



## ANSWER GUIDE

# QUESTION ONE

WHY DO WE NEED TO PLACE FAITH IN  
JESUS AS SAVIOR AND LORD?

Romans 5:6-11

*For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

Also read Romans 3:9-26. Answer the following questions about the two passages.

1. What phrases describe our condition as sinners before reconciliation?

The Romans 5 passage is clear about our hopeless state. Before being reconciled to God, we are described as:

- “Weak” - we are unable to do anything that makes us righteous in God’s sight. We are without strength, morally or spiritually.
- “Ungodly”- we have chosen to rebel against God by ignoring his rule and following our own desires.
- “Sinners” - we have missed the mark of our design. Instead of living to glorify God, we have lived for our own survival and significance.
- “Enemies” of God. - we have sided with the enemy who is the father of lies. We have promoted man and not God and made idols of things he gave us.

In Romans 3, the language is even stronger. In this passage, Paul is emphasizing that all people are under the curse of sin. Not even the Jews who thought of themselves as the “people of God” could escape the reality of their hopeless state of worthlessness. To drive the point home, Paul quotes from Old Testament scripture using strong phrases like: *“Their throat is an open grave,” “The venom of asps is under their lips,”* and *“Their feet are swift to shed blood.”* Paul’s point can be summed up in verse 23: ***“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”***

2. How did God demonstrate His love toward us?

Though we tend to define love in emotional terms, God showed real love by doing for us what we could not do for ourselves—when we didn’t deserve it. And he did it at great cost to himself. He went to the heart of our need and met it. Our need was for a Savior who would pay our penalty and set us free. Only Jesus could do that.

The Romans 5 passage refers to us as “weak” and Romans 3 makes it clear that we are not righteous in any way before God. We can do nothing to earn God’s approval or acceptance, yet Christ died for us! While we were still running from him with no intention or ability to return, he intervened for us. He demonstrated his love by reconciling us to himself through Jesus’ death and resurrection. He paid the price for our sin. That is love.

3. Why was it necessary for Christ to die?

Hebrews 9:22b says: *“...and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”* The penalty for sin is death. There are no “small” sins. We must understand that our condition before a perfect God is hopeless and helpless. We tend to compare ourselves to others, thinking that if we try to be “good” or “nice” or lead a “good life,” we are okay. Jesus makes it clear in Matthew 5:17-48, that in order for someone to be saved by his or her “goodness,” he or she must keep the law absolutely perfectly. In fact, Jesus raises the stakes. The Old Testament law stated that murder was wrong; Jesus said that anyone who has ever been angry has committed murder in his or her heart! No human has ever kept the law except for Jesus. Because he kept the law perfectly, he is the only one who could pay for our law-breaking with his death.

4. After being reconciled, what does it mean to be “saved by his life?”

Real life is lived in intimate fellowship with God. Salvation is much more than believing a proposition and waiting to go to heaven when we die. Faith in Jesus is a relationship, it is daily communion with God. Galatians 2:20 says: *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* We are continually “saved by his life” because we are in relationship with him. Jesus is the way to live each day conscious of the presence of God.

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

*Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For*

*the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.*

Also read John 3:1-21 and Titus 3:4-7. Answer the following questions.

1. What is the difference between God's wisdom and human wisdom?

Human wisdom is based primarily upon observation. We seek to make sense of the data before us by using our senses with some amount of reason. We are limited in our ability to rightly assess any situation because we are confined by time, space, and our minute perspective. Additionally, one of the consequences of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden was that human beings could no longer see the invisible world clearly. On the other hand, God's wisdom sees the end from the beginning and includes the reality of the invisible world. He is not limited to knowledge acquired by senses. He is omniscient and omnipresent. He has "the whole story." When we are "born again" as in John 3, we have access to God's divine revelation. History begins to make sense because we now view it as His-story. Our perspective changes, and we are no longer limited to understanding situations based purely on observation. When we live in the Spirit, we too can access the world of revelation as well as observation.

2. How has God chosen to reveal to us the explanation of the great mystery?

God has given us his Spirit. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from death is now giving life to those who submit to Jesus as Lord. According to 1 Corinthians, the Holy Spirit "searches everything, even the depths of God." The Holy Spirit is God and reveals God to us. He gives us knowledge of God that is incomprehensible to those who are living in "the natural." This is why Jesus tells Nicodemus in John 3 that he must be born again. Nicodemus is trying to understand the mystery of God with his natural ability. Jesus explains that God can only be known in the spiritual, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

3. When we listen and respond to the Spirit, what will we see and hear?

1 Corinthians says that the Holy Spirit is given to us "that we might understand the things freely given us by God." In other words, the Spirit will make the benefits of salvation real to us. We will see through eyes of faith the truth of what God has done through Jesus and what that means for us.

