

Study Guide for the Bible & Theology and Alliance Distinctives Portion of the Accreditation Interview

1. There is one God¹, who is infinitely perfect², existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit³. (¹*Deuteronomy 6:4*; ²*Matthew 5:48*; ³*Matthew 28:19*)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: There is one God, who is eternal and infinitely perfect, and who exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This idea of one God existing as three persons is expressed in the Bible and described by the church as the Trinity

Point 1 - Part 1:

There is one God,

Deuteronomy 6:4

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Point 1 – Part 2:

who is infinitely perfect,

Matthew 5:48

Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect.

Point 1 – Part 3:

existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2. Jesus Christ is true God and true man⁴. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary⁵. He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust⁶, as a substitutional sacrifice⁷, and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood⁸. He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures⁹. He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest¹⁰. He will come again to establish His Kingdom of righteousness and peace¹¹. (⁴*Philippians 2:6-11*; ⁵*Luke 1:36-38*; ⁶*1 Peter 3:18*; ⁷*Hebrews 2:9*; ⁸*Romans 5:9*; ⁹*Acts 2:23-24*; ¹⁰*Hebrews 8:1*; ¹¹*Matthew 26:64*)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Jesus Christ is God - the Son. Like the Father and the Holy Spirit, Jesus is fully God, but He is also fully man. He existed eternally as God with the Father and the Spirit and became a man when He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died upon the cross as a substitute for sinners. He was the just and righteous One who died on behalf of those who are unjust and unrighteous. Because of His sacrifice, everyone who believes in Him is justified and considered righteous in the sight of God. He also physically rose from the dead after three days in a tomb. Today He lives in Heaven at the right hand of God the Father where he represents believers like an advocate and intercedes on their behalf. One day, He will come again to earth to establish His government of righteousness and peace.

Point 2 – Part 4:

Jesus Christ is the true God and the true man.

Philippians 2:6-11

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Point 2 – Part 5:

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

Luke 1:36-38

36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. 37 For nothing is impossible with God. 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Point 2 – Part 6:

He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust,

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.

Point 2 – Part 7:

as a substitutionary sacrifice,

Hebrews 2:9

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Point 2 – Part 8:

and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood.

Romans 5:9

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

Point 2 – Part 9:

He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures.

Acts 2:23-24

23 This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

Point 2 – Part 10:

He is now at the right hand of Majesty on high as our great High Priest.

Hebrews 8:1

The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a High Priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

Point 2 – Part 11:

He will come again to establish His kingdom, righteousness and peace.

Matthew 26:64

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

3. The Holy Spirit is a divine person¹², sent to indwell, guide, teach, empower the believer¹³, and convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment¹⁴. (¹²*John 14:15-18*; ¹³*John 16:13*; *Acts 1:8*; ¹⁴*John 16:7-11*)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. Like the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit is fully God. He is sent from the Father and the Son to live within the souls of Believers in order to guide, teach, and empower them as they follow Jesus in this world. He also acts to convince the world of its guilt regarding sin, and of the righteousness of Jesus Himself, and of the judgment of Satan, the prince of this world.

Point 3 – Part 12:

The Holy Spirit is a divine person,

John 14:15-18

15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither

sees him or knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Point 3 – Part 13:

sent to dwell, guide, teach, empower the believer,

John 16:13

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Acts 1:9

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Point 3 – Part 14:

and convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.

John 16:7-11

7 But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; 10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

4. The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice¹⁵. (¹⁵*2 Peter 1:20-2, 2 Timothy 3:15-16*)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: The Old and New Testaments were verbally inspired by God and without error as originally given. The word, inspired, actually means “God breathed” or “spoken.” Their words are really the words of God. Together they are a complete revelation of God's will for the salvation of men. They also are the only rule that Christians have for what they are to believe and how they are to live.

Point 4 – Part 15:

The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.

2 Peter 1:20-21

20 Above all, you must understand that no prophesy of Scripture came about by the prophets own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:15-16

15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. 16 All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

5. Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God¹⁶. He fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All men are born with a sinful nature¹⁷, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ¹⁸. The prospect of the impenitent and unbelieving person is existence forever in conscious torment¹⁹; and that of the believer in Christ is everlasting joy and bliss²⁰. (¹⁶*Genesis 1:27*; ¹⁷*Romans 3:23*; ¹⁸*1 Corinthians 15:20-23*; ¹⁹*Revelation 21:8*; ²⁰*Revelation 21:1-4*)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Mankind was originally created in the likeness of God and enjoyed a conscious, loving relationship with Him. But through the sin of Adam, mankind has fallen away from God, and experienced both physical and spiritual death. Since that time all people have been born with a sinful nature, and are willfully separated from a relationship with God. Returning to God is possible but only through the work that Jesus Christ performed on the cross. His death on the cross reconciles people with God because it atones for their sins. In other words, it saves them from the consequences of living apart from God. So now God calls all people to repent – to leave their sin behind and return to Him by trusting in the work that Jesus did for them. Those who do trust Jesus will enjoy a blissful eternity with God in Heaven. Everyone who rejects Jesus receives an everlasting conscious torment that Scripture calls Hell.

