



Where People Matter

**FAITH FOUNDATIONS FOR TEENAGERS**



What you will read inside will really help you, as you grow in your knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Enjoy!

We are really looking forward to you becoming better informed, about the Lord Jesus, as you begin to work through these short studies.

**This course is designed to show you exactly why Jesus Christ is The Way, The Truth and The Life. If you haven't reached that point yet, don't worry! You will enjoy watching the following presentations before moving into the studies that follow.**

1. The video ('How to Connect to God') on our home page [www.whangareicbc.org](http://www.whangareicbc.org). This will give you a practical overview of what the Bible says in 20 minutes.
2. Go to [Alpha.org](http://Alpha.org) (or our home page)  
Click on "Go International" and view Alpha live talks:
  - Session 1 "Who is Jesus"
  - Session 2 "Why did Jesus die?"

At any time, while completing these studies, please feel speak to Pastor Stephen or Russell, or any other pastoral staff, if you wish to receive water baptism.

Following these three studies we encourage you to move on to Tim Hawkin's 'Discipleship Training Series' parts 1, 2 and 3 (also available at the back of the church).

May you hear His voice, know His freedom, discover His purposes for you and enjoy His company as you work through these studies. You matter to God and to His church. You were meant for this.

Yours faithfully  
Pastor Russell Watts

February 2017

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## Our relationship with Christ

### ➤ What is repentance?

There is a word that you probably haven't heard before, and it's the word "Repentance." Now it's probably not a word you'd just throw into your everyday conversation with your mates at school or work. But it's an important word that helps us understand how people turn back to God.

Pastor Mark Driscoll has this to say about what repentance is.

"Repentance starts in the mind. It's a change of mind. All of a sudden, Jesus is the centre of your life. You're not the centre of your life. You want to do what pleases God, not what satisfies selfish desires. Repentance is literally turning. It's turning from your face towards sin and your back towards Jesus, to your face towards Jesus and your back towards sin. And it's an ongoing lifestyle. It's a continual growing in grace and Christ-likeness. It's something that continues until Jesus' final kingdom."

Basically, repentance is a change of heart, mind and lifestyle. It literally means 'to have another mind'. When we repent, we make a 180° turn in the direction of our life. Previously we were walking against God and His laws and principles, and through repentance we are now walking with Him. To repent is to turn from sin, and to turn to God.

**Acts 3:19 says** *"So turn to God! Give up your sins, and you will be forgiven."*

## ➤ Find it in the Bible - Repent and believe

The first word of the Gospel (Good News) is 'repent', and the second is 'believe'.

- 1) What was the first thing John the Baptist preached? (**Matthew 3:2**)

" \_\_\_\_\_ for the kingdom of heaven will soon be here."

- 2) Jesus preached (**Matthew 4:17**)

" \_\_\_\_\_ for the kingdom of heaven will soon be here."

- 3) Jesus' followers, the disciples, preached (**Mark 6:12**)

The Apostles left and started telling everyone to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- 4) Paul's message was (**Acts 20:21**)

I told Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews) to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

- 5) What does God command all people everywhere to do? (**Acts 17:30**) \_\_\_\_\_.

## ➤ What is true repentance?

True repentance is that wholehearted turning from sin and turning to God. There are some other things that on the surface look like repentance, but are not. Make sure you are not mistaking repentance for any of these:

- Repentance is not conviction of sin (our conscience pricking us). Conviction comes before repentance; but not all who are convicted, repent.

### **Read Acts 24: 24-25.**

- Repentance is not just being 'sorry'. Tears may or may not accompany repentance, but always, repentance is a turning away from sin - to God. Often, sorrow is sorrow for being caught out and for the penalty of being caught. Repentance is not sorrow because you got caught and now you have to face the consequences, but rather for being involved in the first place and not wanting to do it again.

### **Read 2 Corinthians 7:10.**

- Repentance is not just turning over a new leaf; is not just turning away from sin. Perhaps the most important part is where you turn to God.

