

Successful Fishing!

PRACTICAL SKILLS
FOR SHARING
THE GOOD NEWS

How to Approach
an Unbeliever
and Preach the Gospel
Effectively



Michael Karpovetzki



Baruch

© Copyright 2019 — Michael Karpovezki

All rights reserved. This book is protected by the copyright laws of the United States of America. This book may not be copied or reprinted for commercial gain or profit. The use of short quotations or occasional page copying for personal or group study is permitted and encouraged. Permission will be granted upon request.

Unless otherwise identified,
Scripture quotations are from
the New International Version of the Bible.

Baruch Publishing
www.baruch-books.com

SUCCESSFUL FISHING!
Practical Skills for Sharing the Gospel
by Michael Karpovezki

ISBN 978-966-2346-42-8

For Worldwide Distribution

Publishing books and ebooks in different languages,
Email: office@baruch-books.com

Contents

Introduction	4
Objectives.....	8
Prayer.....	9
Flowchart.....	10
How to Use the Flowchart.....	11

The Basis of Faith

1. God is the Creator and the Lord of His Creation	30
2. The Authority of God’s Word.....	33
3. Adam’s First-Born (Original) Sin	37
4. God’s Nature and His Actions for the Salvation of Sinful Man	40
5. The Law (Torah) and its Meaning in the Life of the Christian.....	43
6. Changes in the Believer’s Heart	45
7. Baptism	47
Test on the topic: “The Basis of Faith”	50



Introduction

Psalms 91

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy

Before his ascension, the Lord gave us the great commission:

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 28:19–20

Every believer needs to understand the importance of this commission. Those were the last words that Jesus spoke. The word “therefore” sums up His ministry on earth, and the words that follow express the will of God. Before sending us out to fulfill the great commission, the Lord encourages us by saying: *“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”* It means that He has authority in heaven: over the hosts of God’s angels, and also over the fallen angels, and over Satan himself. He is far above all rulers, and therefore no one can hurt us without Him allowing it. Psalm 91 speaks about the power of God, and the power that He has over us. Are you ready to

accept this fact? In I Corinthians 6:19 it says that “*we are not our own*”, and that our life does not belong to us but to God. Every believer has to realize this and go through “his own Gethsemane”, having brought onto the altar all his desires, plans, and thoughts. Every believer has to make a decision and say: “*not my will be done but thine.*” Every believer has to understand that God has full authority over him.

“*Go ye therefore and teach all nations.*” This is the kind, gracious, and perfect will of God.

It is His commandment to us to preach the gospel and make disciples. At this time when the entire world is full of darkness and sin, and is actually on the threshold of its eternal destruction, and when people are dead in their sins and going to hell, there is only one power — the power of salvation. The power of the gospel as written in Romans 1:16. It is so wonderful to see God’s work in the lives of His chosen ones, whose hearts are open to Him, and rejoice over them with the angels in heaven. How wonderful it is to know that God so loved the world that He has redeemed us from eternal death and given us hope to see all of His promises fulfilled in the Kingdom of Heaven. In Him “*we have obtained an inheritance*” (Ephesians 1:11), and He has made us partakers of His holiness. What can be better than this? But God gives us even more: He gives us the privilege to be part of His plan. He calls us to preach the gospel.

habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation

1 Corinthians 6:19

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew and also to the Gentile.

Ephesians 1:11

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Romans 9:16-18

So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.

John 1:40-46

One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith

It's important to remember that our wonderful God is a God of harvest, and He sends us as laborers to work His fields. All glory belongs to Him, as He is the One who opens hearts and waters a seed that was planted (1 Corinthians 3:7). Our prayer is that God will send more laborers and open hearts of people. We can do nothing without God. He is the One who chooses to show mercy or harden hearts (Romans 9:16-18).

Everyone who is saved also becomes a disciple of Christ and is responsible to fulfill the great commission that his Teacher has given to him. Every person who has come to God and tasted of His goodness will be bringing new souls to Him (John 1:40-46).

Today we see the gospel being preached to all nations, all over the world (Matthew 24:14). As the end is approaching, God is filling the hearts of evangelists with more zeal to bring the good news to more and more people so that they may be saved and obtain peace with God.

The most important part of the great commission is discipleship: *"Go ye therefore and teach all nations."* These words of Jesus are of great importance to every believer. As an infant needs the love and care of his parents, a new believer needs to learn the love of Christ for him; the love that surpasses all understanding, forcing all idols out of his life and placing Christ in first place. Both love and service to Him encourage the brothers to

teach new converts to abide by all that the Lord Jesus commanded us (Matthew 28:20). The role of a spiritual mentor is very important. He should be an example for new believers, and should not only teach them spiritual truths, but also how to live out these truths in their lives; to help a new believer become mature and capable of fulfilling the great commission.