Point 5 – Part 16:

Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God:

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Point 5 – Part 17:

he fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All men are born with a sinful nature,

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Point 5 – Part 18:

are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

Point 5 – Part 19:

The portion of the unrepentant and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment;

Revelation 21:8

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murders, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.

Point 5 – Part 20:

and that of the believer, in everlasting joy and bliss.

Revelation 21:1-4

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

6. Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men, and those who repent and believe in Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life, and become the children of God.²¹ (*Titus 3:4-7*)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men. Everyone who repents of their sin and trusts that Jesus died for them on the cross and that God accepts Jesus' death on their behalf receives salvation as a gift from God. Like being "born again," they receive a new nature from the Holy Spirit, and become children of God.

Point 6 – Part 21:

Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men; and those who repent and believe in Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life, and become the children of God.

Titus 3:4-7

4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 when he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

7. It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly²², being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service²³. This is both a crisis and a progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion²⁴. (²²1 Thessalonians 5:23; ²³Acts 1:8; ²⁴Romans 6:1-14)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: God's will for each Believer is that they grow to full maturity in their relationship with Him. This growth process is called sanctification and ultimately results in our being conformed to the image of Jesus. Practically, it means separating ourselves from the sin that displeases Him by dieing to our selfish human will, and receiving power from the Holy Spirit to live lives that please Him and serve Him effectively. Sanctification includes a climactic experience called a crisis of faith and progressive experiences of spiritual growth that occur after a person trusts in Jesus.

Point 7 – Part 22:

It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly,

1 Thessalonians 5:23

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Point 7 – Part 23:

being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Point 7 – Part 24:

This is both a crisis and progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion.

Romans 6:1-14

1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized in to his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – 7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do no offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

8. Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body²⁵. Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures and are privileges for the Church in this present age²⁶. (²⁵Matthew 8:16-17; ²⁶James 5:13-16)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Jesus' atoning work on the cross also provides for healing of the mortal body. Prayer for the sick is a privilege for Believers today. Instructions for how the church elders are to pray for the healing of sicknesses are given in the New Testament book of James, chapter 5.

Point 8 – Part 25:

Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body.

Matthew 8:16-17

16 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

Point 8 – Part 26:

Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures and are privileges for the Church in this present age.

James 5:13-16

13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

9. The Church consists of all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church²⁷, which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations²⁸. The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the gospel, and observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper²⁹. (²⁷*Ephesians 1:22-23*; ²⁸*Matthew 28:19-20*; ²⁹*Acts 2:41-47*)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: The Church consists of all those who trust their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Church functions like a physical body with Christ as the head and believers as the various members. Each member has abilities or gifts from the Holy Spirit that help them function effectively within the church. The Church is commissioned by God to go throughout the entire world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations.

The local church is a body of believers in Christ who come together to worship God, to edify one another through the Word of God, to pray together, to enjoy each others' fellowship, to proclaim the gospel, to Baptize Believers and to partake in the Lord's Supper together.

Point 9 – Part 27:

The Church consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church,

Ephesians 1:22-23

22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Point 9 – Part 28:

which has been commissioned by Him to go in to all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations.

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Point 9 – Part 29:

The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, for prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the gospel, and observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Acts 2:41-47

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 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, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

10. There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life³⁰; for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment³¹.⁽³⁰*1 Corinthians 15:20-23*; ³¹*John 5:28-29*)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Everyone shall experience a bodily resurrection. Those who are righteous in God's eyes will be raised to eternal life in fellowship with God. Those who are unrighteous will experience eternal judgment and separation from God.

Point 10 – Part 30:

There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life;
1 Corinthians 15:20-23

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

Point 10 – Part 31:

for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment.

John 5:28-29

28 "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out – those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

11. The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent³² and will be personal, visible, and premillennial³³. This is the believer's hope and is a vital truth that is an incentive to holy living and faithful service³⁴. ⁽³²*Hebrews 10:37*; ³³*Luke 21:27*; ³⁴*Titus 2:11-14*)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Jesus Christ is coming to earth again. His second coming can occur at any time and will occur in a way that is personal and visible. When He comes, He will establish His government on earth. For believers Jesus' second coming inspires hope and motivates them to holy living and faithful service to God.