### **A Parable - Read Luke 15: 11 – 24**

*Once a man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, "Give me my share of the property". So the father divided his property between his two sons.*

*Not long after that, the younger son packed up everything he owned and left for a foreign country, where he wasted all his money in wild living. He had spent everything, when a bad famine spread through that whole land. Soon he had nothing to eat.*

*He went to work for a man in that country, and the man sent him out to take care of his pigs. He would have been glad to eat what the pigs were eating, but no-one gave him a thing.*

*Finally, he came to his senses and said, "My father's workers have plenty to eat, and here I am starving to death! I will go to my father and say to him 'Father, I've sinned against God in heaven and against you. I am no longer good enough to be called your son. Treat me like one of your workers.'"*

*The younger son got up and started back to his father. But when he was still a long way away, his father saw him and felt sorry for him. He ran to his son and hugged and kissed him.*

*The son said, "Father, I've sinned against God in heaven and against you. I'm no longer good enough to be called your son."*

*But his father said to the servants, "Hurry and bring the best clothes and put them on him. Give him a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. Get the best calf and prepare it so we can eat and celebrate".*

*The older son had been out in the field. But when he came near the house, he heard the music and dancing, so he called one of his servants over and asked, "What's going on here?"*

*The servant answered, "Your brother has come home safe and sound and your father ordered us to kill the best calf." The older brother got so angry that he wouldn't even go into the house.*

*His father came out and begged him to go in, but he said to his father, "For years I've worked for you like a slave and have always obeyed you. But you've never even given me a little goat, so that I could give a dinner for my friends. This other son of yours wasted your money on prostitutes. And now that he has come home, you ordered the best calf to be killed for a feast".*

*His father replied, "My son, you're always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we should be glad and celebrate! Your brother was dead, but now he's alive. He was lost and has now been found".*

## ➤ The Mission of God

Repentance is about changing your thinking and actions. If it's just a head thing, just knowledge that doesn't change your actions, then the Bible calls that kind of faith "dead faith." Check out **James 2: 15-20**.

## ➤ Four steps to repentance

### 1. Decision

We read in the Gospel of Luke that the prodigal son "came to himself" or "to his senses". For most of us this is the time in our lives we recognise that we need God. Our decision is the beginning of a lifelong walk, or journey, with God. We don't just pray a prayer, but we turn from our sin and begin to seek God with all our mind, heart, soul and actions. We head for home just like the prodigal son.

***Mark 12:30** – Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.*

### 2. Confession

Having made a decision, we need to confess our sins to God. You might feel that God knows our sins already, and that is true, but God says we have to ask for His forgiveness.

***Hebrews 4:13** – "Nothing is hidden from God! He sees through everything, and we will have to tell him the truth."*

In **1 John 1:9** we read "*But if we confess our sins to God He can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away*". Here we see the need to confess; to receive forgiveness and become clean from all unrighteousness. (Unrighteousness means the things that we do that are offensive to God).

In **Romans 10:10** it says, "*God will accept you and save you, if you truly believe this and tell it to others.*"

In Luke, we saw the prodigal son first confess in his heart, and then he went to his father and confessed with his mouth. We also need to come in humility and confess to our Father in heaven, so that, we too, might be forgiven and come into His blessing.

**3. Renunciation** (to renounce, or turn our back on sin)



**2 Corinthians 4:2** - *“We don’t do shameful things that must be kept secret. And we don’t try to fool anyone or twist God’s message around. God is our witness that we speak only the truth, so others will be sure that we can be trusted.”*

Write down the things you know God wants you to renounce (turn your back on).

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In Ecclesiastes, sin is called ‘insanity’ and that is a very true description of what sin is. God is against sin because, like a cancer, if left in us to develop, it will totally destroy us. When we turn our back on sin we are closing the door on it, never to walk through that door and down that road again. If you have had involvement in the occult, witchcraft, fortune-telling, Ouija boards, séances, ESP, divining, illicit sex, rebellion towards parents, magic charms or amulets, yoga or martial arts teaching, you need to confess these, and ask God to come by His Holy Spirit and deliver you and forgive you.

