



# **The Growing Christian**

**Introduction to the Discipleship series**

**Study #1: Salvation and Eternal Security**

**Basic Discipleship Course**

[www.therockmiami.com](http://www.therockmiami.com)

## INTRODUCTION

God wants his children to have lives filled with purpose and blessings. He saved us with a valuable and eternal purpose as 2 Tim 1: 9 reads: "Who has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us before the beginning of time". The Christian who has a healthy and stable spiritual life enjoys a joyful and meaningful relationship with God. Every Christian that walks daily with God shows the freshness and the fruits of a life dedicated to him.

This purpose is reflected in Acts 2: 42 where it says that Christians in Jerusalem persevered "in the doctrine of the Apostles". That tells us that it was very important for them to study and learn the Scriptures. Growing Christians of the first church studied in depth the teachings of the Bible. And that is why this series was prepared: to imitate and to emulate our brothers from the first century.

This course is a collection of basic studies of the most fundamental doctrines that every disciple must study, believe and obey. The main goal of every Christian's life is to be more and more like Jesus and this is precisely what the passage below says:

"...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ" (Ephesians 4: 13-15).

The principles studied in this series have been taken from the following passages in Acts 2: 40-47:

"With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation'. Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved".

This passage gives us a window into the 7 most fundamental activities that Christians in the first century practiced:

1. Salvation and Eternal Security
2. Baptism

3. Devotion to the Bible

4. Devotion to prayer

5. Commitment to the local church

6. Commitment to give and to share their material goods

7. Evangelization and discipling (mentoring) of others

It is our prayer that every person who completes these studies will be impacted by God through his Word; and that he/she learns his/her doctrinal and theological basis for life.

The pastors

## SALVATION

The decision you have made to trust in Jesus Christ as the one and only, sufficient and personal Savior, is the wisest and most important decision that you have ever made. It is very important that you understand the true significance of what has occurred in your life.

The purpose of this lesson is to briefly explain what has happened to you spiritually and how this decision changes your relationship with God.

1. There are two types of people in this world: the saved and the unsaved.

a. Family of Adam: The unsaved

I. In the book of Ephesians 2:1-9 it states that we are saved by faith in Jesus. John 3:16-19 tells us of those who are saved and those who are condemned.

II. We all enter this family through our parents, who are descendants of Adam and Eve. Genesis 5:3 teaches us that we are the descendants of Adam and are born “in his image”; this is in reference to our sinful nature.

III. When we were conceived we inherited the sinful nature of our ancestors Adam and Eve. Romans 5:12 says: “Therefore just as sin entered the world through one man (Adam), and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.”

IV. Romans 5:12 also states that as a result of sin we are also sentenced to spiritual death. Read Romans 6:23 and 1 Corinthians 15:22.

b. The family of God

I. John 1:12, 13 says: “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision (it is not a physical birth or a husband’s will), but born of God.”

II. We also enter into God’s family by way of a spiritual birth, because our heavenly Father willed it. John 3:3 says, “....I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

III. This new birth makes you a family member of God’s family the same way your physical birth made you a member of your earthly family. Now you are a child of God through spiritual birth.

IV. As a result of your new birth in Christ, you inherited God’s divine nature and you now have eternal life.

Consider the following verses:

John 6:47: “I tell you the truth; he who believes has (present) everlasting life.”

John 3:36: “Whoever believes in the Son has (present) eternal life.”

1 John 5:12 “He who has the Son has (at this moment) life.”

V. Belonging to God's family separates you from the devil's family. Hebrews 2:13-15

VI. Your body is now the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit now dwells in you. 1 Corinthians 6:19

VII. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 teaches us that a Christian is supposed to be different from the non-Christian.

c. Your new life in Christ is clearly described in 2 Corinthians 5:17-18: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."

2. How is my relationship with God now?

a. You are his child and he is your heavenly Father. 1 John 2:1 says: "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense-Jesus Christ, the Righteous One".

b. Now that you are a believer, God no longer sees you as a sinner but as his dear child.

c. In the same way we can explain the relationship an earthly father has with his child:

- A good father loves and cares for his child.

1 Peter 5:7

- A good father protects his child.

Matthew 18:6

- A good father provides for his child.

Philippians 4:19

- A good father guides and teaches his child.

John 14:26

- A good father helps his child.

Isaiah 41:10

- A good father encourages his child.

Matthew 3:17

- A good father corrects and disciplines his child.

Hebrews 12:5-11

- A good father feeds his child.

Matthew 4:4

- A good father has a plan for his child.

Romans 8:28-29

- A good father always seeks, forgives and accepts his child.

