



LIFE LESSONS FROM THE MASTER CARPENTER

Week 1—Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up

1. Some say Jesus was a good man. Some say that he was a prophet, a good teacher and a good example. Who did Jesus claim to be in John 8:58,59? Compare this to Exodus 3:14.
Answer – Jesus claimed to be “I Am”, which is the same name that God told Moses was his name, so Jesus claimed to be God. If Jesus were not God, then he was either a liar (he claimed to be God), or a lunatic (he thought he was God), therefore he was not a good man or a good example if he were not God.
2. Read John 8:24. What is Jesus saying in this passage? Why would this be true?
Answer—He was saying that if they did not believe that he was God, then they would die in their sins. The reason this is true is that only God could die for a person’s sins because only God could live a perfect life and have no sins of his own that he would need to die for. If Jesus were just a man, he could not have paid for our sins. It is necessary for a person to believe that Jesus was God in order to be saved because otherwise they are simply putting their trust in a human who could not pay for our sins.
3. There are three parts to our salvation: A. To be saved from the penalty of our sin which would be to go to hell, B. To be saved from the power of sin which is the ability to keep sin from ruling our lives as Christians, and C. To be saved from the presence of sin when we get to heaven and we will not experience sin any longer. Is it possible for a Christian to be free from the penalty of sin and not be free from the power of sin? How is a Christian freed from the bondage to sin in his life?
Answer—Yes, it is possible to be free from the penalty of sin and yet still be in bondage (control) of sin in our lives. We are freed from the penalty of sin, which is to go to hell, the moment we trust Christ as savior. Once we have the Holy Spirit indwelling us, He can then begin to free us from the power of sin in our lives as we yield our lives to His control. Galatians 5:16,17 tells us to walk in the Spirit and then we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. It will be a battle we fight our whole lives until the day we are in heaven and then freed from the presence of sin. Romans 6, 7, and 8 teach us how to break the bondage of sin in our lives, but we will never be perfect until we get to heaven.

4. Can a believer be possessed by a demon? How do you know? Read the following passages and then talk about what you think spiritual warfare entails for a believer. Romans 7:21-25, 2 Peter 2:11, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, and Ephesians 6:10-18. What is the key to victory in spiritual warfare?

Answer—A believer cannot be possessed with a demon. 1 John 4:4 says that greater is the one who is in us (the Holy Spirit) than the spirit that is in the world (Satan and demons) If the Holy Spirit lives in you, and he does if you are a believer, then a demon cannot possess you. There are two aspects to spiritual warfare. The first is the spiritual warfare between your spiritual nature you receive when you trust Christ and your sinful nature you were born with. There is a war in your mind of which one you will allow to control you. Then there is the spiritual warfare that is going on in the world between Satan and God. Satan will try to influence you to allow your sinful nature to control you. The key to spiritual victory is the battle that occurs in your mind, will you allow the Holy Spirit to control you? This will only happen if you put on the entire armor that God gives to protect your mind, as mentioned in Ephesians 6.

5. Read John 14:16,17. What did Jesus promise to do in this passage? Read Ephesians 1:13,14. What does Paul say happened to you when you believed in Christ? Do you think that what is referred to in Ephesians 1 is the fulfillment of what Jesus promised in John 14? Read 1 Corinthians 12:13. What does Paul say has happened to us if we have trusted in Christ? Is this the same thing that he spoke about in Ephesians 1, or is it different?

Answer—In John 14, Jesus promised that once he was gone, he would send the Holy Spirit to be with us and in us. In Ephesians 1, Paul says that the moment you believed, you were sealed (indwelt) by the Holy Spirit, he comes to live in you. Ephesians 1 is the fulfillment of Jesus' promise in John 14. In 1 Corinthians 12:13, Paul says that all of us have been baptized into the body of Christ. This also happened when you trusted Christ as savior. You were immersed (baptized) into the body of Christ and became a part of the body. This is different from the indwelling of the spirit spoken about in Ephesians 1. The baptism of the Spirit and the indwelling of the Spirit both happened when you trusted Christ, but they are not the same thing.