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**“Awake to a deeper sorrow for those who are without Christ. Have we relatives and neighbors without Christ? Let us feel for them, pray for them, strive to share the Gospel with them.” —J.C. Ryle**

Dear Friend,

God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, has given us the greatest gift that a person can ever receive—the gift of eternal life. We have been saved from God’s wrath, from sin and death, and from a life of hopelessness to an intimate, personal, love relationship with God, to abundant life and holiness and to the hope of an everlasting inheritance.

Therefore, it is our highest privilege to learn to share this Good News and to be used by the Holy Spirit to tell others so they, too, can receive this most precious gift. To know God loves you, to belong to God’s family, to be secure in God’s care and to have an eternal destiny is the desire of every human being.

Now, let us be diligent to study, to show ourselves approved, so that God can use our lives together to glorify our King and to do the will of our Father in heaven. “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

May God grant you the courage, perseverance and joy to run the race as we go forward together in this great adventure.

In Christ’s love, Pastor Blake

About the Author

Blake Lorenz

Blake Lorenz met Jesus Christ in a dramatic, life changing encounter in January of 1980. Through Jesus' love and forgiveness, Blake fell in love with Jesus and received his call to tell the world about Jesus and to lead people world-wide to follow Jesus Christ with all of their heart. Blake has been based in Orlando in ministry since 1984 after he graduated from Asbury Seminary.

Recently God gave Blake a new call to share with the church, Israel, and the Gentile nations that the return of Jesus Christ is imminent. After 24 years as a United Methodist pastor and evangelist, Blake retired from the Methodist Church in obedience to Jesus Who told him to separate himself and serve only Him. This led to the founding of Blake Lorenz Family Ministries and Orlando, Florida-based Encounter Church.

Blake has written many articles, tracts, and pamphlets on Jesus and His salvation. He also authored "Visits to the Gate of Heaven," and has begun a weekly television ministry to share the word that Jesus is coming and to teach how one can be ready for His return.

Blake travels as an evangelist and missionary throughout the world and preaches God's Word on the Sundays he is in Orlando at Encounter Church.

Blake leads Encounter with his wife Beverly, who is the Pastor. He has three Spirit-filled children, who share in the call of preparing the world for the return of Jesus Christ. He looks forward in sharing with you on how you can fall in love with Jesus Christ and be ready for His return.

As a former professional baseball player, Blake stays active with jogging, basketball, and golf. He continues to write and build God's kingdom through personal relationships and ministry. He believes there needs to be a new spiritual revolution in the church in a return to holiness, signs and wonders, and awakening messengers with the good news of Jesus' return. He has been married for 27 years and looks forward to the next 27 years with his wife and family.

**END TIME MESSENGERS**

 **INTRODUCTION**

**Welcome the class.**

**Have an opening prayer.**

**Explain Why we are here.** (Example)

(We have come to Love, Encourage and Train you so you can do the Will of God and fulfill His purposes. Some of you will be called to be Evangelists. ALL of us are called to be Witnesses of our faith. We hope that when you finish this course that witnessing Your Story will become a LIFESTYLE, and that you will be able to train others (Eph. 4: 11-12) to do the same. In other words, we hope to train you to be disciples who make disciples.

We will try and teach you how to share the Gospel in a way that is Holy Spirit inspired and that is natural to you. Every one of us has a story to tell of how we came to the Saving Grace and Knowledge that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. We will also train you how you can train others to share their faith so that they in turn can do the same.)

**Give a list of requirements for the course to be successful.** 1. Bring their bibles to class. (also note taking materials-pencil/paper)

 **(These may need to be supplied.)**

 2. Read and study all the assignments. (scripture/books).

 3. Memorize assigned scriptures.

 4. Be seeking prayerfully that the Holy Spirit will guide you in your study and in your witness.

 5. Be encouragers of each other.

 6. Ask questions.

 7. Practice and discuss the assignments with each other.

END TIME MESSENGERS

JESUS IS THE GREATEST EVANGELIST. HE IS OUR ROLE MODEL.

WHAT DID HE DO AS AN EVANGELIST?

PROCLAIMED THE GOOD NEWS AND TRAINED OTHERS TO EVANGELIZE.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR US TO HIS MESSENGERS?

THREE PURPOSES OF AN EVANGELIST.

\*EIGHT PRINCIPLES JESUS USED TO TRAIN HIS MESSENGERS

SELECTION

ASSOCIATION

CONSECRATION

IMPARTATION

DEMONSTRATION

DELEGATION

SUPERVISION

REPRODUCTION

• FROM DR. COLEMAN’S BOOK, “THE MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM”

THE CALL

**Read and discuss Mat. 3, Acts 2, Ez. 37** MATTHEW 3 JOHN THE

BAPTIST FORERUNNER TO ISRAEL OF THE COMING MESSIAH.

ACTS 2, PENTECOST, MANY SENT OUT TO TELL OF JESUS’ FIRST AND SECOND COMING

EZEKIEL 37, GOD IS RAISING UP AN ARMY TODAY TO TELL THE WORLD AND PREPARE THE WORLD JESUS IS COMING AGAIN

WHO AND WHAT IS AN END TIME MESSENGER?
A person called of God to prepare the way for Jesus' return.  As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus' first coming to Israel, we prepare the world for His Second Coming.

An end time messenger is anointed, empowered, filled and led by the Holy Spirit to witness that Jesus is the Messiah and His coming is imminent.

An end time messenger has a Biblical knowledge of end time prophesies and is able to share on the prophetic return of Jesus.

An end time messenger goes as the Holy Spirit directs to the church, to the nations, and to Israel.

