

*Bible Basics:
Fortify Your Faith*

by Dale Robins

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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Lesson 1 ≈ Setting Priorities	2
Lesson 2 ≈ Spiritual Security (1)	5
Lesson 3 ≈ Spiritual Security (2)	8
Lesson 4 ≈ Walking in the Light	11
Lesson 5 ≈ What Does It Mean to Be Faithful? (1)	14
Lesson 6 ≈ What Does It Mean to Be Faithful? (2)	17
Lesson 7 ≈ The Importance of Bible Study	19
Lesson 8 ≈ Our Responsibilities	22
Lesson 9 ≈ The Home and Family	25
Lesson 10 ≈ Responsibilities Within the Family	28
Lesson 11 ≈ Beware of False Prophets (1)	30
Lesson 12 ≈ Beware of False Prophets (2)	32
Lesson 13 ≈ Beware of False Prophets (3)	35
Lesson 14 ≈ Beware of False Prophets (4)	38
Lesson 15 ≈ Beware of False Prophets (5)	41
Lesson 16 ≈ Controlling Our Attitudes	44
Lesson 17 ≈ Attitudes of a “New Creature”	47
Lesson 18 ≈ The One True Church (1)	50
Lesson 19 ≈ The One True Church (2)	53
Lesson 20 ≈ The Bible: The Inspired Word of God (1)	56
Lesson 21 ≈ The Bible: The Inspired Word of God (2)	59
Lesson 22 ≈ The Bible: The Inspired Word of God (3)	62
Lesson 23 ≈ The Importance of Being a Servant	65
Lesson 24 ≈ The Death and Resurrection of Jesus	68
Lesson 25 ≈ One Day It Will All Be Over	71
Lesson 26 ≈ Eternity	74

Introduction

The following material was designed as a bulletin insert to assist the members of the Eubank Church of Christ (Eubank, KY) as we studied basic Bible concepts that should be foundational to all believers. So many favorable comments were made by members who enjoyed viewing it as their “weekly homework,” that I decided to publish the finished work for the benefit of others.

I can see several possible uses for this material:

1. The concise and simple presentation allows for personal home Bible studies to fortify the faith of Christians. Many folks are looking for something to help structure their personal Bible studies, and this could supply that need.
2. This series would especially be a good study for new converts. It covers many of the topics of “the milk of the word” (I Peter 2:2) that can assist in early spiritual growth. Many of these topics answer questions for young believers and equip them to answer inquiries and challenges that they may face early in their walk with Jesus.
3. Not only would this study help in the context of a New Converts Class, but it would also be helpful in a Teen or Young Adult Bible Class. Young people need assistance in facing false doctrines and challenges thrown at them by a seductive world. It is hoped that this material would help supply a good foundational knowledge base.

—All Scripture quotations from the KJV—

Bible Basics – Lesson 1

Setting Priorities

Introduction

- I. Becoming a Christian involves setting some new priorities. Prior to baptism we were servants of _____. (Rom. 6:17)
 - A. We did what *we* wanted to do.
 - B. We made decisions that would advance ourselves instead of glorifying God.
 - C. Like pigs wallowing in the mire, we enjoyed “the _____ of sin” (Heb. 11:25) without fear of consequences.
- II. The lies we told, the immorality we practiced, vices in which we participated (gambling, drugs/alcohol, swearing, etc.) were all acts of unrighteousness or _____. (I Jn. 5:17).
- III. Spiritually, we were “dead in _____ and _____” (Eph. 2:1).

A. Things Changed When We Became a Christian

1. Our baptism was for the remission (forgiveness) of our _____. Acts 2:38.
2. _____ washes away our sins. (Acts 22:16)
3. It is not a physical washing away, but we are cleansed by the _____ of Christ (I Pet. 1:18–19), and it is in the act of baptism that the operation of cleansing takes place and God _____ us of all our trespasses (sins) (Col. 2:12–13).
4. Because we obeyed from the _____, we are no longer the servants of sin; we became the servants of _____. (Rom. 6:17–18).