# QUESTION TWO

HOW DO WE COME TO FAITH IN JESUS?

John 16:7-11

*Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

Also read John 6:37-40, 44-47 and 1 Peter 1:6-9. Then answer the following questions.

1. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit "the Helper." How does he help us?

His very name means that he comes along side to help. He is our advocate. He reveals spiritual perspective so that we can see the truth about God and about us. We are responsible to reflect the true image of God, and the Spirit helps us do that.

2. Jesus said he would convict us in three areas. What are they, and what does that mean?

According to John 16, the Holy Spirit convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. Jesus defines sin as not believing in him. Jesus has paid for our sin, so he is the issue. We either trust him for forgiveness or we don't. Sin always includes unbelief. So when the Holy Spirit convicts us regarding sin, he is revealing unbelief.

Righteousness is defined as life in Jesus. The only hope we have for righteousness lies in the fact that Jesus granted us his own, and he is now with the Father. The Holy Spirit reveals that those who are in Christ are righteous before the throne of God.

Finally, the Holy Spirit shows that everything is judged by Jesus. He has already taken the wrath of our judgment, and Satan has already been defeated. The Spirit helps us see how Jesus is the center of God's plan for everything.

3. What does it mean when Jesus says, "He will take of mine and declare it to you?"

The Spirit will take what Jesus won in his victorious life, death, resurrection and ascension and apply it to those who trust him. We get the same access to the Father that Jesus has. We get the inheritance that is his.

Romans 10:14:17

*How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

Also read Romans 1:1-5, Romans 10:5-17, Ephesians 1:13-14, 1 John 2:1-2. Answer the following questions.

1. What must happen before we call out to God in saving faith?

Romans 10 lays out the process: In order for someone to call out to God in saving faith, he or she must believe the gospel. In order to believe the gospel, he or she must hear the gospel. For someone to hear the gospel, a person must proclaim the gospel. For someone to proclaim the gospel, they must be sent. God has sent his sons and daughters into the whole world to proclaim the gospel so that people can hear and believe.

2. What does it mean to obey the gospel?

The gospel command is simply to believe. When we believe the gospel, our lives begin to align with it and change happens.

3. How does Christ fulfill the word of God?

Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises, prophecies, predictions, types and shadows of the Old Testament. Before Jesus was born, the word of God came in partial segments, but in Jesus, God's truth is made incarnate and final. (See Hebrews 1:1-4)

Hebrews 9:12-15

*He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.*

Also read Acts 2:36-41, John 1:1-18, John 14:6, Hebrews 8:8-13 and 1 Timothy 2:5-6. Answer the following questions.

1. How do sacrifices of the Old Testament system point toward Christ?

In John 1:29, John the Baptist introduces Jesus as *"the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* In the Old Testament, God used the shadows of physical and temporal things such as animal sacrifices to point toward the substance of truth, which is found in Jesus. Each aspect of the instructions given to Israel regarding sacrifices is fulfilled in Jesus. There is no more need of physical sacrifices, feasts, or regulations. Now each believer can worship God through faith in Jesus as God's final word.

2. What is the essential difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant that Jesus mediated?

In the Old Covenant, the two partners are God and the people. Because the people could not fulfill their responsibility, God assumed the responsibility for both parties by sending his Son to pay the penalty of broken covenant and to live up to the stipulations of their agreement. In other words, the New Covenant is between God and himself. We are the beneficiaries of Jesus' ability to fully keep the covenant.

3. What are the listed benefits of the shed blood of Christ?

- He secured our eternal redemption.
- He purified our conscience from dead works so that we could live with our focus on God.
- He is the mediator so we receive the eternal inheritance.
- He redeems us from the transgressions committed under the first covenant

4. Who is the only mediator between God and mankind?

The only person in history to be both God and man is Jesus. He alone can make covenant for both. Other teachers may offer good advice and guidance, but only Jesus has taken upon himself the wrath of broken covenant and has transferred his own righteousness to us.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

Also read Hebrews 11:1-6, Ephesians 5:1-21, and Galatians 6:1-10. Then answer the following questions.