The message is to call people to repent and believe in Jesus, to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to take up one's cross, deny self, and follow Jesus.  Jesus is coming again.  Are you ready?  Are you living to fulfill His purposes in this age for the age to come?  Has He called you to be one of His messengers?

An end time messenger is to raise up and train other messengers in order to train others to carry the message of Jesus' return.

God is raising up a mighty end time army as His vision in Ezekiel 37 illustrates, not just for Israel, but all who have been grafted into Israel.  This spiritual army is spread across the world and are the heralds of Jesus and His Advent that is soon to come.

All are called to be witnesses for Jesus.  Some are evangelists.  Others are teachers, prophets, pastors, prayer warriors, worshipers... This end time army is multiplying and is a fulfillment of end time prophesy.  Are you ready to join this end time army for Jesus?

**“The Message: The return of Jesus Christ is Imminent”**

**Explain the meaning of IMMINENT and why we should live with a sense of urgency.**

MEANING OF IMMINENT- SOMETIME SOON, NOT IMMEDIATELY, TRAIN IS DELAYED BUT YOU KNOW IT IS COMING

SENSE OF URGENCY

PREPARE THE WORLD

**We are God’s messengers to a lost world.**

**We can give them the Good News of Jesus Christ!**

**“Repent and Believe”**

**Explain what must happen to prepare people for the return of Jesus.**

**Be baptized in the Holy Spirit.**

**Deny self, Take up your cross and follow Jesus.**

**Go to the church, Israel, and to the nations.**

**“The Story”**

**Tell the class what The Spirit is doing through you and/or others (such as Pastor Blake) to spread this message, raising up End Time Messengers in your nation and/or around the world.**

**“The Return of Jesus is Imminent”**

**Read Rev. 22: 7, 12, 20**

**Describe the difference between “Immediate” and “Imminent”.**

**Refer to the scriptures listed as you explain how we KNOW that Jesus is coming back.**

REVELATION 22:7, 12, 20

READ THE SCRIPTURE

NOT IMMEDIATE, BUT DEMANDS WATCHFULNESS, SENSE OF URGENCY

JESUS SAYS HE IS COOMING

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL ICOR. 15:20-28

JESUS TESTIFIED MAT. 16:27, 24:29-31, 25:31-32, JOHN 14:2-3

ANGELS TESTIFIED ACTS 1:10-11

APOSTLES TESTIFIED PHIL. 3:20-21, TITUS 2:13, HEB. 9:28, JAMES 5:7, 2PETER 1:16, JUDE 14, 15, IJOHN 2:28, REV. 1:7

GOD WANTS US TO KNOW ITHYE. 4:13

CANNOT KNOW THE EXACT TIME, BUT WE CAN KNOW THE SEASON- MARK 13:32, ACTS 1:7, MAT. 24 AND 25

JESUS WILL RETURN BODILY AND VISIBLY ACTS 1:11, REV. 1:7, 19:11FF

MOST WILL NOT BE READY- MAT. 24:42-44, REV. 16;15, ITHES. 5:1-4

THE GATHERING UP WHEN HE COMES- ITHES. 4:15-17, ICOR. 15: 51-57

MAIN TEACHING OF THE EARLY CHURCH

3 TIMES MORE IN BIBLE THAN HIS FIRST COMING

MAT. 24 AND 25 URGENCY, BE READY, BE WATCHFUL, SHARE THE MESSAGE. IN THESE CHAPTERS JESUS SHARES 6 PARABLES ON HOW

WE SHOULD LIVE

1. WITH REVELATION KNOWLEDGE AS TO THE SEASON WE LIVE
2. 2. CALL TO HOLINESS, SET A PART FOR THE PURPOSES OF GOD, NOT BE CAUGHT UP IN THE CARES OF THIS WORLD
3. BE A FAITHFUL AND OBEDIENT SERVANT
4. KNOW JESUS INTIMATELY, LOVE HIM AND KNOW HIM
5. USE ALL OF OUR RESOURCES TO BUILD HIS KINGDOM
6. BE AN ACTIVE WITNESS

**“Repent”**

**Read Mark 1: 15**

**Explain the meaning of sin and the importance of repentance. (We all have sinned.)**

**Refer to the scriptures listed in the workbook.** MARK 1:15

TURN AROUND FORM LIVING FOR SELF, MY WAY AND TURN TO FOLLOW JESUS AND HIS WAY

CHANGES ONE’S MIND AND ACTIONS

CONFESS ONE’S SINS, ASK FORGIVENESS HAVE GODLY SORROW 2COR. 7:10

YIELD TO GOD, LIVE FOR GOD, NO MORE REBELLION

PROBLEM OF SIN ROMANS 3:23

PENALTY FOR SIN ROMANS 6:23, DEATH

ONLY SOLUTION IS JESUS AND HIS SHED BLOOD

JESUS’ BLOOD

JOHN 1:29

HEB. 9:22

Lev. 17:11

BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

John 20:30-31

3 ASPECTS OF FAITH, TO BELIEVE

1. I BELIEVE IN GOD’S REVELATION TRUTH
2. I HAVE A FIRM CONVICTION OF HIS TRUTH THAT LEADS ME TO SURRENDER MY LIFE TO JESUS
3. 3.I HAVE A LIFESTYLE THAT LIVES BY FAITH

WHO IS JESUS- FULLY GOD AND MAN JOHN 1:1,14

WHAT DID HE DO- ICOR. 15, ROMANS 5, GAL. 3:13, HEB. 4:15

LIVED A SINLESS LIFE, DIED ON THE CROSS, ROSE FROM THE DEAD, AND IS COMING AGAIN.