B. We Are Now New Creatures

1. Just as a butterfly leaves the caterpillar stage and the cocoon behind to emerge as a beautiful butterfly, after baptism we become _____ creatures, Christians! (II Cor. 5:17)

2. Now we are ready to assume the duties that God decreed for man. As Solomon said, “_____ God and keep his _____ for this is the whole duty of man” (Eccl. 12:13).

C. We Now Live For Christ

1. I am now a _____ of Christ. (I Cor. 11:1)
2. Life is no longer about ME—“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live: yet not I, but _____ liveth in me: and the _____ that I now live in the _____ I live by the _____ of the Son of God, who _____ me, and _____ himself for _____” (Gal. 2:20).
3. I have become a purchased servant (slave) to Christ who purchased me with his _____. (Acts 20:28; I Pet. 1:18–19).
4. We have turned control over to Christ. “Ye are not your _____? For ye are _____ with a _____: therefore _____ God in your _____, and in your _____, which are _____” (I Cor. 6:19–20).
5. We must do this with a “_____ mind” (II Cor. 8:12).

D. Now We Have New Priorities

1. In obeying the gospel, we were purified. (I Pet. 1:22). Now, our job is to “Keep thyself _____” (I Tim. 5:22).
Avoid committing sin!
2. Do not become obsessed with pointing out the faults of others. Jesus said, “first cast out the _____ [sin] out of thine own eye” (Matt. 7:5).
3. If you are at odds with others, if at all possible “be _____ to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift” (Matt. 5:21–24). We are to strive to “live _____ with all men” (Rom. 12:18).
4. We are to _____ for all men including those in authority. (I Tim. 2:1–2)

5. We are to “seek _____ the kingdom of God, and his _____” (Matt. 6:33). This means:
- Attend regularly. “not _____ the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is” (Heb. 10:25)
 - Give as you have been _____. (I Cor. 16:2).
 - _____ your Bible often. (II Tim. 2:15)
 - Be diligent in serving God. “a peculiar people, _____ of good works” (Tit. 2:14).
 - Use your _____ well. Eph. 5:16; Psm. 90:12

E. You Are A Part of the Church.

- The Lord added you to it when you were _____. Acts 2:47
- In all things we are to _____ God. “unto him be _____ in the _____ by Christ Jesus throughout all ages” (Eph. 3:21).
- As a Christian, we must put first things first. We should take advantage of all chances to “_____ in grace and in the _____ of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (II Pet. 3:18).

Bible Basics – Lesson 2

Spiritual Security (1)

Introduction

After accepting the evidence that Jesus is the Son of God, we committed ourselves to becoming His disciples when we were baptized for the remission of our sins. A disciple is a learner. Now, we need to embark upon the path of learning the ways of Jesus. Peter says that there are certain traits we must add to our lives to insure our spiritual security—“give diligence to make your calling and election _____: for if ye do these things, ye shall never _____” (II Pet. 1:10). Growing spiritually is essential. We now are to “_____ in grace, and in the _____ of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (II Pet. 3:18).

Things We Are to Add or Develop

- A. Faith is the essential starting point. “But without _____ it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must _____ that he is, and that he is a _____ of them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:6)
1. We acted in faith when we were baptized.
 2. Many folks have never made it to this point and still reject Jesus as the “_____ and _____ of our faith” (Heb. 12:2).
 3. Faith was not just purely the result of an exciting emotional response due to an exciting religious experience. “Faith comes by _____, and hearing by the _____ of God” (Rom. 10:17). We learned how to become a Christian by hearing what the Bible was teaching about it.
 4. Christians learn how to “walk by _____, not by _____” (II Cor. 5:7).

B. Virtue is having the courage to practice and defend our faith. Holding on to our faith may be costly. Friends and family may not agree with our decision.

1. Many will “think it _____ that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking _____ of you” (I Pet. 4:4).
2. The world may approve of sin (homosexuality, drugs/ alcohol, sexual immorality, etc), but we must not endorse such. “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye _____, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you” (II Cor. 6:17).

A. Knowledge of God’s Word Is Important!

1. We cannot know how to please God if we do not know right from wrong.
2. The prophet lamented, “My people are _____ for a lack of _____” (Hosea 4:6).
3. Knowledge comes from studying the Bible. “_____ to shew thyself _____ unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, _____ dividing the word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15).
4. We should *want* to learn more! “As newborn _____ desire the sincere milk of the _____, that ye may _____ thereby” (I Pet. 2:2).