Luke 15:11-31

A good father never does anything with the purpose to harm his child. He will only do and allow situations that will help his child to grow and mature.

The main goal of a father is for the child to become the person he was meant to be and to develop into his full potential. Your heavenly Father works in the same way, with the difference that His way is perfect. The Lord never makes mistakes in dealing with his children. Matthew 7:11 reads: “If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him?”

3. The sinful nature does not disappear nor do you stop sinning after you are born again.

a. This is obvious, since we continue to sin.

b. You now have two natures:

I. The old nature: physical, sinful, imperfect, and conceived in the image of Adam.

II. The new nature: spiritual, perfect and made in the image of God.

The two natures are always present and constantly battling with each other. The controlling nature is the one that is fed the most. The old (carnal) nature is fed by carnal activities and sinful practices. The new, likewise, is fed by doing spiritual activities and morally uplifting activities or practices. Read the following Biblical passages: Colossians 3:5-10 and 2 Corinthians 4:14-18.

4. Questions to reflect upon:

a. Could I sin after being saved?

Yes, remember that we still have the sinful nature.

Read Romans 7:25

b. How does my sin affect my relationship with my heavenly Father?

God will not reject you from His family but your fellowship with him will be affected. When you sin he will discipline you as His child with the purpose of restoring the relationship. Read Hebrews 12: 5-11.

c. What should you do when you sin?

Admit and confess to God your sin and believe that the blood of Jesus cleanses you and forgives you. Read 1 John 1:6-10 and Proverbs 28:13.

### Review

1. What are the two types of people in this world?
2. How does a person enter into the family of God?
3. Why are people sentenced to die after their physical birth?
4. Mention three verses that promise eternal life?

5. God now treats you as His \_\_\_\_\_ instead of a \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Your new relationship with God is compared to the relationship an earthly father has with his son. Mention various ways of how God treats you now that you are His child.

7. Briefly explain the two natures that you currently have.

8. What would be the reason that one nature would control the other nature?

9. When a Christian chooses to continue in sin, what does God do?

10. According to 1 John 1:9, when we confess our sins before God, He \_\_\_\_\_ and He \_\_\_\_\_ of all sin.

Key verses to memorize:

Romans 5:12, John 3:3 and 1 John 1:9

## ETERNAL SECURITY

Once you have received the gift of salvation that is by grace through faith in Christ, it is very important that you understand how that decision changes your life.

We know that there are only two groups of people: the saved and the unsaved. We learned that we are born with the sinful nature, separated from God and that when we receive Jesus Christ as our Personal Savior we are born in the family of God (John 1:12-13). In this section we will study about the position the new believer has in God's family so you can be clearly established in your eternal salvation as a Christian.

1. Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke concerning the subject of eternal life:

a. Jesus Christ promised his eternal forgiveness in the passage that reads "all that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37 NKJ). Under no circumstance or sin will the Lord reject you from His family.

b. John 10:27-29, clearly establishes that you are in God's hand and in the hand of His son Jesus Christ and that nothing or no one cause you to lose your salvation. God the Father is greater than any man and no man can snatch you from His hand.

2. God doesn't reject me from His family and no man can snatch me from the hand of God, but could I do something that would cause me to lose my salvation?

a. In the book of Ephesians 2:8-9 it states that salvation is by grace through faith and not by works. This is the gift of God. No man can lose his salvation on his own because no man has ever gained his salvation.

b. In Galatians 3:10 and James 2:10 it states that if we had to do something to win or maintain our salvation we would easily lose it. But in 2 Timothy 1:12 it assures us that Jesus Christ guards (keeps) us and not ourselves.

c. We can also see clearly in Galatians 2:21 that if we are justified by the works we do, then Jesus died in vain.

3. Nothing or no one can cause you to lose your salvation. God says in Romans 8:38-39: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." None of the things that are written in the list of these verses can separate you from God. This list includes everything.

4. Questions to reflect upon:

a. How can I know for sure that I am saved?

We read in 1 John 5:13: "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." Simply believe in this promise. Have faith that God does not lie nor speak in vain.

b. What happens if I don't feel saved?

Your salvation is not based on feelings. It is based upon the objective fact of the veracity of the Word of God.

I. 1 John 3:19-20 says: And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us (*if we think or feel we are not saved*), God is greater than our heart, and knows all things (*we set our hearts at rest in His presence*).

II. Titus 1:2 says: "a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time." God neither lies nor plays cruel jokes.



5. Share a passage in scripture that promises you eternal life.

6. What do the following verses teach you concerning the promise of eternal life?

a. 1 John 3:20:

b. Titus 1:2:

c. 1 John 2:25:

Key verses to memorize:

Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 John 2:25; 1 John 5:13