TO TRUST IN JESUS LEADS TO ETERNAL LIFE JOHN 3:16, 17:3

WE NEED HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION JOHN 16:8

BELIEVE AND CONFESS ROMANS 10:9,10

ABIDE IN HIM JOHN 15

THE CERTAINTY OF SALVATION

ROMANS 5:1-11, 8:14-17**“The Certainty of Salvation”**

**Read Rom. 5: 1-11, 8: 14-17**

**Explain the IMPORTANCE of our intimacy with Christ, our witness of the Holy Spirit, and knowing that our Salvation is REAL.**

**(VERY IMPORTANT) This is a good time to repeat the Gospel and make sure that everyone knows if they were to die today they would go to heaven. Ask them, and if they do not KNOW, lead them into the CERTAINTY of their Salvation.**

THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING WHO I AM IN CHRIST, IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. GOD DEFINES WHO I AM IN CHRIST.

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ROMANS 8:12-17 GOD’S SPIRIT IN ME TELLS ME I AM A CHILD OF GOD

GOD’S WORD CONFIRMS THAT IF I BELIEVE IN JESUS I HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, NO DOUBT, IF I WERE TO DIE I GO TO HEAVEN –ROMANS 8-13, JOHN 10:1-5

THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO REPEAT THE GOSPEL AND MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE KNOWS IF THEY WERE TO DIE TODAY THEY WOULD GO TO HEAVEN. ASK THEM AND IF THEY DO NOT KNOW, LEAD THEM INTO THE CERTAINTY OF THEIR SALVATION

.

BE BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

JOHN 1:33-34, ACTS 1 AND 2 USE ILLUSTRATIONS TO DEMONSTRATE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT LIKE PUSHING THE CAR UPHILL, INSTAED TURN THE POWER ON, OR THE BOTTLE WITH THE CAP AND PITCHER OF WATER.

JESUS CAME TO BAPTIZE US WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT JOHN 1:33

JESUS WAS BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT LUKE 3:21-22, 4:1,14, 18, 19.

THE APOSTLES WERE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT ACTS 1:5, 2:1-39, 1:7-8.

THE EARLY BELIEVERS WERE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT ACTS 2:38, 4:31, 6:5, 10:44…19:2.

FOR ALL BELIEVERS TODAY EPH. 3:16-19, 1:17-23, 5:18.

HOW TO BE FILLED

LOVE JESUS, BORN AGAIN, YIELDED TOTALLY TO GOD, BELIEVE, ASK, RECEIVE, OBEY

OBSTACLES: FEAR, IGNORANCE, UNBELIEF, ACTIVE SIN AND DISOBEDIENCE

GOOD TIME TO PRAY FOR TO BE BAPTIZED IN THE SPIRIT

DENY SELF, TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, FOLLOW JESUS

MARK 8:34-38

THIS IS BIBLICAL SANCTIFICATION, LIVING A HOLY LIFE AFTER JESUS, A SERMON ON THE MOUNT LIFESTYLE.

BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS- HEB. 9 AND 10.

DEALS WITH OUR NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT- ROMANS 8, ICOR. 6:11.

EXPRESSES OUR LOVE FOR JESUS, OUR WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE, TO SAY NO TO THE DESIRES OF THE OLD LIFE AND THE WORLD- COL. 3:5-17, EPH. 4:17-24

SAY YES TO THE NEW LIFE AND PUT ON CHRIST

DIE TO SELF DAILY- ICOR. 15:31, GAL. 2;20.

FOR EXAMPLE LOVE OUR ENEMIES

TAKE UP OUR CROSS, LIVE SACRIFICIALLY FOR JESUS, OBEY OUT OF LOVE

LIVE OUT THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – MAT. 5-7.

LIVE WITH URGENCY

Read MATTHEW 24:32-25:46

6 PARABLES THAT TEACH HOW WE SHOULD IN THESE LAST DAYS BEFORE JESUS RETURNS. Discuss these parables. Explain how we can live with urgency. For example, we need revelation knowledge…

SEE NOTES ON PAGE 2.

NEED REVELATION KNOWLEDGE, BE WATCHFUL, BE FAITHFUL, BE INTIMATE WITH GOD, BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR MY LIFESTYLE, BE AN ACTIVE WITNESS

PEOPLE ARE NOT READY. THE TIME IS SHORT.

RING THE BELL

LEARN GOD’S WORD

EPHESIANS 6:17

STUDY, MEDITATE, USE SCRIPTURE IN THE REVELATION POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, JOSHUS 1.

BE DOERS OF THE WORD JAMES 1:22, MAT. 7:21-28

READ THROUGH THE ENTIRE BIBLE EVERY YEAR

LEARN TO USE SCRIPTURE AS DID JESUS- LUKE 4:1-13

HOSEA THE PROPHET- PURSUE THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

KNOWLEDGE LEADS TO FAITH, TO THE RELEASE OF GODLINESS AND BLESSINGS. FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE COME FROM THE SPIRIT AND THE WORD- EPH. 6:17, ROMANS 10:17

BE GOD’S MESSENGER

ACTS 1;8, 4:31 GOD’S CALL TO US

Acts 2:17-21 DREAMS AND VISIONS FROM GOD ARE FOR US TODAY

GO, THAT LITTLE WORD IN THE BIBLE IS FULL OF MEANING AND USED OFTEN. SEE MATTHEW 28:19,20

GO TO THE CHURCH, ISRAEL, AND THE NATIONS. GO WHERE HE SENDS YOU.

ASK FOR GOD TO USE YOU.

RECEIVE GOPD’S ANOINTING

PRAY FOR DOORS TO BE OPENED.

JESUS IS COMING SOON.

GREAT MEN DO NOT CHANGE THE WORLD OR ETERNITY. HUMBLE MEN IN THE HANDS OF A GREAT GOD CHANGE PEOPLE’S DESTINY.