Point 11 – Part 32:

The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent

Hebrews 10:37

For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay.

Point 11 – Part 33:

and will be personal, visible, and premillennial.

Luke 21:27

At that time we will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Point 11 – Part 34:

This is the believer's blessed hope and is a vital truth which is an incentive to holy living and faithful service.

Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 It teaches us to say "no" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

THE FOURFOLD GOSPEL OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

We understand Jesus Christ is a central and major theme throughout the Scriptures, and we express Him and His fullness in a four-fold way known as “the Fourfold Gospel.”

- **Christ our Savior...** we proclaim that Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He died, the just for the unjust, and gave His life as a ransom for our lives. We teach that we are redeemed through His precious blood, justified by His death and resurrection, made righteous through His righteousness and accepted by God in His name. The man or woman who puts personal trust in Jesus Christ as Savior becomes a new creation.
(*Ephesians 2:8; 2 Corinthians 5:17*)
- **Christ our Sanctifier...** we understand that sanctification is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself dwelling in our hearts and walking in our steps so that we live like Him. This means coming to the end of ourselves and our self-sufficiency to such an extent that we willingly receive Christ as Lord of all. The sanctified life is subsequently a matter of simple dependence, moment by moment, on Christ alone. We must yield ourselves completely to God and place full confidence in Christ as our Sanctifier to live His life through us each day. The divine agent in this experience is the Holy Spirit. It is His function to make the Lord Jesus known to us as our Sanctifier and then to reveal Him to us moment by moment for the supply of every need in our spiritual life. This experience of Christ as Sanctifier marks a definite and distinct crisis in the history of a person's relationship with Christ.
(*1 Corinthians 1:30; Romans 12:1-2*)
- **Christ our Healer...** we affirm that the Lord Jesus Christ purchased and provided for His believing and obedient followers physical strength and healing. “He bore our sicknesses” as well as our sins. From His risen life and from His touch we by faith may draw strength and take health until our life's work is done. The first condition of “the Lord for our physical bodies” is that we are completely yielded to Him, using the life He gives us for His glory and service. Second, we must believe, without a doubt, the promise of His Word for our own strength and healing. Third, we must abide in Him for our physical life and draw our strength moment by moment through personal dependence upon Him. “[He] healed all that were sick.” This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah.
(*Matthew 8:16, 27*)
- **Christ our Coming King...** we agree that the Lord Jesus is going to personally return to this earth again. This return will be as visible as when He went away. His coming will establish the millennium—His own glorious reign of righteousness and peace. He will be enthroned King of Kings and Lord of Lords before whom every knee will bow and confess that Jesus is Lord. Our hope of His return must be a mighty force motivating us to holiness, watchfulness, and to an earnest faithfulness in helping to send the gospel as a witness to all persons. We participate in His return as stated, *This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*
(*Matthew 24:14*)

There are several position papers that give much more detail than the above paragraphs. These documents can be found at www.cmalliance.org/howeare/distinctives/distinctives.jsp - For further study, here is a list of what is provided:

- NEW! Spiritual Gifts: Expectation without Agenda (PDF doc, 44kb)
Spiritual Gifts—Why Now? (PDF doc, 16kb)
- Who Christ Is (Word doc, 32kb)
- Great Commission Christians/Churches (Word doc, 23kb)
- Evangelizing the Lost (Word doc, 20kb)
- Baptism (Word doc, 25kb), Baptism (PDF brochure, 818kb)
- Sanctification (Word doc, 36kb)
- Divorce (Word doc, 35kb)
- The Lostness of Man (Word doc, 68kb)
- Divine Healing (Word doc, 32kb)
- Salvation in Christ (Word doc, 31kb)

Supplement on Sanctification: An Alliance Position Paper

This outline study is offered to help clarify and personalize the work of the Spirit of God in our lives. It is intended to provide an initial listing of scriptures that will help define the mysterious work of the Spirit of God at work in our life. It is not exhaustive but selective.