B. We Must Also Add Temperance to Our Knowledge.

1. Temperance is defined as self-control.
2. “And every man that striveth for the mastery is _____ in all things” (I Cor. 9:25).
3. We must control what we think about. “whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are of _____ report: ... _____ on these things” (Phil. 4:8).

4. We must control what we say. “If any man among you seem to be religious, and _____ not his _____, ...this man’s religion is _____” (Jas. 1:26).
5. We must control what we do. “Awake to _____, and _____ not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame” (I Cor. 15:34).
6. “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him _____ himself, and take up his _____ and follow me” (Matt. 16:24).

Bible Basics — Lesson 3

Spiritual Security (2)

Introduction

Thus far, we have established that Christians walk by faith (II Cor. 5:7), and we are to add certain characteristics to that faith. We trust in God to lead us (through His Word), and the Scriptures command that we grow (II Pet. 3:18). By studying II Pet. 1:5–10, we have discovered areas of growth to add to our lives, and that if we do this “ye shall never fall.” Previously, we studied faith, virtue, knowledge, and temperance. Let’s look at some other traits.

Additional Traits We Are to Add or Develop

- A. We must work diligently to add patience.
1. Patience is a combination of endurance, persistence, and sometimes an element of longsuffering.
 2. It is a critical element needed to handle all the challenges of life.
 3. Patience does not come easily! It involves weathering the trials of this life. James says, “My brethren, count it all _____ when ye fall into divers _____; knowing this, that the _____ of your _____ worketh _____. But let _____ have her perfect work, that ye may be _____ and entire, wanting nothing” (Jas. 1:2–4).
 4. Patience helps us achieve spiritual maturity or to be “perfect” (or perfected).
 5. James cited the story of _____ as an example of patience (Jas. 5:11).
 6. We may not know why bad things befall us, but we know that those trials will work together for _____. (Rom. 8:28).
 7. Our challenge is to “run with _____ the race that is set before us, looking unto _____ the author and

finisher of our _____” (Heb. 12:1–2).

B. We are also to add Godliness.

1. I have heard this defined as “God-likeness.”
2. We are to “Abhor that which is _____; cleave to that which is _____” (Rom. 12:9).
3. Right and wrong are determined by God’s word, not the shifting values of society.
4. God has given us absolute truth. It is always right and right always. (The right thing to do in all situations.) Knowing the truth will “make you _____” (Jn. 8:32).
5. We are to have the mind of _____ (Phil. 2:5). How would He handle this challenge?

C. To these traits we are also to add Brotherly Kindness.

1. Simple kindness seems to be a disappearing trait today!
2. We need to get to know one another in our spiritual family and feel a closeness with them. That makes kindness easier!
3. Solomon said, “a man that hath friends must show himself _____” (Prov. 18:24).
4. We are to “_____ one another with a pure heart _____” (I Pet. 1:22).
5. We can learn to be kind, even when we disagree.
6. Paul said, “be ye _____ one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another” (Eph. 4:32).

D. To all these traits we are to add Charity (Love).

1. Christians have a loving compassion, care, and concern for others. We are a loving people. Jesus said, “Thou shalt _____ the Lord thy God with all thy _____, and with all thy _____, and with all thy _____. ... Thou shalt _____ thy neighbor as thyself” (Matt. 22:37-39).
2. He also said, “_____ your _____, bless them that curse you, do _____ to them that _____ you, and _____ for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Matt. 5:44).

3. We are to love:
 - a. _____ (Matt. 22:37),
 - b. _____ (Matt. 22:39),
 - c. _____ (Matt. 5:44), and
 - d. _____ (Eph. 5:25; Tit. 2:4).
4. It is an even more powerful force that the miraculous demonstration of spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12:31—13:8).
5. We learn to love and grow in it. Paul said that it is vital we do so. “And above all things put on _____ (love) which is the bond of perfectness” (Col. 3:14)

Conclusion

We must strive to grow and mature spiritually! (II Pet. 3:18)