**What Does It Mean To Be An Evangelist?**

**1.** To be called of God to share the good news of Jesus Christ. John 17:1-19

**2.** To love and follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Mark 8:29

**3.** To be gifted by Jesus Christ to be an evangelist. Eph. 4:7-11

**4.** To learn the Scriptures and to be trained to share the Good News. 2 Tim. 2:15 2 Tim. 3: 16,17

**5.** To be empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness that Jesus is the Messiah. Acts 1:8 Acts 2:1-4

**6.** To preach God’s gift of salvation through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Acts 2:14-41

 Rom. 10: 14-17

**7.** To train and teach others to evangelize and build up the body of Christ. Eph. 4:11-16

**8.** To follow Jesus’ voice, John 10:16,

 In the leading of the Holy Spirit, Acts 16:6-10

 In order to bring the lost to salvation. Luke 15:1-7

**9.** To seek God daily in intimacy and love, Mark 8:34-38

**10.** To love one’s neighbor as oneself. Mat. 22:37-39

**ONE**

**What Is Evangelism?**

THE GIFT OF EVANGELISM: Ephesians 4:11

LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM:

 1. Passion for Jesus Philippians 3:8

 2. Holy Spirit Acts 1:8

 3. Prayer Matthew 9:37,38; John 17

 4. Alive Church Acts 2

HOW THE GOOD NEWS IS SHARED:

1. Public Forum
2. Confrontational
3. Relational

WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS?

 I. God Loves Us John 3:16

 II. God Expressed His Love

 1. God became a man John 1:1, 14; Colossians. 2:9

 2. Jesus reveals God to us John 1:18

 3. Jesus died on the Cross Galatians. 3:13

 a. All are sinners Romans 3:23

 b. The penalty for sin Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1,2; Col. 2:13

 c. Purchased eternal for us: Romans 6:23, Gal. 3:14; Col. 2:13-15

 4. Jesus rose from the dead: John 20; 1 Corinthians. 15:3, 4, 20

III. Eternal life Offered to All People: 2 Peter 3:9

 1. Free gift: Ephesians 2:8, 9; Romans 6:23

 2. Received by faith: Ephesians 2:8, 9; Acts 16:30, 31; John 3:16

 a. Involves repentance: Acts 2:38

 b. Involves trust Acts 2:38

 3. Assurance of eternal life: John 3:16; Rev. 3:20; John 6:40; John 3:36

 IV. Discipleship: Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 2:42-47;

 2 Timothy. 2:1, 2; Colossians 2:6,7

**“I’m so glad that young men like Billy Graham ... are on the job, night and day, preaching God’s blessed Word and giving out the invitation to come and accept Him. And I’m glad that God has let me do a little part here and there.” —Helen Sunday**

**The Good News**

The Basic Gospel

Explain the five things that we need to know to be able to easily explain to others the lifesaving Gospel of Jesus Christ. Use the outline and Scriptures listed.

MEMORIZE THE FOLLOWING

**Jesus Christ:**

Who He is John 1:1, 14

 What He did 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

 Grace

**Repentance:**

Sin Romans 3:23

 Penalty for sin Romans 6:23

 Repentance Matthew 4:17, Acts 20:21, 26:20, 2:38

 Forgiveness Colossians 1:14

**Faith:**

 Trust, firm conviction Acts 16:30, 31

 Response to the Holy Spirit Ephesians 2:8-9

 Saving faith

 1.

 2.

 3.

**Eternal Life:**

 A relationship John 17:3

 John 3:16

 1 John 5:11-13

**Discipleship**

The Great Commission Matthew 28:18-20

**“Those who stand by the cross are those who change the course of history.”
— Billy and Ruth Graham**

 **TWO**

**My Testimony**

**Always ask permission.**

**BEFORE:**

What was your life like before you received Jesus as Lord and Savior?

Describe this in general terms.

Spare the gory details (don’t get side-tracked).

Try to identify with the person.

**WHEN:**

Describe what happened when you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

Share your certainty: Died on the cross!

 Rose from the dead!

 Rules over all creation!

**AFTER:**

Describe the change in your life since Jesus became your Lord and Savior.

Best news you have ever shared!

Try to identify with the person

**My Testimony**

**Template**

**Always ask permission.**

**BEFORE:**

**WHEN:**

**AFTER:**

**My Testimony**

**Example**

“When the Game Ends”

by Blake Lorenz

Storming into my room like a raging bull, I saw the baseball bat in the corner and contemplated smashing everything in sight. How could I, the most-winning pitcher in Division II as a sophomore, be sitting on the bench as a senior? Never mind my sore arm! Never mind that I had asked to be moved to the outfield! I was too good to be picking splinters from my pants.

As I reached for the bat, the door opened and my roommate appeared, asking me why I was shouting. I told him I was being robbed of my professional baseball career. My lifelong dream, baseball, what I had sweated hundreds of hours for, what I had given my life to, was slipping away from me. And I was powerless to change it.

The world had always seemed to be in the palm of my hands. I was an excellent athlete, a good student; I had a loving family, plenty of friends and fun. I was earmarked for success, leadership and security. Yet, now my life, like a battered old baseball, was falling apart at the seams.

Looking back, I can see that God was making a dent in my turtle-like shell of pride. He began dealing with me when my former roommate, John Castino, who had signed the previous year with the Minnesota Twins, came to Rollins College for spring training. Having attended a meeting of Christian athletes, John was searching for the truth of who Jesus Christ was. He asked me who I thought Jesus was, and I could give no answer.

Soon afterward, the movie “Jesus of Nazareth” appeared on television. The life of Jesus captivated me; either Jesus was God, or else everything written in the Bible and portrayed about Him was a lie. No mere man could work the miracles Jesus did or live a life of such love. Certainly, God had planted His seed within me.