Baptism is a very important experience in the life of every new believer. It confirms the decision to become a disciple of Christ, to live for God and to serve Him with love and faithfulness, knowing that our Lord Jesus is always present in our lives as He promised, *“I am with you always, until the end of the world.”*



unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, a stone. The day following, Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there be any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 28:20

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Objectives

Verses from the Scriptures to Be Memorized:

- Romans 1:20,
the existence of God –
He is the Creator.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16,
2 Peter 1:19–21,
the authority of God’s Word.
 - Isaiah 6:3–6,
James 1:13–17,
the nature of man and God.
 - Romans 4:4–5, grace.
 - Isaiah 9:6–7, 53:4–6,
Micah 5:12,
the divine and human
nature of Yeshua.
 - Matthew 3:2, 7–10,
Hebrews 11:1,
repentance and faith.
 - Romans 8:35–39,
John 6:38–40,
assurance of salvation.
- To stir a desire and passion in the hearts of believers to preach the gospel.
 - To equip believers with the practical skills necessary to fulfill the great commission.

Once Charles Spurgeon asked his coachman the following two questions:

1. Where will you be when you die?
2. What gives you the right to claim that you will be in heaven?

These two questions help an unbeliever start thinking about death and what is going to happen after death. They also help us understand what prevents an unbeliever from confessing his sinfulness and turning to God.



Prayer

It's important to keep in mind that it is not our eloquence or capacity to witness, but that God alone can draw people to Himself. And He may harden hearts or show mercy and save according to His will (Rom 9:16). Therefore, prayer is always of the first and greatest importance in successful witnessing.

Here are a few tips on how to pray:

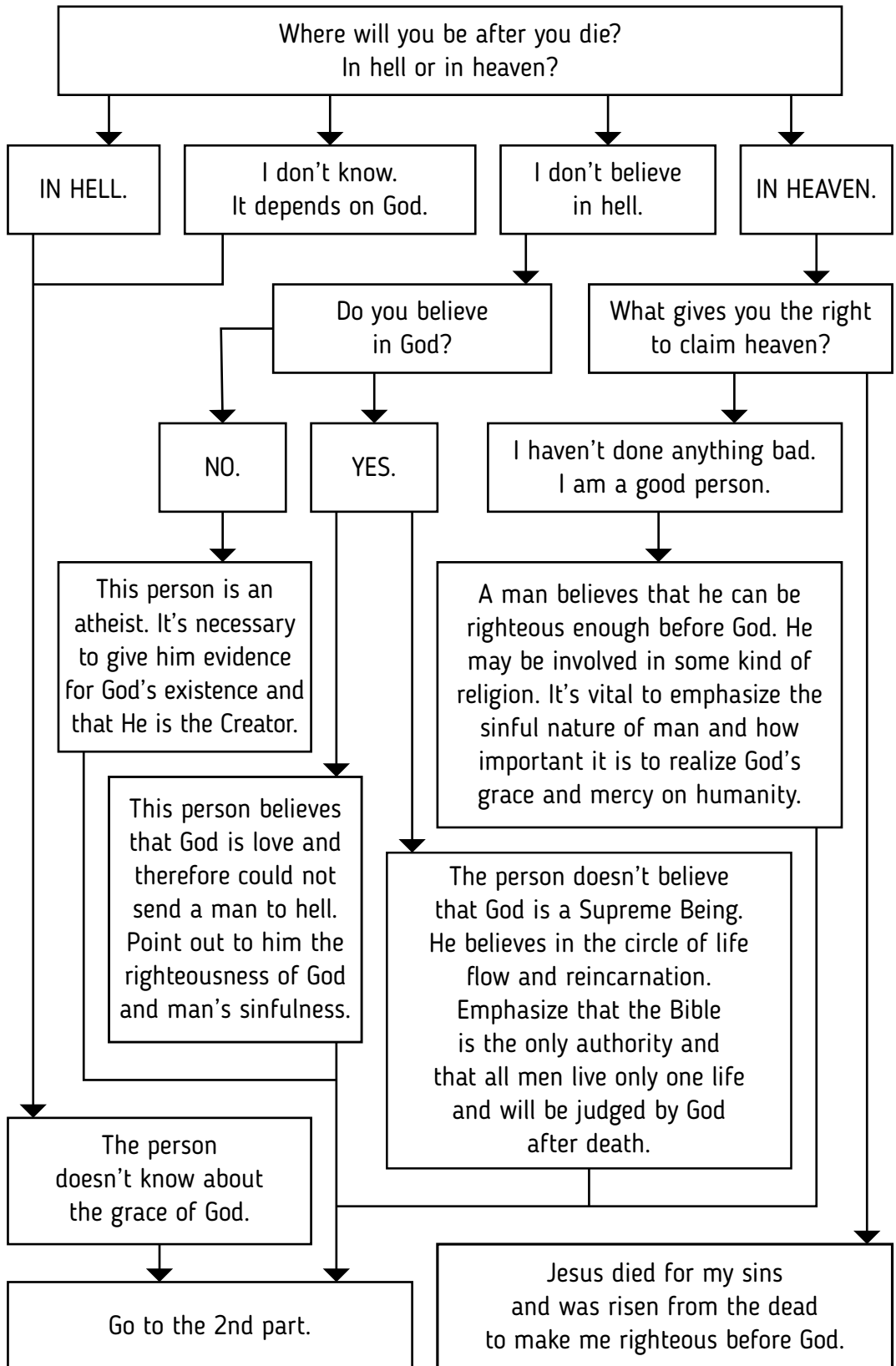
1. Before you set out to witness to an unbeliever, pray that God will work in his heart and draw him to Himself.
2. While you are witnessing, keep praying for God to open the heart and mind of the unbeliever so that he may accept the truth of the gospel.
3. Ask God to give you wisdom and put the right words into your mouth that will influence an unbeliever and help him make a decision to turn to God.
4. After you have witnessed to an unbeliever, continue praying for him and ask God to cause the watered seed to grow.