#### **4. Acceptance**

**John 8:31** - *Jesus told the people who had faith in him, “If you keep on obeying what I have said, you truly are my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”.*

**John 15:3** - *“You are already clean because of what I have said to you.”*

**Acts 2: 38** - Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

What an awesome promise! That God would give us His Holy Spirit to help us love Him more and follow Jesus every day.

### ➤ **Why Is baptism so important?**

The Lord Jesus Christ left only two commands for all Christians to keep – Communion and Baptism. Please read this section carefully and look up the scriptures. If you would like to honour God in baptism, let Pastor Russell or Pastor Stephen know, or one of the elders, or your home group leader if you have one.

### ➤ **Who should be baptised?**

**Acts 2:41**            *Those who accepted His message were baptised.*

**Acts 16:14-15**    *A woman... (the) Lord opened her heart ... she was baptised*

**Question:** What are the two important requirements Jesus expects of people **before** they are baptised?

**Acts 20:21**        \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 2:38**            \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Because baptism is part of the salvation process, believing children should be baptised when they are old enough to confess their faith.

## ➤ When should a person be baptised?

**Acts 8:36**      *“Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptised?”*

**Acts 16:33**      *“Then immediately he ... (was) baptised”*

**Question:** Do you think there should be much of a delay after receiving Christ as Saviour and Lord, before obeying Him in water baptism?

**Acts 16:31-33** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Baptism should be our first act of faith. In the New Testament church, there was no such thing as an un-baptised (by immersion) believer. The word ‘to baptise’ comes from the core word “baptiso’ which means to plunge, dunk, or immerse.

## ➤ How should a person be baptised?

**Acts 8: 38**      *“Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water.”*

**Matthew 3:16**      *“As soon as Jesus was baptised, He went up out of the water.”*

**Question:** Would infant sprinkling (baptism) be a valid form of baptism, and if not, what would be the reason?

**Luke 2:22-23** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 3: 21-22** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Christening is not biblical baptism, however prayers given at this time are very effective.

## ➤ Why be baptised?

- Out of conviction**      **1 Peter 3:21** *“Baptism... (is) the pledge of a good conscience toward God.”*
- In obedience**      **Acts 2:38** *“Repent and be baptised every one of you...”*
- As part of salvation**      **Mark 16:16** *“Anyone who believes in me and is baptised will be saved”.*
- For cleansing**      **Ephesians 5:26** *“He made the church holy by the power of His word, and He made it pure by washing it with water”.*
- As a dedication**      **Romans 6:11** *“In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus”.*

Question: In light of **Romans 6:1-11**, write in your own words why you want to be baptised.

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➤ **Baptism – A death**

One of the most powerful facts about water baptism is that it establishes a definite point at which we “close the door” on the old way of life we led before we became a Christian.

What are you closing the door on?

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➤ **Baptism – A resurrection**

Coming out of the water symbolises a heart commitment to lead a new life in Christ, of righteousness and victory, made possible only by the presence and through the power of God’s Holy Spirit.

What are you looking forward to in your life with God?

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## ➤ **What happens at your baptism?**

When you are baptised, you will be asked simple questions like:

- Have you chosen to leave your old way of life, where you did what you wanted?
- Do you want Jesus to be your leader for the rest of your life?

You will answer 'yes' and maybe give a short testimony.

If you have a favourite song you would like us to sing, please let us know.

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## The Holy Spirit and the Christian

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). He is not some vague, impersonal force. He is equal in every way with the Father and with the Son. All the divine attributes ascribed to the Father and the Son are equally ascribed to the Holy Spirit. The Bible uses different concepts to describe the Holy Spirit.

Read the following texts and write out the concepts given.