One morning I went to St. Margaret Mary’s church. I wanted to talk with God. But sitting alone, staring at the inside of the church, I knew I was lost. After mumbling a few words, I left feeling no different. I began reading the Bible and asking myself more questions, embarrassed to ask others or share my thirst with them.

After graduation, I had no idea what to do or where to go. I sat at home hoping for a miracle. Finally, it came; the Chicago Cubs signed me to play for their minor league team in Bradenton, Florida.

That summer of 1977 I had a fantastic season, leading the team in batting average, runs-batted-in and runs scored. Defensively, I played well, making some great catches in the outfield, although my arm was still a handicap.

During these successful times, it was easy to believe in God. I talked to Him while I played the outfield, thanking Him for my hits and my chance to play. I even went to church on Sunday nights, believing I was a Christian. Most of the players thought of me as one. In fact, when the Cubs asked us to fill out a questionnaire, one of their concerns was, “What would you do if you could no long play baseball?” I answered, “Be a minister.”

But when the season ended, I returned to Winter Park, Florida, stopped attending church, and soon forgot God. Instead, I basked in the glory of my achievements, soaking up praise from my friends, again confident I would play in the Major Leagues.

The next spring, I was in top shape upon arriving at training camp in Scottsdale, Arizona. I expected a good season. However, my bubble burst within two weeks when, to my disbelief, the Cubs released me. Again, my career had ended.

I tried to fight my disappointment by doing something new—backpacking in California. For a month, I walked beaches, hiked mountain trails and marveled at the sights, realizing that, compared to the majesty of nature, my troubles were insignificant.

There had to be more to life than mere physical existence. God became real. I sensed His Spirit. But Jesus was not yet God to me. He was only a great prophet. I could not accept God as a personal Being.

After my trip, John Castino, who had now given his life to Christ, interested me in helping lead the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Rollins College. God’s grace was still driving me along toward the truth, but I kept my foot on the brake, wanting to run my own life. How ironic that I was meeting with athletes, trying to lead them closer to God! Yet, I had never prayed aloud. I didn’t even know who Jesus was.

During this time I met a girl. She idolized me. She fed my ego and I ate up her adulation, like a star performer begging for more applause. Soon we were engaged.

But not long afterward, we both began to doubt. We both realized that marriage was not for us. Even still, I wanted to date her, but she wanted to stop seeing me. How could she not want me? I worked hard to win her admiration, but to no avail. Now I had a problem that hard work and perseverance could not solve. Oh, my pride fought. Fierce competitors must win, but I was losing. Finally, my pride broke.

On a Saturday night in January 1980, I lay sleepless in bed, feeling as though a knife had pierced my heart and was twisting and digging deeper and deeper. After giving my utmost to be a winner in life, I had lost. Not wanting to run my life any longer, I cried out to Jesus, “Take my life and do with it as you will.”

The instant I thought these words, my surroundings seemed to fall away. Jesus Christ came to me in that room as real as anyone I ever met or touched. I did not see Him physically, but the same Jesus, crucified nearly 2,000 years ago at Calvary, was there. He enveloped me in what I can only describe as a cloud of love, complete, perfect love. All my pain and anguish disappeared. At that moment, I knew He was the Christ, the Son of God. My purpose was to love and serve Him.

But I told Jesus that night that I could serve and love Him only if He would completely heal my mind and my overemphasis on winning. In that instant, He reached into my mind with what seemed like a beam of light, and He healed me.

Finally sleep came. When I awoke the next morning, I was a changed person. I knew I was different inside. Now I was a child of God.

God led me to a United Methodist Church where I vividly remember the singing of the choir, the preaching of John Brackman, and the love of God shown through His people. Many times, I had to hide my tears of humility and thanksgiving that I, a lost and proud sinner, had been saved by God’s grace in Jesus Christ.

Through the people at Aloma United Methodist, I began to learn about Jesus and to grow in my relationship with Him. God began removing my sinful habits. His fire burns, but it also purges. A year and a half later, I married Beverly Brackman, the beautiful daughter of Reverend Brackman. In 1983 I found myself in seminary seeking to love and serve Jesus Christ, my Lord and God.

I had tried to create my own world through baseball and self interests, but God led me from this darkness. He created a new world for me, one of love and service, calling me to tell others of His promise: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

*“When you come to Christ, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your heart. Something new is added to your life supernaturally. You are transformed by the renewing of your mind. A new power, a new dimension, a new ability to love, a new joy, a new peace—the Holy Spirit comes in and lives the Christian life through you.”*

*–Billy Graham*

**“My one ambition in life is to win as many as possible. Oh, it is the only thing worth doing, to save souls; and men and women, we can do it.” — R.A. Torrey**

 **FOUR**

**Outreach:
How to Reach Those Who Are Not Yet Christians**

**Reaching the unchurched:**

 Love for Jesus.

 Love for neighbor.

**Willow Creek Church’s “Unchurched Harry”:**

 1. Build a relationship with “unchurched Harry.”

 2. Share gospel and begin conversations.

 3. Bring Harry to church.

 4. Bring Harry to mid-week believers’ service (Bible study).

 5. Harry joins a small group.

 6. Harry discovers his gift, his passion and gets involved in ministry.

 7. Harry is encouraged to build relationship with an “unchurched Harry.”

**Goal: One unchurched family a year.**

**Creative outreaches**

**What do I want to happen in their lives?**

**How can I best reach them?**

**“I count it the highest honor God can confer on any man to call him to be a herald of the Gospel.” —David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

**FOUR**

**Discipleship**

Matthew 28:18-20

 Make Disciples: *Go*
 *Evangelize*
 *Train*

Acts 2

John 1:29-51
 1. Born Again
 2. Baptized in the Holy Spirit
 3. Make Disciples

2 Timothy 2:1-7

Training

Cost

Multiplying

Small Group

Rewards

Holy Spirit Empowered
 Acts 2:4
 Acts 4:29-31

**“Maybe you can’t sing like an angel. Maybe you can’t preach like Paul. But you can tell somebody about Jesus. You can tell them that He died for all.” —Mother York**

APPLICATION

Let’s do it!