Romans 9:16, 18

So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

So he has mercy on whomever he wants; and he hardens the heart of whomever he chooses.





How to Use the Flowchart

If a person you are having a conversation with is already a believer, he'll give you the following answers to the two questions on the chart: He will reply "in heaven" to the 1st question, and "Yeshua died for my sins and was risen from the dead to save me" to the second. Sometimes, however, you'll need to ask a few additional questions to help a believer answer the 2nd question.

1. **Positive response: in heaven.**

DIALOGUE WITH A BELIEVER

— *I believe I'll be in heaven because God is merciful.*

— How did God reveal His mercy to you?

— *He loved me and forgave my sins.*

— How do you know that He forgave your sins?

— *He promised to do that in His Word.*

Dialogues

In the dialogue, the questions asked by the one evangelizing are in normal font. The answers given are in italics.

Successful Fishing!

— And what does His Word say concerning God’s righteousness and His punishment for every sin?

— *God promised to have mercy on a sinner if he confesses his sins and repents.*

— Right, but repentance itself doesn’t redeem your sins. Who paid for them?

— *Yeshua!*

— Do you believe that He has risen from the dead, ascended to heaven, and His blood cleanses you from all your sins?

— *Yes, I believe that, praise God!*

2. Negative responses.

TWO ANSWERS DEFINING AN UNBELIEVER

1. In hell.
2. I don’t know. It depends on God.

The problem of an unbeliever is that he puts his hope in his works, and not in God’s grace. It’s good that he understands that he can’t earn going to heaven by doing good deeds. Among those who think this way, some are secular, others may adhere to some kind of religion or cult that admits that there is a hell, and some may even be atheists who don’t realize the reality of hell but try to be humorous, saying, “Well, if hell exists, I’ll surely end up there!”

A MODEL DIALOGUE WITH A SECULAR JEW

— Have you ever seriously considered the reality of hell at the end of your life?

— *I try not to think about that and deep in my heart I hope I won’t end up there.*

— What gives you ground for this hope?

— *Well, I believe in God.*

— Are you sure that this faith you have guarantees your future in “heaven”?

— *I’ve heard that God will weigh the good and bad deeds of a man, and if his good deeds outweigh the bad ones he’ll get to heaven, and if it’s the other way around — he’ll be in hell.*

— Have you ever heard that God is merciful and that He forgives our sins?

— *Yes, but we need to deserve His mercy, that’s why we have to fulfill His commandments.*

— Not really. One needs to earn a reward but mercy is a free gift from God. Do you want to receive this gift?

— *Yes, what do I need to do for that?*

Now you may share the gospel using the tips from the chart.

A MODEL DIALOGUE WITH A JEW WHO KEEPS TRADITIONS

— Do you realize what hell is and that you may find yourself there one day?

— *Yes, I do, but I am trying to fulfill the commandments to have less of a chance to go there.*

— Have you heard that God is merciful and that He can forgive?

— *If a man repents and keeps the traditions that God gave us (or tries to fulfill the 613 commandments, or 7 commandments of Noah¹ if he is a Gentile) he might deserve God’s mercy.*

— If one can deserve mercy, it is not mercy any more. It’s a reward. Mercy is a gift from God to a sinner who has repented and brought God a sacrifice (Hebrew — *kaphar*: “atonement”) for his sins. At the time of the Temple, an innocent animal was killed to pay for man’s sins. It was forbidden to bring a sacrifice anywhere else but to the Temple. Today, when we have no Temple, what is the sacrifice for the sins of a sinner who wants to repent?

Isaiah 53:4-10

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

— *Our wise men teach that if we read certain passages from the Tanach that tell about the sacrifices three times a day, this will substitute for bringing a sacrifice itself. If something bad happens to you (your money was stolen, or you lost something expensive) it is kapará. A donation to the synagogue is also a kind of kapará.*

— I'd like to make a comment here. The wise men who teach the Oral Law do not seem to understand precisely the prophecies of the Tanach about a perfect sacrifice. It is a perfect sacrifice that alludes to the image of the Temple, wherein the prophecies of the Tanach are being fulfilled. If you want, we can look through the corresponding verses (Isaiah 53:4-10, Daniel 9:26) in the Tanach together.