1. What is the source of the Scripture that we call the Bible?

According to 2 Timothy, "*all scripture is breathed out by God...*" God inspired men to write the scriptures. He used their human personalities and skills, but conveyed through them the revelation he wanted preserved.

2. When believed, what are the benefits of the Scripture?

The Scripture is profitable for:

- teaching
- reproof
- correction
- training in righteousness

We are "*equipped for every good work.*" We are reconciled to God. We are freed from guilt and shame. We are given the Spirit who inspired the scriptures to guide us in understanding them.

3. What does it mean to be competent and equipped for every good work?

We are no longer disqualified. We have been empowered by the Spirit to express the very life of God in our daily lives. We can communicate with him. We can trust him to



work through us to accomplish what he has assigned. 2 Peter 1:3 says that *“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence...”* As we read and study Scripture, we discover more of who Jesus is, what he has done, and how he works in us.

4. What does it mean to submit to each other?

Submitting to one another means we recognize that we are members of Christ’s body. Each member has a function and an ability to fulfill that function. We alone can’t do everything our Lord wants done, but together we can express an accurate portrayal of Jesus on earth. It is helpful to think about the word “submission” in two parts: “sub” means “under” and “mission” is our order or assignment. As the body of Christ, we are to get under the orders of the King together.

5. What are our responsibilities toward each other?

Ephesians states that as a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit, we will address one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs and also submit to one another. In Galatians, we are to restore the fallen, bear the burdens of others, find fulfillment in our own calling, give to those who teach us, and be ready to do good toward anyone we meet.

# QUESTION THREE

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE PUT OUR FAITH IN JESUS?

Galatians 1:3-5

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Also read Acts 2:38, 1 Peter 1:18-21 and Romans 5:1-3. Then answer the following questions:

1. How many sins are forgiven by Jesus' atonement?

There is no sin too big for Jesus' blood. All our sins were future when Jesus died. He has forgiven the past, present, and the future sins of those who place their trust in him.

2. What should be our response to being totally forgiven?

Gratitude. Confidence. Praise. We will be anxious to tell others who are still struggling with their guilt and shame.

3. What are the four benefits of being justified?

According to Romans 5:

- We have peace with God.
- We have access to the grace of God.
- We rejoice in the assurance that God's purpose is sure.
- We rejoice that even our tribulations will work in us to produce even more appreciation of his grace.

4. What do each of these benefits mean for us?

When we are justified, we receive the same love that caused Jesus to die in our place. This love transforms us. We can now express this supernatural love to those we meet. Reflect on each of the benefits of our justification listed in Romans 5 and ask God to reveal to you what they mean for your life.

1 Peter 1:3-5 & 22-25

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but*



*the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.*

Also read John 3:3-8 and 1 Thessalonians 1:2-6. Answer the following questions.

1. Describe the inheritance we get by being born again.

Jesus is God’s single heir. Because we are considered “in him,” we are joint-heirs with Christ. We receive the same access and security that Jesus enjoyed as he lived as a man on earth. Our security is based on his faithfulness. Our joy comes out of his. We have been given his love to motivate our every move. 1 Peter describes this inheritance as “imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.”

2. How does being born again affect our ability to love one another?

Since we are born of the same Spirit that filled Jesus on earth and raised him from the dead, we can sincerely love like he does. Until we are born of the spirit, we are limited to what our flesh-life can do. We can try to improve and we can pretend, but we are not free from our own selfish motives until we can live by the Spirit.

3. What is the relationship between the seed, the word of God, and the gospel?

The seed speaks of the new life that takes place when we hear the gospel and believe. This seed of God’s life begins to grow, and we become aware of having been born of the Spirit. This seed is imperishable, meaning that it will never die. The word of God is the truth that touches our hearts and causes us to call out to God. It is the good news of the gospel that God has acted in Jesus to save us from our sins and to reconcile us to God.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6, 16-18

*And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

*So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

Also read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 and 2 Corinthians 3:12-18. Answer the following questions.

1. To whom is the gospel veiled?

The gospel is veiled to those who do not believe and are “perishing.” They have refused to respond to the light they have been shown, and now the devil has blinded them from seeing more. Paul fleshes this idea out more fully in Romans 1:18-32.