**1 Corinthians 3:16** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 8: 9** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 1: 13** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**John 14: 16-17** *“Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit, who will help you and always be with you. The Spirit will show you what is true. The people of this world cannot accept the Spirit, because they don’t see or know him. But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you.”*

**What is the chief reason the Holy Spirit came?**

Read the following concepts and find out the role of the Holy Spirit:

**John 16: 7-11** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**John 16: 12-15** \_\_\_\_\_

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**John 14: 26** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Acts 1: 18** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Romans 8: 26** \_\_\_\_\_

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## ➤ **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

Baptise is a Greek word meaning to immerse (in this instance to immerse in the Holy Spirit). When a person comes to put their faith in Christ, God promises to give His Holy Spirit to him or her. The term ‘Baptism of the Holy Spirit’ is used, in scripture, to describe the first experience a new believer has of being immersed, or filled, with the Holy Spirit.

## ➤ **Find it in the Bible – Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

**John 1: 29-34** *“The next day, John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! He is the one I told you about when I said “Someone else will come. He is greater than I am, because He was alive before I was born”. I didn’t know who He was. But I came to baptise you with water, so that everyone in Israel would see Him. I was there and saw the Spirit come down on Him like a dove from heaven. And the Spirit stayed on Him. Before this I didn’t know who He was. But the one who sent me to baptise you with water had told me, “You will see the Spirit come down and stay on someone. Then you will know that He is the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit”. I saw this happen, and I tell you that He is the Son of God”.*



Who is the one who baptises a person with the Spirit?

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**Acts 2: 38-39** Peter said, “Turn back to God! Be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven. Then you will be given the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you and your children. It is for everyone our Lord God will choose, no matter where they live”.

Who did Peter say the promise of the Holy Spirit was for? \_\_\_\_\_

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Does this include you? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the two conditions Peter said were necessary in order for someone to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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(Note that ‘baptism’ here refers to water baptism and was the normal response made in faith by those who believed.)

In the New Testament, we see that God offers the gift of the Holy Spirit to all who meet these two conditions.

**Acts 8: 14-17** “The apostles in Jerusalem heard that some people in Samaria had accepted God’s message, and they sent Peter and John. When the two apostles arrived, they prayed that the people would be given the Holy Spirit. Before this, the Holy Spirit had not been given to anyone in Samaria, though some of them had been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

How did Peter and John pray for these Christians?

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In the early church the apostles would check to see if the new believers were baptised in the Spirit. Has this happened to you? The Bible makes it clear that we will know if we have been baptised in the Holy Spirit.

Read the following verses and list the ways we can know:

**John 7: 37-39** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 10: 44-46** \_\_\_\_\_

**Galatians 5: 22-23** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 1: 8** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 4: 31** \_\_\_\_\_

What good gift will God the Father give to all His children who ask Him for it? (**Luke 11:13**)

\_\_\_\_\_

## ➤ **The fullness of the Spirit**

Make a list of the 9 primary Spiritual gifts found in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

If you have never demonstrated a spiritual gift, you can eagerly ask God for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Then ask your care group or the prayer

team after the service to lay hands on you, so you can receive the Holy Spirit in power and become a normal Christian.

***Ephesians 5: 18*** “Don’t destroy yourself by getting drunk, but let the Spirit fill your life”.

What are we commanded to do?

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We need to consider what the term ‘being filled with the Spirit’ means. In the Greek version, it is written in the ‘present continuous’ tense – i.e. it is meant to be a continuous, ongoing experience. **Ephesians 5:18** uses the illustration of drunkenness. A drunkard is controlled by alcohol, and a Christian who is filled with the Spirit is one who is controlled by the Holy Spirit. A drunkard has to top-up his or her intake of alcohol and likewise, a Christian has to continually be filled with the Holy Spirit.

There is one baptism of the Spirit but many fillings.