After this you may share the gospel, putting emphasis on the person of Messiah.

A MODEL DIALOGUE
WITH A CATHOLIC OR AN ONE
WHO IS ORTHODOX

— Have you ever thought that hell is a place of eternal torment and that once you go there, there is no way out?

— *I don't agree with this. We pray for the dead, we remit their sins (for money)². We may also do good things in memory of the dead to relieve their sufferings in hell.*

— But this practice clearly contradicts what Yeshua taught. (Luke 16:26) Do you trust the Catholic (or Orthodox) teaching more than the Bible? I would also like to draw your attention to one more thing that Martin Luther defined at the time of the Reformation.

SOLA FIDE — only by faith

SOLA GRACIA — only by grace

SOLA SCRIPTURA — only the Word of God

These three points state that the salvation of a sinful man does not depend on his works, nor on the works of another person acting on his behalf. It solely depends on his personal faith, given to him as a gift of God, and salvation is the act of God's mercy (as well as the death of Yeshua and His redemption of our sins). And it is God's perfect will to choose to show mercy to us. It was His promise that He revealed to us through His Word. If you'd like, we can look up some verses that speak about this in the Bible.

After that, you can share the Gospel, emphasizing the authority of God's Word..

A MODEL DIALOGUE WITH A MUSLIM

— Do you believe that after you die you could go to hell?

Daniel 9:26

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

Luke 16:26

And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

1 God gave seven laws to humanity through Adam and Noah: He prohibited idolatry, blasphemy, murder, adultery, theft and eating the flesh cut off from a living animal. He then gave man the obligation of creating a fair judiciary system.

2 A method of absolution (forgiveness for sins) for money, common in the Catholic Church. Indulgences can be bought both for yourself and for a deceased person.

3 Injil is the Arabic name for the Gospel of Jesus (Isa). The Injil is described by the Qur'an as one of the four Islamic holy books.

— *I don't know. It depends on the will of Allah. The Koran says that Allah might be merciful, but he may also be cruel and insidious.*

— You know, the Injil³ is more ancient than the Koran, and it speaks about the mercy of God as a gift for every believer. Only by God's grace and mercy can we come close to Him and even call Him our Heavenly Father. Isn't it wonderful to put your confidence in God's mercy instead of trying to guess what Allah's will is concerning your life? I suggest we open the Tanach and the New Testament and look up some verses that speak about God's promises to us.

— *That would be interesting.*

Share the gospel and reveal the person of the Messiah as the Son of God.

3. I don't believe in hell.

Among those who give this answer, there may be three different groups of people: atheists, who deny the existence of God; different pseudo-Christian cults (Jehovah Witnesses, for instance); and representatives of various pantheistic religions who deny that God is a Supreme Being.

To help you understand which group a person you are talking to belongs to, ask him a simple question: Do you believe that God exists?

If the answer is "no", he is an atheist. Other possible answers are: "Yes, but God is love

and He cannot send anyone to hell". This is a response from a sect representative, such as Jehovah's Witnesses.

"Yes, but I don't believe that hell exists. I think that after death a person undergoes a transformation and becomes a different being." This is an answer of a representative of pantheistic religions, Hinduism, or Buddhism.

Romans 1:20

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.

**A MODEL DIALOGUE
WITH AN ATHEIST**

— Have you ever allowed the thought into your mind that God exists and that hell may be real?

— *What grounds do you have to believe that?*

— Romans 1:20. We don't see God, but we see His creation that points to the existence of God, its Creator.

— *How about the scientific point of view that holds to the evolution theory?*

— No one saw how everything came into being. To add to this, the doctrine of evolution has a number of very serious drawbacks that prove it unreasonable.

For instance: Every species keeps its genetic purity, and there are no transient forms. Different species cannot interbreed and produce an entirely new species. Thus, a statement that man has descended from an ape, or

at an earlier stage, from a single celled organism, sounds more ludicrous than the belief that man was created by God.

Another problem that scientists fail to explain is how life appeared from non-living chemicals. It is impossible for a living being to come into existence as the result of physiochemical reactions. They have never succeeded in producing a new life in a flask.

Another vital observation is that the natural conditions on earth are ideal for life, and if even one of them would change, life would become impossible. To say that life arose spontaneously through random processes is more ludicrous than to say that one day a heap of garbage may become a car.

— *I do not understand such deep issues of science. Scientists know best, and I trust them. I am an atheist and agree with them.*

Your statements are unfounded, and atheistic solidarity is absurd. Many outstanding world scientists during the Renaissance, like our contemporaries, recognized the existence of God the Creator. Among them are Einstein, Newton, Giordano Bruno, Tsiolkovsky, Kepler, Academician Dekhtyarev, Professor Stoner and many others.