2. How is the veil of unbelief removed?

According to 2 Corinthians 3, the veil is only removed when someone believes in Jesus as God's Son. It is our privilege to proclaim the gospel of Jesus, and we trust the Holy Spirit to quicken the hearts of those who do not believe.

3. What is the essence of our proclamation?

In Mark 1:15, Jesus begins his ministry on earth by saying: *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."* We make the same proclamation by telling others that Jesus has done all that God required for man to be reconciled to God. It is time now to repent and believe.

4. How do we keep from fainting in times of affliction?

Though what we see, hear, and feel around us may seem more "real" than the invisible realm, we remember that we now live life in the Spirit. We remember that we have been born into an eternal life and this life is "momentary." We also remember that Romans 8:28 promises us that "for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." We focus on this invisible reality of God's word as revealed in Jesus.

1 Peter 2:1-10

*So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

Also read Ephesians 1:1-14 and Galatians 3:1-9. Then answer the following questions.

1. What makes up the temple of God today?

Jesus was the ultimate temple of God on earth. When he sent his Spirit to live in his people, we became the last temple of God on earth. Peter calls Jesus the "cornerstone" and those who are in him are "living stones being built up as a spiritual house."

2. Who are those considered God's holy priesthood?

All those who have trusted Christ Jesus as their Savior. There is no hierarchy of faith. We are all called to serve the Body of Christ in different ways, and some are called to be leaders. However, we are all equal under Christ, who is the head. Those who are in Christ no longer need a priest (mediator) to approach God. We are all in the priesthood because we are in Christ who is the ultimate priest.

3. Who is God's holy nation that is ordained to proclaim His praises?

All those who have been born of the Spirit by trusting Jesus alone as Lord, regardless of race or geography, are part of God's holy nation. Galatians 3:28 emphasizes this dynamic: *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*

4. Why are we, as believers in Christ, considered the people of God?

God has only one people. It is not defined by ethnicity or gender (see Galatians 3:28 again). The first "people of God" were Adam and Eve. God then used the Jewish people to display himself to the world, and they were called the "people of God." Jesus is the last Adam and the ultimate Jew. Jesus is the completion of the "people of God." Those who are in Christ are people of God because of their relationship to him.

5. What is our primary purpose as people of God?

We bear his image by living in a loving, dependent relationship with him. We declare his excellencies because we have experienced his love.

6. What was the blessing that God promised?

We are the beneficiaries of his covenant. We are his people. He is our God. He provides for us. He protects us. He is with us.

7. How do we bless other people and other cultures?

We fulfill his purpose to bless the whole earth by proclaiming in word and deed the majesty of his grace in the gospel of Jesus.

# QUESTION FOUR

HOW ARE WE TO LIVE NOW THAT WE ARE  
FOLLOWERS OF THE LIVING LORD?

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Also read John 17:3, John 16:4-7, 13-15, 23-24, and Romans 10:5-13. Answer the following questions.

1. What are the old things that are passed away and what are the things that have become new?

The old things relating to our failure to live by the law of God have passed away. The New Covenant defines a new era. We now live by faith in Jesus who has become our representative covenant partner. We live by responding to the Spirit of God who lives in us. The law is fulfilled as the Spirit imparts God's kind of love to us.

2. Since we are reconciled to Christ through Jesus, what is our assignment?

We are ambassadors for Christ. We are restored in order to subdue our areas of responsibilities like the first Adam did in the Garden. We are God's managers of his earth. We bless the earth by proclaiming the good news of Jesus' victory and by aligning all our decisions with the gospel.

3. What authority do we have in carrying out that assignment?

We are sent by Jesus as his representatives, so we have his authority.

Philippians 2:12-18

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the*

*sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.*

Also read Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 2:36-41, Ephesians 5:15-21, Hebrews 13:15-17, and Romans 12:1-13. Answer the following questions.

1. Why should we as believers be baptized?

Jesus commanded it. It is a way of proclaiming the gospel by our actions. We are declaring that we have entered into his death and resurrection and that we are unashamed to identify with him.

2. Why is it important to live in mutual submission with other members of the body of Christ?

Each of us is a member of the corporate body of Christ. We need each other's gifts and participation if we are to fulfill our mission here.

3. What is the proper attitude toward Spiritual leaders?

Respect. Leaders are given to serve us as we continue on the journey of discovery. Like shepherds who tend their sheep, they help us get to good grass and water. They warn us when the predators are near. They point us to the True Shepherd: Jesus.