Pray

Build Relationships

Practice

Recruit Others

Goal: One unchurched family per year.

1. Qualifications for Discipleship
	1. Hunger for God
	2. Available
	3. Faithful
	4. Teachable
2. Three Parts Jesus Seeks to do in Every Life
	1. Lamb of God
	2. Baptism of Holy Spirit
	3. Following Jesus

**“It is to be seriously questioned whether an evangelistic campaign is worthwhile if the meetings are not to be followed up with more persistent work, more faithful prayer, and waiting upon God than preceded the meetings.” —William Biederwolf**

**FIVE**

**The Holy Spirit**

*THE HOLY SPIRIT:*
*The unseen presence of God in the world*
*He is a Person*
*He is equal to the Father and the Son*

**I. His Divine Attributes**

A. The Holy Spirit as Divine:
1. Acts 5:3,4 Equated with God
2. 2 Corinthians – Matthew 18:19 Linked with the Father and the Son implying that He is equal

B. Divine Attributes:
1. Eternal – Hebrews 9:14
2. Omnipresence – Psalm 139:7-13
3. Omnipotent – Romans 15:19, Luke 1:35
4. Omniscience – I Corinthians 2:10
5. Part in Creation – Job 33:4
6. Divine anthem of scripture – II Peter 1:21
7. Part in man’s redemption – Hebrews 9:14

C. Titles of Holy Spirit — more than 30
Spirit of God
Breath of the Almighty
Spirit of Life – Romans 8:2
Spirit of Wisdom
Spirit of Understanding
Spirit of Counsel
Spirit of Might
Spirit of Knowledge – Isaiah 11:2
Spirit of Truth – John 14:7
Spirit of Holiness – Romans 1:4

**II. His Distinct Personality in the Godhead**

A. Directing God’s servants where, when and what to do or to preach
Acts 8:29, 10:19, 16:6, 7:1, I Cor 2:13

B. Choosing and commissioning workers for Christ’s service
Acts 13:2, 20

C. Teaching the church the truth of Christ
John 14:26, I Corinthians 12

D. Testifying to the Son and magnifying His glory
John 15:26, 16:14

E. Reproving sinners and convicting them of their guilt
John 16:8

F. Communicating the truths of Scripture to men
Acts 1:16, II Peter 1:21, I Peter 1:11,12

G. His attributes as a Person
 1. Mind – Romans 8:27
 2. Will – I Corinthians 12:11
 3. Feeling – Ephesians 4:30

H. Engages in activities such as:
 1. Teaching – John 14:26
 2. Witnessing – Hebrews 10:15
 3. Interceding – Romans 8:26
 4. Speaking – Revelation 2:7
 5. Commanding – Acts 16:6,7
 6. Testifying – John 15:26

I. Has a relationship with human person:
 1. Can be grieved – Ephesians 4:30
 2. Lied to – Acts 5:3
 3. Blasphemed – Matthew 12:31,32

J. Possesses the divine attributes of God:
 1. Eternal – Hebrews 9:14
 2. Omnipresent – Psalm 130:7-10
 3. Omnipotent – Luke 1:35
 4. Omniscience – I Corinthians 2:16

K. Illustrated with symbols such as:
 1. Fire – Acts 2:1,2
 2. Wind – Acts 2:1,2
 3. Water – John 7:37-39
 4. Seal – Ephesians 2:13
 5. Oil – Acts 10:30
 6. Dove – John 1:32

**III. His Operation in Connection with the Lord Jesus in His Birth, Life, Baptism, Death**

**IV. His Operation in the World, in the Church, in the Individual Believer, in Local Churches**

A. The ministry of the Holy Spirit:
 Parakletos – John 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7
 Translated counselor, comforter
 (As a verb) to encourage, exhort, comfort
 (As a noun) one who is called to intercede in behalf of; to help
 (1 John 2:1 used for Christ as advocate)

B. Origin and Mission
 1. He is the Holy Spirit – John 14:26
 2. The Spirit of Truth – John 14:16, 15:26, 16:13
 3. Another Counselor – John 14:16
 4. Takes Jesus place with the disciples – John 16:7
 5. Who the world cannot receive – John 14:17

1. He proceeds from the Father – John 15:26
 1. Sent by the Father at Jesus’ request – John 14:16
 2. Sent in Jesus’ name – John 14:16
 3. Jesus Himself sends the Holy Spirit from the Father – John 15:16, 16:7

D. His ministry as teacher will be:
 1. To remain with and in the disciples forever – John 14:16,17
 2. To teach them all things – John 14:26
 3. To lead them into all truth – John 16:13
 4. To speak, not on His own authority, but as directed by Jesus – John 16:13-15
 5. He will bear witness to Jesus – John 15:16
 6. He will glorify Him – John 16:14
 7. He will remind the disciples of what Jesus taught – John 14:26
 8. To announce future things to the disciples – John 15

E. His ministry to the world will be that of convincing it of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment – John 16:8-11

F. Sealing of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13):
 1. Believers are saved by Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit
 2. Christ Himself was sealed as Messiah by God the Father – John 6:27
 3. The seal of the Holy Spirit consists of the indwelling Holy Spirit Himself
 4. This guarantee is for the day of redemption
 5. Sealing implies:
 a. An ownership or title to the believer which is nested in God – II Timothy 2:29
 b. The certainty of final salvation or redemption – Ephesians 4:30