Moreover, many scientists who were originally atheists, in the process of making their discoveries, came to the conclusion that God the Creator exists. However, to believe in God one does not have to be a scientist!

— *Then why so many, including scientists, do not believe in God?*

— Because they don't want to acknowledge that God is the Creator and that we are totally dependent upon Him. He is also the Judge, and one day we'll have to stand before His judgment, and hell is real and sufferings are eternal for those who go to hell. It's much easier to just think that there is no God. From a psychological point of view, self-deception provides temporary satisfaction in life, giving a person a sense of comfort with the help of more desirable feelings.

— *But if there is a God, why won't He reveal Himself?*

— He does reveal Himself through the Bible. If you want, we can open this Book right now and see how truthful and persuasive its statements are.

After this, present the gospel.

A MODEL DIALOGUE WITH A JEHOVAH WITNESS

— Are you totally convinced that there is no hell?

— *A loving God cannot send anyone to a place of eternal suffering. The Bible talks about paradise on earth for all Jehovah's witnesses, and 144,000 thousand among them will be taken to the heavenly kingdom.*

— You gave me three answers to one question. Let's not talk about paradise and 144,000 thousand right now. I would first like you to answer just one question: What's going to happen to an unbeliever after he dies?

— *He will die, and that's it!*

— Well, this clearly contradicts what the Bible says about a holy and righteous God who will pour out His wrath on every evil and sin of men. I also know that before Charles Russell (the founder of Jehovah Witnesses) distorted biblical doctrines, he had been extremely afraid of hell.

— *You don't understand the word "hell" correctly. There are two words that stand for it in the Bible, and one is actually "a grave", and the other word "ghe'enom" is commonly used by many Christians as a place of eternal suffering. But it is just the name of a valley where trash was being burned.*

— "Ghe'enom" is actually a place of eternal suffering, and the Bible does speak about the judgment, and the lake of fire and sulfur. We

Matthew 5:22, 29-30

But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Matthew 10:28

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 18:9

And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

Matthew 23:15, 33

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Mark 9:43

And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched.

Luke 12:5

But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

can open the Bible right now and read a few passages that describe it.

— *I don't think you have an exact translation of the Bible. The translation we use is more precise.*

— The translation you use is called the New World. I don't think it is valid. We can also open the Hebrew Bible. I have a list of verses that speak about hell as "ghe'enom". Do you want to read those with me? This word is used 12 times in the New Testament: Matthew 5:22,29,30; 18:9; 10:28; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43,45,47; Luke 12:5; James 3:6.

Moreover, the gospel of Matthew mentions "the furnace of fire" (Matthew 13:42,50) or "everlasting fire", or "everlasting punishment" (Matthew 25:41, 46), and "outer darkness" (Mattjew 22:13; 25:30).

The rest of the evangelists also wrote about this. Here in chapter 13 (verses 42 and 50) it speaks about suffering in the "fiery furnace," that is, eternal torment. And in chapter 22 (verse 13), as in chapter 25 (verse 30), "external darkness" is mentioned. Chapter 25 (verses 41 and 46) speaks of "everlasting fire" and "eternal torment".

All these verses speak about the just punishment of the wicked by God. And whoever denies this truth is deceived, not even realizing how fatal his self-deception may be. Think about it!.

A MODEL DIALOGUE WITH A BUDDHIST

— If you accept the Bible as the authority, the Holy Scriptures, why then don't you believe in the existence of hell that the Bible speaks about, and the possibility of ending up there?

— *Apart from the Bible, there are many other books, and besides in the way I am taking, there are many other ways. Everybody must choose his own way.*

— The Bible claims that it is the only truth, and there is only one way for us to follow. 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19–21; Revelation 22:18, 19; John 14:6; Acts 4:12. If you don't accept all of the truths of the Bible, you deny its authority.

— *There are many good things in the Bible but there are also many things that I don't agree with. I can say the same about any other book.*

— Then all your beliefs do not have any ground and cannot be truthful.

— *Everyone has his own truth that he chooses to believe.*

— If this is true, then we cannot blame a man who deliberately does evil because he believes in what he does.

— *Absolutely. Everybody chooses his own way.*

— And what if the evil is directed at you? What if someone stole your things, raped

James 3:6

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

Revelation 19:20

And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Matthew 13:42, 50

And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth...

Matthew 22:13

Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:30

And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:41, 46

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

2 Timothy 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

2 Peter 1:19-21

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

your wife and brutally beat your children? Would you not hold the man who did this guilty? Don't we have the right to accuse murderers who have sent people to gas chambers? Or those from the Inquisition? How does this agree with your principles of faith and the way you choose?

— *Well, I don't know.*

— If you feel like you've reached an impasse on your way, it's the right time to turn to God and understand that the Bible is reliable, and the way it offers is the only truthful way. If you don't mind, we can open the Bible right now.

4. The problem of a Pharisee is that he believes he will go to heaven because he is righteous.

The root of this problem is pride. He is deluded in his thinking that he's reached a high spiritual level and that his self-righteousness is good enough for God.