4. Name a spiritual gift that you have recognized in yourself.

Remember that a spiritual gift is a supernatural endowment that empowers you to express the life of Jesus as a member of his body. Reflect on your life and pray for God to reveal the spiritual gifts he has given to you. It may also be helpful to ask another Christ-follower what they recognize as a spiritual gift in you.

5. What does it mean to work out your salvation and how does that differ from working for your salvation?

"Working out" your salvation means that you already have it in you. It is a gift from God. Working it out means applying what you already have in your heart to your every day life. There is no way for you to "work for" your salvation. There is nothing you could do to earn it.

Psalm 19:7-14

*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.*

*Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*

Also read 2 Timothy 3:16 and answer the following questions.

1. List 5 synonyms in Psalms 19:7-14 for the word of God.

- Perfect
- Sure
- Right
- Pure
- Clean
- True
- Gold
- Honey

Meditate and reflect on these descriptions and try finding ways of amplifying them. Why do you think the writer used so many different words to describe the word of God?

2. What are the promised benefits of reading and obeying the truth revealed in Scripture?

- The soul is revived
- Wisdom is received
- The heart rejoices
- The eyes are enlightened
- The servant is warned and receives great reward
- Hidden faults are revealed
- Protected from sin

Look through the text. What happens when the various aspects of the word of God are received?

James 1:19-25

*Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

Also read John 14:15-26 and answer the following questions.

1. What is the result of hearing but not obeying the word of God?

We become deceived. We think because we know some data we have encountered the transforming power of the word of God. Only when we embrace the truth and align our lives with it will we see change.

2. What is the perfect law of liberty?

It is the truth about Jesus fulfilling the law for us and granting us the liberty of his righteous life and sacrificial death.

3. How does the Spirit affect my prayers?



He guides us as to how we pray, He actually prays in our stead when we don't know how to pray. (See Romans 8:26-27.)

4. What is the Spirit's primary goal in my life?

He delights in making the relationship with the Father and Son real in our experience.

Hebrews 10:19-25

*Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Answer the following questions.

1. What two dynamics give us confidence to draw near to God?

We can have confidence knowing that the blood of Jesus has sufficiently satisfied eternal justice and knowing that Jesus is the faithful and eternal high priest representing us before God.

2. Why can we be confident that our faith will persevere?

The object of our faith is Jesus who does not fail or falter.

3. What will be our concern for each other in the body of Christ?

To encourage each other to live in the liberty that Jesus has given, knowing that every day we are all tempted to fall back into some effort to procure our own righteousness.

# QUESTION

## FIVE

### WHAT IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

Ephesians 6:10-20

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.*

Also read 2 Corinthians 11:3, Hebrews 10:19-25, and 2 Corinthians 10:3-6. Then answer the following questions.

1. What is the enemy's strategy for our destruction?

He seeks to distort the beauty of truth so that we won't believe the gospel and enter into the joy that has been given to us.

2. What are the weapons of warfare we are given to defeat the tactics of the enemy?

We have defensive armor that protects us from the flaming darts of the enemy. We have the word of God that displaces deception. We have prayer that releases the power of the Spirit.

3. How does continually believing the gospel defeat the enemy?

His aim is to dilute, distort, and defile the gospel. It is the power of God for salvation and when proclaimed and practiced, it displaces the deception that empowers his kingdom of darkness.

# QUESTION

## SIX

### WHAT DOES SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION LOOK LIKE?

Ephesians 4:17-32

*Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!—assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

Also read Romans 12:1-6 and Colossians 3. Reflecting upon what God has done in our lives and expressing it to others (both believers and non-believers) makes the truths of the gospel more real to us and encourages others. Answering the following questions will help you articulate your reconciliation process:

To answer the following questions, take the time to write out a thoughtful short essay. It will help you and become a useful tool for you to share with others.

1. What is your first recognition of God's drawing you to Jesus?
2. What aspects of the gospel first attracted you to investigate faith in Jesus?
3. Who helped you in your search?
4. Describe your first expression of saving faith.
5. What are noticeable changes since your encounter with Christ?
6. What do you believe now about the nature of God, the work of Christ, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

7. What do you see as your primary responsibility as an ambassador of Jesus Christ?

Ambassadors live in one country while representing another. We are ambassadors of Christ and his kingdom. How does that apply to you?