**A self-directed life has self in the driver’s seat,  
with the Spirit in the passenger seat.  
A Spirit directed life has the Spirit in the driver’s seat,  
and self in the passenger seat.**

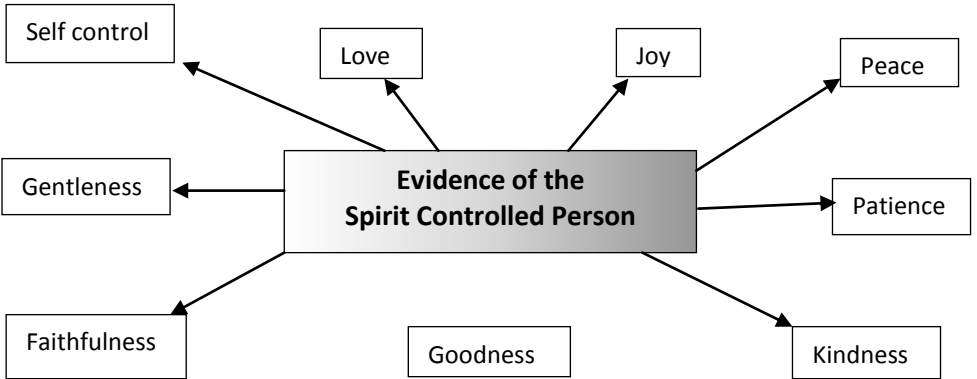
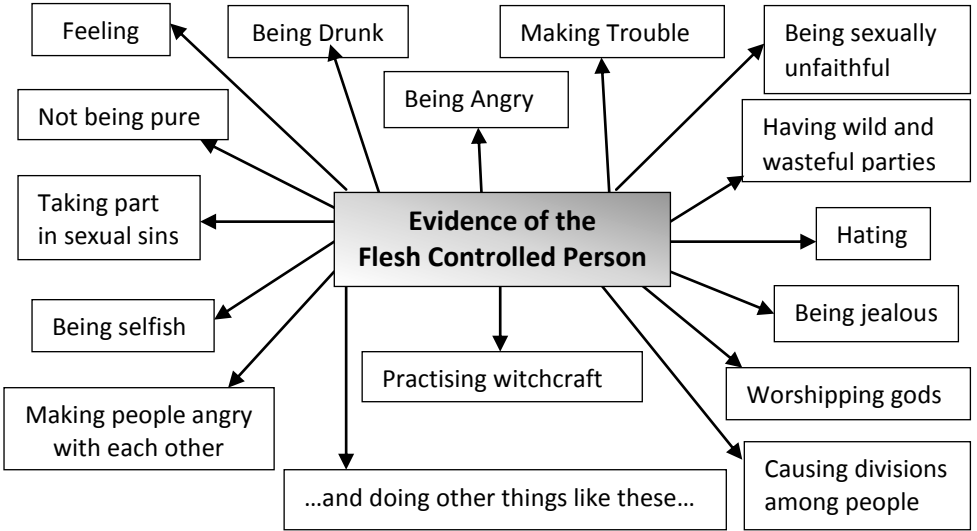
Think carefully about your life. Are you living a Spirit-filled life? Remember that the Spirit-filled life can only be lived when the Holy Spirit is in control. It is foolish to think we can do it by our own efforts. There will be many times in your Christian life when you become aware that you are not living a Spirit-filled life. How can you renew that experience?

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## **As you ask God to fill you and as people pray for you...**

Most commonly you will feel a word or two forming in your mouth (a new prayer language). Make the decision to speak it out by faith and then see what follows.

Jesus said (**Mark 16:16**) that all Christians would be able to pray in a new prayer language. (Praying in God's will for you and your family, etc. God will be helping you pray with His wisdom and insight).

This gift opens the door to trusting God to use other gifts as well. Your prayer language can be used any time (usually in private prayer). Praying in your prayer language will tune you into His presence. This gift is not to be used in a corporate setting. There is another gift of tongues which is used 'in church' and will always be interpreted (**1 Corinthians 14**).