**A MODEL DIALOGUE
WITH A SECULAR PHARISEE**

— Haven't you ever thought that your criteria for righteousness was too low, and that when you stand before the judgment seat of God that your righteousness may turn out to

be insufficient for God to let you go where you hope to get?

— *Why do you think so? You don't even know me.*

— I think you don't know yourself well enough either. We don't see ourselves as God sees us. The Bible says, "*All your righteousness is as filthy rags.*" (Isaiah 64:6)

— *But I don't think I've done anything wrong.*

— For you to understand what sins you've committed, you first have to understand what sin is. Sin is a violation of God's commandments. Now, if you agree with this definition, will you have enough courage to admit that you've failed to fulfill everything the Law prescribes?

— *Well, there are no perfect people. Everyone has committed some kind of sin in his life. But there are also different sins, and some of them are pardonable while others are not.*

— And who set up the criteria for pardonable and unpardonable sins?

— *Well, some sins are very serious, like murder, rape, etc. Things like bad language, petty theft and others are not such big sins.*

— Then tell me, do you think God is just?

— *Sure.*

— Do you believe He is perfect?

— *Yes.*

Revelation 22:18-19

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Acts 4:11

This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Successful Fishing!

— If He is perfectly just, then He has to judge for petty sins as well as for serious sins, and only those who are completely innocent can be deserving of paradise.

— *So, do you want to say that we will all go to hell?*

— No. God is perfectly just, but He is also merciful. And by His mercy He can forgive all of our sins, even the worst ones. His plan of forgiveness is revealed to us through the Bible.

If you don't mind, we can open the Bible right now and look into the basic truths that give us a strong assurance that we'll go to heaven.

A MODEL DIALOGUE WITH A JEWISH PHARISEE

— What gives you confidence to think of yourself as a good person? Did you hear it from God or from other people? Or did you just decide for yourself that you are a good man?

— *I keep the commandments and my lifestyle is righteous.*

— To be justified by God you have to fulfill all of the Law as Deuteronomy 27:26 says. Do you manage to keep all of the commandments of the Law?

— *Well, it's impossible to fulfill everything, but our wise men teach that we have to do as much as we are able to. For instance, just keeping Shabbat already brings a big blessing.*

— So what you believe doesn't really come from God's Word but it comes from other people, or the wise men.

— *In the time of the Temple, God spoke through the prophets. Today He speaks through the wise men.*

— Does this mean that the prophecies of the Tanach are not relevant anymore?

— *Why not? They are relevant, and today our wise men interpret them more precisely as God gave us both the Written and the Oral Law. The Written Law was put in writing, and the Oral Law was passed down from generation to generation. Until recently, it was also put in writing so as not to be forgotten.*

— But why didn't God say the same things in the Written Law as He supposedly said according to the Oral Law? God condemned Nadab and Abihu because they offered strange fire before the Lord, thus breaking only one command. God also punished Uzza for touching the Ark of the Covenant, even though his intentions were good. He only wanted to hold up the Ark to prevent it from falling. God punished Uzziah because out of his zeal to minister to the Lord, he entered the Holy of Holies. The prophet Isaiah was a God-fearing man, but when he saw the Lord, he said,

"Woe to me! for I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." How then can you claim that your righteousness is enough to escape the punishment of hell?

— *You can't read the Tanach without the commentaries of Rashi and interpret what it says the way you want it. Your understanding as a mere man is limited and you need a special commentary.*

— Do you remember the warning God gave us in Isaiah 2:22 about how not to put your trust in men?

— *(Avoiding a direct answer) If you are sick, you go to the doctor. If you want to study the Torah, you must turn to the rabbi and the interpretations of the sages. If you don't trust the in-*

Deuteronomy 27:26

Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Isaiah 2:22

Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?

Jeremiah 17:5

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

terpretation of the wise men, then you believe that your personal interpretation of the Tanach is better.

— I would like to tell you one story from the book by Richard Wurmbrand entitled, “Jesus on the Jewish Road.”

One day a believer dropped into a little shop owned by an Orthodox Jew. In the course of their conversation, the believer asked the question, “How do you pay for your sins today when there is no Temple, and no sacrifices are being brought?” The owner of the shop replied, “Our wise men say, “Read the passages from the Tanach that speak about bringing sacrifices three times a day, and this will be payment for your sins.”

Then the believer picked up some things that he needed to buy in the shop and started reading the list out loud of the things that he took. After that he turned around and walked towards the exit.

The owner of the shop cried out, “Hey, wait! You forgot to pay me!” To which the believer replied, “But haven’t I just read you the list of what I bought?”

It is not your self-righteousness that gives you a firm assurance of going to heaven. It is not about reading prayers three times a day or keeping other traditions of Judaism, but about the sacrificial blood of Yeshua, a pure and blameless Lamb of God, that takes you to heaven. Think about it.

