S JUDGMENT OF THE FALLEN ANGELS?

» **JUDE 1:6**, *“**And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;**”*

» **MATTHEW 25:41**, *“**Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.’”***

D. THESE DEMONS WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH SATAN AGAINST MANKIND.

» **ROMANS 8:38,39**, *“**For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”+*

“ANGELS WATCHIN’ OVER ME - Part 3”

LESSON 7 ■ For week ended September 17, 2022

We’ve talked about angels for the last 2 weeks. Today we will discover what angels do for you and I.

1. HOW DO ANGELS MINISTER TO MANKIND?

- » Angels are messengers of God who are mighty on His behalf. They can guide us, help us, protect us, and give us understanding when needed.
- A. THEY ARE GOD’S MESSENGERS AND PROVIDE UNDERSTANDING.**
 - » **PSALM 104:4**, *“Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.”*
 - » **DANIEL 10:11**, *“He said to me, “O Daniel, man of high esteem, **understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you** ” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.”*
 - » **DANIEL 8:16**, *“And I heard the voice of a man between the banks of Ulai, and he called out and said, “Gabriel, give this man an understanding of the vision.”*
- B. ANGELS LOOK AFTER PEOPLE TO HELP AND MINISTER TO THEM.**
 - » **HEBREWS 1:14**, *“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?”*
 - » **MATTHEW 4:11**, *“Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.”*
- C. ANGELS HELP US AND RESCUE US.**
 - » **PSALM 34:7**, *“The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.”*
 - » **ACTS 12:7**, *“And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter’s side and woke him up, saying, “Get up quickly ” And his chains fell off his hands.”*
 - » **LUKE 22:43**, *“Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him.” (An angel ministers to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.)*
- D. ANGELS PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR GOD’S PEOPLE.**
 - » **PSALM 91:11**, *“For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways.”*
 - » **PSALM 34:6-7**, *“...the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them.”*
 - » **PSALM 91:9-12**, *“Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, 10 No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; 11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. 12 In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.”*

2. WHAT ARE THE ANGELS’ DUTIES IN THE LAST DAYS?

- A. God uses angels to pour out His judgment on mankind.**
 - » **OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLE: II KINGS 19:35**, *“Then it happened that night that the angel of the LORD went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men rose early in the morning, behold, all of them were dead.”*
 - » **NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLE: REVELATION 19:11,14**, *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war...14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.”*
- B. The angels will assist Jesus Christ at His 7th Trump return as King of kings.**
 - » **GATHER OUT SINNERS: MATTHEW 13:41**, *“The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness.”*
 - » **GATHER TOGETHER GOD’S ELECT: MATTHEW 24:31**, *“And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.”*
 - » **COME WITH JESUS: MATTHEW 25:31**, *“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.”*

“HOW TO NOT GET YOUR PRAYERS ANSWERED - Part 1”

LESSON 8 ■ For week ended September 24, 2022

We live in a world that is increasingly fast-paced. We want what we want—and we want it now! Waiting 30 seconds for the microwave to finish—in our minds—requires much patience. If we are not careful, we can transfer that same impatience to the things that we want to see God do on our behalf. Why is it taking so long for my healing to come? Why aren't my children—whom I am yet praying for—still not saved? Our impatience often leads to resentment—which can impede the answer of the very thing we are praying for!

KEY TEXT: *“Then he said, “Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer” (Daniel 10:12, NLT).*

1. One of the benefits of serving God is to know that He hears your prayers.

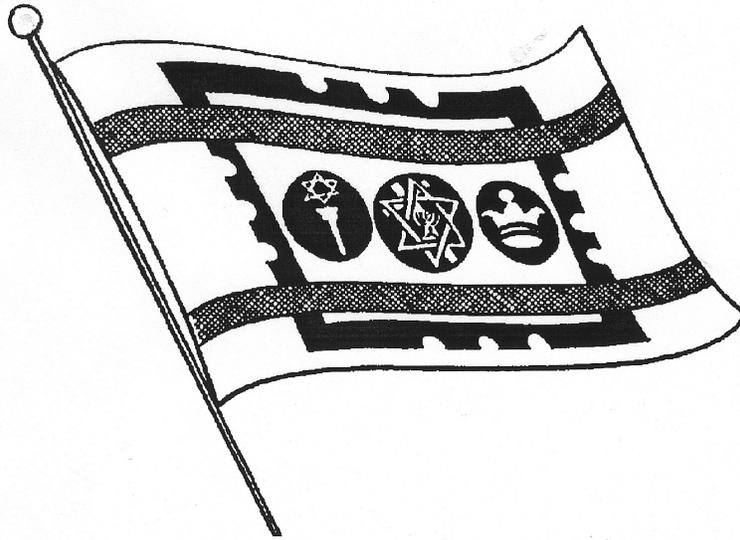
- » Read Proverbs 15:29. While God promises to hear the prayers of the righteous, this Scripture also states that He is far from the wicked.
- » While God is merciful and kind, He does not commit Himself to respond to those who are wicked.

2. Is it possible that there is something in our lives that is HINDERING our prayers?

- » While God promises to hear our prayers, there are things in our lives that can stop God from moving on our behalf. **UNFORGIVENESS** is one of them.
- » **MATTHEW 5:23-24**, *“So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, 24 leave your sacrifice there at the altar. **Go and be reconciled to that person.** Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.”*
- » **MATTHEW 6:14,15**, *“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*
- » **MARK 11:25,26**, *“And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. **But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.**”*
- » Ask yourself this question: “Is there anything in my life that is hindering God from moving on my behalf?”

3. Another thing that can stop the move of God in our lives is when we pray SELFISH prayers.

- » Remember, God knows everything. We can never, nor have we ever, fooled God with our motives or selfish desires (James 4:2,3).
- » **PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4**, *“**Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. 4 Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.**”*
- » While God promises to hear our prayers, and to provide for our daily needs, He does not promise to give us the desires of our fleshly lusts—because our flesh is never satisfied.
- » **ROMANS 8:5,6, AMP**, *“For those who are living according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh [which gratify the body], but those who are living according to the Spirit, [set their minds on] the things of the Spirit [His will and purpose]. 6 **Now the mind of the flesh is death [both now and forever—because it pursues sin]; but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace [the spiritual well-being that comes from walking with God—both now and forever].**”*



A quarterly publication of

THE CHURCH OF GOD

— Jerusalem Acres —

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