- ❑ At point of conversion, when we are born again we are placed in the body of Christ. We are seen as holy because of what Christ has done. We have trusted Him for taking care of our sin debt. The price for sin is paid and we are positionally sanctified. The Spirit seals us.
 - Romans 5:1 We have been justified through faith . . . through our Lord Jesus
 - 1 Corinthians 1:39 Christ Jesus has become for us..our righteousness.
 - 1 Corinthians 6:11 But you were washed, you were sanctified, in the name of
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 Anyone in Christ is a new creation
 - Ephesians 1:13-14 And you also were included in Christ ... marked in him
 - Hebrews 13:12 Jesus suffered . . . to make the people holy

- ❑ Having been placed in Christ we immediately begin the discovery of who Christ is and what he has accomplished for us and what we may be in Him. (1 Peter 1:16 - Be holy) Until we come to him there is no possibility of this discovery. (1 Cor 2:14 - The man without the Spirit does not accept the things ... of the Spirit.) We also recognize that within us there is no possibility of becoming like him. (Rom 7:21-24 Another law). There must be the realization that only when we abandon our will to His will is it possible to know the controlling work of the Holy Spirit manifesting the fullness of Christ's life within. No longer being slaves to sin and self but becoming slaves of the Spirit of Christ. Dying to self and living in Christ. Denying self and abiding in Christ. Sanctification isn't only a legal declaration of a position but it is to be a part of our experience as a decision and an ongoing relationship. It is both a crisis and a process, a decision and a development, a turning point and a new direction, it is a continual experience marked by an altar and a road.

- ❑ It is a crisis, a willful event, a decision. It may be emotional or rational, behavioral or aesthetic but it is a turning point, a moment of exchange, a definite and thorough surrender, an altar.
 - Romans 6:12-14 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.
 - Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death, those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires (6) the mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. (12) we have an obligation to live . . . by the Spirit.
 - Romans 12: 1-2 Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -this is your spiritual act of worship.
 - Ephesians 5: 18 . . . be controlled by the Spirit

- ❑ It is a process, a working out, a developmental and progressive relationship in the unfolding road of my life. The initial realization of His sufficiency and my insufficiency is an altar experience the force of which presses us towards a daily revisitation of that exchange so the ongoing relationship is one of surrender, abiding, confiding, resting, staying, depending on HIM to accomplish his will in my life.
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:23 May God himself . . . sanctify you through and through
 - Galatians 2:20 Christ lives in me . . . the life I live by faith in the Son
 - Galatians 5:22-25 Live by the Spirit
 - 2 Peter 1:5-11 Add to your faith virtue

- ❑ This new relationship will be finally realized or completed in heaven. We will then be declared just people made righteous or perfect in him. Perfection understood in the context of sanctification during our earthly walk is that of "becoming". It isn't that we have arrived but are anticipating an entrance into eternity when seeing Him we shall be like Him, because of what He has accomplished.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23 May the God of peace sanctify you wholly: and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
- Phillipians 1:6 He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ
- Hebrews 12:23. The church of the firstborn whose names are written in heaven, the spirits of righteous men made perfect

□ We counsel only those who are answering the call to "be holy" realizing that they haven't got what it takes to be holy. When someone responds to the call to be holy and truly seeks, they shall find. The answer will come when the question is fully asked, "How can I be rescued from this mess" (Rom 7:24). The answer comes from sovereign God who will provide when he provides. Our part is to seek Him, and thank Him for the promised indwelling.

- We present CHRIST as the answer. (Gal 2:20 "I live by faith in the Son of God.")
- It is faith in Christ that will be effective. Christ only Christ is Savior and Sanctifier.
- We present the Holy Spirit (The Spirit sent by Christ) as the enabler. (John 14:16-17, 26 the comforter who guides, Acts 1:8 the power for witness,)
- It is the power of the Holy Spirit alone that will enable victory.
- He is the third person of the Godhead who Christ sent to make a difference in the lives of believers.
- He is to be invited in to the believing seekers life as the controlling, enabling, productive power person within.
- We don't promise an emotional experience. (Though new feelings may be given.)
- We don't press them to a disciplined life. (Though new disciplines may emerge.)
- We give them the expectancy of a new level of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- Controlled by the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)
- Ministries motivated by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 12: 1 - 8)
- Ministries benefiting the church and unbelievers. (I Corinthians 12,13,14)