A MODEL DIALOGUE WITH A PHARISAICAL CHRISTIAN

— Do you ever have doubts about going to heaven after you die?

— *If anybody is going to heaven — it must be me! I am a God-fearing believer. I keep the traditions and do many good things, unlike others.*

— Your answer reminds me of a parable about a Pharisee and a tax collector, and I think that this parable won’t work in your favor. Who was justified? The one who repented of his sins and not the one who took pride in his goodness.

— *What does this mean then? That a man who had lived in sin all his life and at the end of his life repented, will go to heaven, and the other man who had been righteous all of his life and only stumbled occasionally, will be in hell?*

— Yes, if he doesn't repent of his sins and come to believe that Yeshua paid for his sins.

— *I can't agree with this.*

— And why do you think that many Pharisees who were good people rejected Yeshua? And why do you believe in Him? Can't you be righteous enough without Him?

— *Well, the Pharisees rejected Yeshua because they were hypocrites. And I believe in Him because He helps me to be a good man.*

— Doesn't it seem to you that you are also a hypocrite like those Pharisees, if you think that your righteousness depends on you instead of giving all glory to Yeshua for it?

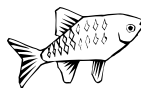
— *And who are you to judge me?*

— I'm not judging you. I just don't want for you to fall under the judgment of God! Yeshua told us to be on our guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. And the apostle Paul never speaks of his own righteousness, apart from righteousness through Yeshua.

We have to understand the righteousness and mercy of God correctly. If you want, we can look at what the Bible says about these things.

Conclusion

After you see the problem of the person you are talking to, and you understand what holds him back from believing, share the gospel with him, taking into consideration the things you have found out about him during the conversation.



Part 2

**THE
BASIS
OF
FAITH**



Lesson 1

God is the Creator and the Lord of His Creation

Introduction

Every person should answer the question for himself, "Is there a Creator?" Hebrews 11:6 says, "*For he who comes to God must believe that He is.*" Indeed it is not possible to prove that God exists, so how can we receive the assurance that there is a God? On the other hand, it is impossible to prove that there is no God. A number of logical deductions lead us to the proposition that there is a God. Thus, to believe that there is a God is more logical than to declare the opposite.

The existence of God is a proposition which follows the law of cause and effect, which says: "There is no effect without a cause and the cause is always higher than effect." On this basis, we come to four conclusions. They will reveal to us the reality of the existence of God.

* Axiom – a truth that does not require proof; the initial position of the theory, used as the basis for the proof of the other points in this theory.

1. **Cosmology.**

- A. When we consider the model of the Universe, noticing the harmony and the order in it, we come to the conclusion that the Universe is an effect and the cause of its existence is a Creator. If there is no effect without a cause, then how could the Universe and the laws which regulate it come into existence? Something cannot come from nothing. But since there is creation, hence there is a Creator. It would be

silly to suppose that a car can form itself from a heap of metal pieces in the garbage, fill up its own gas tank, start, and drive.

- B. And it would be even more ignorant to declare that the Universe appeared as a result of physical and chemical processes. Quite the opposite, the laws of the Universe reveal to us that there is a Legislator who is the Creator of the Universe. Therefore, if someone asks the Creator how old he is or what physical form He has, the answer will be very simple. Such a question is non-tactical, since the cause cannot be measured by the laws that it has established for the investigation.

2. Creation.

- A. The question we must answer is, “How did life begin?” Obviously, evolution cannot create life and it is not possible for different forms to develop from simple to complex because life is extremely organized; and different forms vary only inside the given form, keeping its purity.
- B. The second question is, “How did the conditions to support life come into existence?”

The conditions for life are perfect. If the temperature rose or fell by 100 degrees, it would be impossible to live. Life would also be impossible without the atmosphere, fresh water, oxygen and thousands of other conditions which cannot create themselves. All these considerations point us to the conclusion that there is a God-Creator.

3. God – a Person.

- A. A person is characterized by feelings, a mind, and a will. God created man with these personal characteristics, Therefore, it is evident that He Himself is a Person of a higher level.
- B. Affirming that God is a Person, we can expose many false teachings which declare that God is merely power or energy.

4. God is good.

- A. God created us with the aspiration toward goodness; nobody wishes evil for himself. Thus, evil appears as something not natural for us. From this we draw the conclusion that God is good.
- B. The theory that good and evil are eternal, two parts of the same thing, contradicts God's plan because God created man with the aspiration toward goodness. Evil is temporal and exists simply as an absence of good. Evil brings disharmony into man's life and God's creation.

Conclusion

We can learn about the existence of God from His creation, but to understand Who God is, we need revelation from Him. God's revelation is the Bible; it is an act of God's grace to us because without the Bible we would never be able to learn Who God is and to build a relationship with Him.



Lesson 2

The Authority of God's Word

Introduction

Different people often ask, "Why do believers from different religions declare that their religion is the correct one?" This question should not bring us to a dead end. It is a chance for us to show the foundation we've affirmed in the truth which the Lord revealed to us through His revelation.