G. Grieving the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30):
 1. To grieve the Holy Spirit is to go counter to the will of the third person of the Trinity who dwells within us.
 2. Since the Holy Spirit is holy, loving, true and peaceable, sins of unholiness, lack of love, untruthfulness, and harshness grieve Him and interrupt fellowship with God
 3. To grieve the Holy Spirit disturbs communion with Christ and results in the loss of the Spirit’s fullness and power
 4. Elsewhere we are commanded:
 a. Do not quench the Spirit – I Thess 5:19
 b. Hebrews 10:29 says some have outraged the Spirit of Grace

**V. His Operation in the Production of the Holy Scriptures**

**VI. Encounters with the Holy Spirit in the New Testament**

1. Luke 1:15 John the Baptist to be filled with the Holy Spirit
2. Luke 1:35 Mary’s conception of Jesus
3. Luke 1:41 Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit in meeting Mary
4. Luke 1:67 Zechariah filled with the Holy Spirit prophesies in song
5. Luke 2:25-35 Simeon the Holy Spirit was upon him, prophesies
6. Luke 3:16 Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit with fire
7. Luke 3:22 Jesus has the Holy Spirit descend upon Him
8. Luke 4:1 Jesus full of the Holy Spirit led into the deser
9. Luke 4:14,18 Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit and was anointed
10. Luke 11:13 God will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask
11. John 20:22 Receive ye the Holy Spirit; Jesus breathes upon the disciples
12. Acts 2:4 Pentecost, the Holy Spirit fills the disciples
13. Acts 4:8 Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit defends the faith
14. Acts 4:31 Believers were all filled with the Holy Spirit to boldly proclaim Jesus
15. Acts 6:3 Leaders selected based on evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit
16. Acts 7:55 Stephen full of the Holy Spirit stoned to death
17. Acts 8 Believers at Samaria receive the Holy Spirit
18. Acts 9 Saul is filled with the Holy Spirit
19. Acts 10 God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit
20. Acts 10 The Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
21. Acts 11 Peter’s account of the Gentiles baptized with the Holy Spirit
22. Acts 13:2 The Holy Spirit says set apart Saul and Barnabus
23. Acts 13 Saul is filled with the Holy Spirit on Cypress
24. Acts 13 Disciples filled with the Holy Spirit
25. Acts 15:28 The Holy Spirit gives advice for Gentile believers
26. Acts 16:6 The Holy Spirit forbids Paul to speak in Asia
27. Acts 19 Ephesians receive the Holy Spirit
28. Acts 20:23 The Holy Spirit testifies to Paul of what awaits him
29. Acts 20:28 The Holy Spirit makes men overseers of the church

**The Holy Spirit
Acts 1:3-8**

The Holy Spirit is the Person by which assistance and ability are given for *serving*, for *sharing* the life and *power* of God’s kingdom with others.

The Holy Spirit’s power must be *received*; it is not an automatic experience.

When the Holy Spirit fills you, you will *know* it.

**Spirit Filled**

Both the public ministry of Jesus and the public ministry of the church in Acts began with a life-changing encounter with the Spirit.

The power of the Spirit in Jesus’ life authorized Him to preach the Kingdom of God and to demonstrate Kingdom power by healing the sick, casting out demons, and setting the captives free. Luke 4:14-19, Matthew 4:23

The same Spirit power in Acts 2 gave the same authority to the disciples. Jesus is the prototype of the Spirit-filled, Spirit-empowered life. Acts 10:38

The Book of Acts is the story of the disciples receiving what Jesus received in order to do what Jesus did.

In Acts, Luke is more interested in conveying a relational dynamic than in delineating a precisely worded theology. (Receiving Kingdom power.)

People were:

1. Filled with the Holy Spirit – Acts 2:4, 9:17
2. Received the Holy Spirit – Acts 8:17
3. The Holy Spirit fell upon them – Acts 10:46
4. The Holy Spirit had poured out on them – Acts 10:45
5. The Holy Spirit came upon them – Acts 19:6

 These are essential equivalents of Jesus’ promise that the church would be baptized with the Holy Spirit – Acts 1:5

Three of the five instances special manifestations are recorded:

1. Day of Pentecost
2. At Cornelius’ house, spoke with tongues
3. The Ephesians spoke with other tongues and prophesied – Acts 19:6

**Being Filled With the Spirit**

All believers are sealed by the Holy Spirit when they are regenerated (Ephesians 1:13,14); however, not all believers are filled with the Spirit, but some remain in a carnal state leading a defeated life (1 Corinthians 3:1). (A permanent carnal state is evidence of an unsaved condition according to Romans 8:6)

The goal and ideal of the Christian life is always to be filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

This may be attained by:

1. Being cleansed from all known sin – a prerequisite to being Spirit filled (1 John 1:7-9, 2 Cor 7:1)
2. Surrendering or yielding of self to the full control of God without any reservation (Romans 12:1, 6:13)
3. Believing that God will fill with His Spirit those who confess their sins and surrender themselves to Him (Romans 4:20-22)
4. Embracing by faith the fact that they have already been filled by the Spirit and conducting themselves accordingly when these prior conditions have been met. Sin alone can destroy this kind of life in the Spirit

Blaspheming the Spirit is the unpardonable sin (Matthew 12:31, 32; Luke 12:10).