## Assurance of salvation

You have made the most important decision of your life. That's exciting! But you're probably wondering what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

We have set out this programme to help you understand what happens to you, what to expect, and how to grow in the new life God has given you.

Just as your physical life needs food, air, exercise and rest, so your spiritual life needs certain things to grow and develop too.

Your "food" is the Bible. It makes you strong as you absorb its truth about the world and about God. Prayer and talking with God is like breathing. You get spiritual exercise as you obey Jesus and put aside your own desires. And "rest" is learning to trust him in every circumstance.

You'll also learn about removing the rubbish from your life - by admitting your sins and receiving God's forgiveness on a regular basis. This 'new life' you now have needs to reproduce, and you'll do that as you tell others about Jesus and how they can have new life in Him.

We'll also talk about the opposition you will face because now that you're on God's side, you've become an enemy of the evil forces. But God loves you very much. He wants to be a loving heavenly Father, a protector, guide, friend, boss, comforter and light to you. He's given other people to help you, but best of all, His Holy Spirit lives in you.

**2 Corinthians 5:7 and 5:21** say this:

*"When someone becomes a new Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun! For God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. Then, in exchange, He poured God's goodness into us".*

You may not feel very different, but let's review what happened to bring you to this new beginning.

**Romans 3:23** *"All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory". Before you became a Christian you were cut off from God. What separated you from Him?*

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**Romans 5: 8** *“But God showed how much He loved us by having Christ die for us, even though we were sinful”. What did Jesus do for you?*

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**Colossians 1: 21-22** *“You used to be far from God. Your thoughts made you His enemies, and you did evil things. But His son became a human and died. So God made peace with you, and now He lets you stand in His presence as people who are holy and faultless and innocent”.*

**Acts 3:19** *“So turn to God! Give up your sins and you will be forgiven”.*

**Colossians 1: 22b** *“But you must stay deeply rooted and firm in your faith. You must not give up the hope you received when you received the good news”.*

### **Can You Be Sure?**

Some people struggle all their lives, never being quite sure of their salvation. John, in his letter, was concerned with this very question. Let’s read from it.....

#### **1 John 2: 3-6**

*When we obey God we are sure that we know Him. But if we claim to know Him and don’t obey Him, we are lying and the truth isn’t in our hearts. We truly love God only when we obey Him as we should, and then we know that we belong to Him. If we say we are His, we must follow the example of Christ.*

#### **1 John 5:13**

*All of you have faith in the Son of God, and I have written to let you know you have eternal life.*

#### **1 John 3: 14**

*Our love for each other proves that we have gone from death to life. But if you don’t love each other, you are still under the power of death.*

#### **1 John 3: 24**

*If we obey god's commandments, we will stay one in our hearts with Him, and He will stay one with us. The Spirit that He has given us is proof that we are one with Him.*

**1 John 4: 13**

*God has given us His Spirit. That is how we know that we are one with Him, just as He is one with us.*

**1 John 4: 15**

*God stays one with everyone who openly says that Jesus is the Son of God. That's how we stay one with God*

**1 John 5: 1**

*If we believe that Jesus is truly Christ, we are God's children.*

**1 John 5: 11**

*God has also said that He gave us eternal life and that this life comes to us from His Son. And so, if we have God's Son, we have this life. But if we don't have the Son, we don't have this life. All of you have faith in the Son of God, and I have written to let you know that you have eternal life.*

## **Quick Definitions**

**Christian** Means "Christ in one". Christ lives in you! He comes to take control of your life.

**Grace** Is the "free gift of God" - given to help you turn to Jesus and to supply you with the power to live for all of your life.

**Obedience** Is saying "yes" to Jesus about every decision, every day.

**Repent** means "to turn around". To turn away from a self-centred, self-controlled life.

**Believe** Means "total trust". Trusting Jesus now and every day.