Supplement Being Filled with the Holy Spirit

1. WHILE JESUS LIVED ON THIS EARTH HE CARRIED OUT HIS MINISTRY THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (ACTS 10:38). GOD SHOWED WHAT HE COULD DO IN A HUMAN BEING BY HIS SPIRIT IN CHRIST.
 - Luke 4:1 – Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit
 - Luke 4:14 – Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit
 - Luke 4:18 – the Spirit of the Lord is upon me
 - Luke 5:17 – the power of the Lord was present for him to perform healing
 - Matt. 12:28 – if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God
 - Acts 2:22 – a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs, which God performed through him in your midst...
2. JESUS PROMISED THE POWER OF THAT SAME SPIRIT TO HIS FOLLOWERS (JOHN 14:10 ff). He who believes in me will also do the works that I do, and greater works than these will he do, because I go to my Father.
3. JESUS ILLUSTRATED THE TRANSFER OF THE SPIRIT FROM HIMSELF TO HIS FOLLOWERS (John 20:22). He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Cf. John 7:39, 13:31, 17:1, 17:5, and Acts 2:33.
4. JESUS KEPT HIS PROMISE AND Poured OUT THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST (ACTS 1:5, you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit; 1:8, you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; 2:1-4 and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit; 2:17-18, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; 2:33, he has poured out this).
5. JESUS NOW OFFERS THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO ALL WHO RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL (Acts 2:38-39). For the promise is to...everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.
6. THOSE WHO BELONG TO JESUS NOW HAVE THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST DWELLING IN THEM (Romans 8:9). Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

7. THE POWER OF THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, HOWEVER, IS NOT EXERCISED AUTOMATICALLY—IT MUST BE APPROPRIATED BY FAITH (ACTS 4:24-31, EPH. 5:18). THIS APPROPRIATION INVOLVES YIELDING OURSELVES TO HIS CONTROL, SINCE HE IS NOT A POWER WE GET TO USE BUT A PERSON WHO WANTS TO USE US.
8. AS WE YIELD TO HIM AND RELY ON HIS POWER, THE HOLY SPIRIT THEN WORKS IN US AS HE DID IN JESUS, PRODUCING BOTH:

THE PERSONALITY OF JESUS
THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
GALATIANS 5
HOLINESS

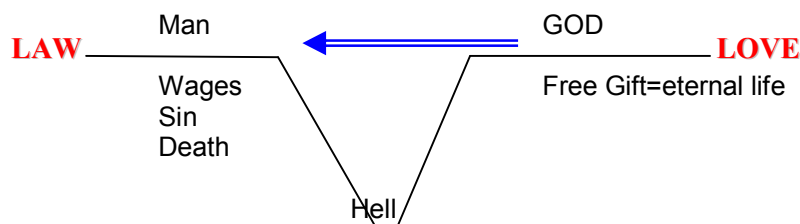
THE POWER OF JESUS FOR MINISTRY
THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT
I CORINTHIANS 12
SERVICE

One Verse Method of Evangelism (Based on Romans 6:23)

In the interview you will be expected to clearly communicate how you would present the Gospel to someone. It is understood that the best way to present the Gospel is through natural relationships. For the sake of the interview, it is crucial that you are able to give the basis of what you would communicate. Here is one option; our hope is that you have refined what you would say through years of practice. In the interview please use what is most natural for you. This is just one option.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

- Define each word. Wages=earned, worked for, deserved, it's the LAW
 - Sin=anything that God dislikes, keeps you out of heaven
 - Death=in the Bible is referring to Spiritual death separated from God – it broken relationship
- Draw and continue to explain....



- Looks like BAD news. When you have worked bad (sin) you deserve (wages) death (hell). **BUT** is a key word. There is a free Gift that God desires to give out of his love. What is the difference between wages and free gift? (can't earn it, don't work for it, don't deserve it, not out of law but out of love)
- There is a clear problem, a chasm between God and man that remains even as badly as he wants to give us this gift. How can both his law and his love be fulfilled without the other being frustrated? Either everybody stays in the law and it is fulfilled or everybody goes over to heaven and love is fulfilled. How can both be bridged? Only Through CHRIST JESUS, the perfect sacrifice, the only 200% person, 100% God and 100% man. One hand clearly on the man side as he lived a perfect life to fulfill the law and other hand clearly on the God side as Emmanuel. Outstretched arms saying "I love you this much."

Note....the law doesn't care who pays for it, only that it gets paid. Jesus came to pay the dept of the law and only he could do it. A sinful person couldn't pay for somebody else, he has to pay his own debt. Jesus alone can fulfill the law and express the perfect love of God.

- SO....Jesus died on the cross to pay the wages for my sin and yours, to fulfill the law. The question becomes, how do I make this my reality and receive this free gift of eternal life? A free gift must be received. There is a faith response that is required. There is something to be opened and appropriated. That something is Jesus, the way and truth and life, and He must become my LORD (final key word). Where are you? ABC.....**A**dmit where you are in sin. Believe in your heart that Jesus died and rose again, and that he wants to be your hope and your leader, the fulfillment of God's love in your life. **C**onfess and **C**CROSS OVER from death to life by inviting Him to be LORD.