To commit this sin one must consciously, persistently, deliberately, and maliciously reject the testimony of the Spirit to the Deity and saving power of the Lord Jesus. Since only the Holy Spirit can convince and convert the unsaved, a continuous and final rejection of His wooing and His witness shuts off the only possible avenue whereby the saving work of Christ is applied to the sinner in his need.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit – the sense of God’s presence in the believer (Psalm 51:11)

**Exploring Our Christian Faith**

Power for personal living — Colossians 1:10-12

Power for positive witness — John 3:11, 15:26-27, Acts 1

Power in prayer — Romans 8:26

Power of single-hearted devotion to Christ — Acts 1:8

Power of Christian service — 2 Timothy 1:7

Regeneration — Titus 3:5

Born of God — John 1:13, 1 John 3:9, 4:7, 5:1

Born again — John 3:3, 5:7; 1 Peter 1:23

Born of the Spirit — John 3:5-6

Quickened — Ephesians 2:1, 5; Col 2:13

Passed from death unto life — John 5:24, 1 John 3:14

**The Power of the Holy Sprit
in Order to Witness**

Acts 1:4 The promise of the Father

Acts 1:8 Receive power to be Jesus’ witness

Acts 2 Pentecost

Acts 4 Power to speak the Word of God with boldness

Acts 6 The witness of Stephen

Acts 8 Believers in Samaria receive the Holy Spirit

Acts 9 Paul is filled with the Holy Spirit

Acts 10 Gentiles receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

Acts 19 Believers in Ephesus receive the Holy Spirit

**Receiving Power to Witness**

1. Faith in Jesus Christ.
2. Whole heart desire to live for Jesus, to tell others about Jesus.
3. Pray, seek, ask to be filled.
4. Believe you shall be empowered.
5. Receive the fullness of God’s Spirit.
6. Act upon the truth of God.
7. **The Importance of Evangelism**
	1. The Right Keys to a Healthy Body
		1. One Key is Evangelism
		2. What Evangelism is:
			1. Sharing the Good News
			2. It is a choice
			3. Three types of Evangelism
		3. Misconceptions of Evangelism
	2. The Keys within Evangelism
		1. Motivation
		2. Spiritual Empowerment
		3. Physical Implementation
8. **Evangelism**
	1. Motivation
		1. Love for Jesus
			1. Set free in Christ
			2. Convinced and committed
		2. Following His command
			1. Make disciples
			2. Believe in His command
		3. Love for neighbor
			1. Heaven or hell
			2. Desire for best
		4. Level of motivation
	2. Spiritual Empowerment
		1. The Holy Spirit
			1. Acts 1:8 - power to be witnesses
			2. Our need for Holy Spirit’s power
			3. Authority and power, not fear
		2. Prayer
		3. The Word
		4. An alive church
	3. Physical implementation
		1. Lifestyle evangelism
			1. Personal
			2. Church
			3. Core of people
		2. Ministry programs
		3. Ongoing evangelism
			1. Before they drive up
			2. When they drive up
			3. When they leave
			4. When they return
9. **A Passion for Jesus**
	1. The vision
	2. God’s anointing for those who are in love with Jesus

**WEEKLY CHECKLIST**

**Week #1 — Learn the Basic Gospel Message Memorized Scripture Verses**

❏ Memorize section about Jesus and Repentance ❏ John 1:1, 14

❏ Secure two prayer partners ❏ 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

❏ Begin praying for opportunities to share Jesus

**Week #2 — Learn to Share Your Personal Testimony**

❏ Learn to share your personal testimony ❏ Romans 3:23; 6:23

❏ Memorize section about Faith and Eternal Life ❏ Matthew 4:17

❏ Pray with prayer partners ❏ Colossians 1:14

❏ Continue praying for opportunities to share your testimony

**Week #3 — Learn How to Teach Those Who Are Not Yet Believers**

❏ Practice reciting the Gospel message from memory ❏ Acts 16:30, 31

❏ Practice sharing your testimony with someone in person ❏ Ephesians 2:8, 9

❏ Pray to build a relationship with an unbeliever

❏ Pray with prayer partners

❏ Continue praying for opportunities to share Jesus

**Week #4 — Learn About Discipleship**

❏ Practice reciting the Gospel message from memory ❏ John 3:16

❏ Practice sharing your testimony with someone in person ❏ John 17:3

❏ Pray to build a relationship with an unbeliever ❏ 1 John 5:11-13

❏ Pray with prayer partners

❏ Continue praying for opportunities to share your Jesus

❏ Pray about your involvement in a community of disciples

**Week #5 — Learn About the Holy Spirit**

❏ Practice reciting the Gospel message from memory Ephesians 2:10

❏ Practice sharing your testimony with someone in person Romans 8:14-17

❏ Pray to build a relationship with an unbeliever Matthew 28:18-20

❏ Pray with prayer partners

❏ Continue praying for opportunities to share your Jesus

❏ Love and walk daily in the power of the Holy Spirit

**Week #6 — Accountability: Pass test on Gospel Message and Sharing Your Testimony**

❏ Practice reciting the Gospel message from memory ❏

❏ Practice sharing your testimony with someone in person ❏

❏ Pray to build a relationship with an unbeliever ❏

❏ Pray with prayer partners

❏ Continue praying for opportunities to share your Jesus

❏ Live and Walk

**Scriptures to Be Memorized**

**Week #1**
**Who Jesus is:**
“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
John 1:1

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

**What Jesus did:**
“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received; that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

**Week #2**
**Sin:**
“... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

**Penalty for sin:**
“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God Is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

**Repentance:**
“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” Matthew 4:17

“... in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:14

**Week #3**
**Trust, firm conviction:**
“And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Acts 16:30,31

**Response to the Holy Spirit:**
“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast.” Ephesians 2:8,9

**Week #4**
**A relationship:**
“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” John 17:3

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

“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.” 1 John 5:11-13

**Week #5**
**Relationship:**
“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” Romans 8:14-17

**The Great Commission:**
“Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”
Matthew 28:18-20

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