The existence of God is proven by His creation. But God's revelation testifies of who He is, who we are and how to build relationships. The authority of the Bible is quite obvious, especially when we have clear facts. Let's turn to the Book itself.

1. The Bible itself establishes that it is the only book which is truth.

- A. Revelation 22:18-19 tells that there is nothing to add to this book. Hence, if this Book is the Truth, then any other prophecies have to be totally excluded. It means that the prophecies of Mohammed and legends of the fathers of the church and materials, which contradict what the Bible says, cannot be authoritative. Besides this, it is not allowable to take anything away from this Book. This means that liberal theology (which denies miracles and prophecies) or any other suppositions (for example, that not everything is correct in the Bible) have no foundation under them.

The only thing we have to prove is the truthfulness of the Bible.

- B. 2 Peter 1:16–21. Many people make the statement, “But the Bible was written by people and they may be mistaken.” To answer, Peter says that it is not cunningly devised fables, but the testimony of eyewitnesses. And moreover, that no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but men spoke from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

2. Prophetic base of the Bible.

Isaiah 43:6–11. Here God is calling two witnesses, who reveal the truthfulness of God and truthfulness of His revelations.

- A. A Nation Chosen by God — the Jews.

Isaiah 43:6–9 — the return of dispersed Israel.

Genesis 12:1–3 — the promises given to Abraham.

- the promise about the land;
- the promise about the nation;
- the promise to bless Abram and to exalt his name;
- the promise to bless them that bless Israel, and he that curseth thee will be cursed;
- to bless all the tribes through Abraham.

- B. Second witness — God’s servant — Isaiah 52:13–53:12.

In the book of Isaiah, chapter 52:13–53:12, it is written that there is one more witness confirming the truth of the written Word. It is the servant of God. Here the prophecy given is about the coming Messiah.

The Prophecy of the Great Servant.

- His common birth.
- His disdain and rejection.
- His condemnation from the men.
- His suffering for our sins and illnesses.
- His sacrifice.
- His silence.
- His death for the transgressions of men.
- His burial at the place of a rich man.

- His sinless life.
- His mercy.
- His rule.

3. Influence of the Bible.

- A. The Torah — in the law of God are the general principles of legislation in almost every country.
- B. The highest level of morality is in the countries where the Bible is respected as the Word of God.

4. The Integrity of the Bible.

In any national myth, the heroes are presented as being without any of the usual defects and faults which are normal for an imperfect man:

- Abraham was a coward.
- Isaac was a glutton (he blessed Esau because of the tasty meal).
- Jacob was a cheat, reaching his goal by unjust means.
- David was an adulterer and a murderer.
- The disciples were of little faith.

5. The Resilience of the Bible.

The Bible has been exposed to all kinds of attacks. It was something they tried to destroy. Together with the Bible, Christians have been persecuted. The more they were persecuted, the more their strong faith and trust in God's Word increased.

6. The Longevity of the Bible.

The Bible is an ancient book, which has endured through the years and has not been changed. The greatest finds were Qumran's manuscripts which are comprised of fragments of all of the Old Testament books. These manuscripts do not contradict the earlier Masoretic manuscripts, although the difference between them is 1000 years.

Conclusion

All of these facts tell us that there is no truer and more reliable source than the Bible. If we build our faith on this foundation, we will never be ashamed. If we reject this foundation, then the consequences for this hypocrisy will be great.



Lesson 3

Adam's First-Born (Original) Sin

Introduction

Are you familiar with the five finger prayer?

We know that every person is sinful, "*as it is written: there is not a righteous one*" (Romans 3:10). But not everyone is inclined to admit this even to himself. As believers, we must constantly pray that God will support and strengthen us. The first prayer of five fingers is very short. It contains only five words, like the fingers on one hand: «Lord, show me what I am.»

You will be surprised when every day you discover in yourself more and more deeply hidden transgressions. But do not despair! Having acknowledged to yourself and to God that you are actually a sinner, begin to pray the next prayer. It also has only five words: «Lord, show me what you are.» And you can pray this prayer every day of your life.

1. Predestination of Man.

- A. All creation was made for man.
- B. Man has dominion over God's creation. (Genesis 1:26)
- C. "*Put on the new man, created in the image and likeness of God*" (Ephesians 4: 22-24) — that is, in the image designed by God, where righteousness, holiness and truth are inherent.

2. Creation of Man.

- A. God created man and breathed into his body His Spirit, the breath of life (Genesis 2:7 and Ecclesiastes 12:7). That is, He made him a living soul.
- B. The most beautiful creation is a woman (Genesis 2:20–23). She was created to become the mother of all the living and to reflect the glory of the man, as he reflected the glory of God. She is:
 - a helpmate for him;
 - flesh of his flesh (1+1=1);
 - woman — in Hebrew, “ishah”; from the word “ish” — husband.

3. Adam’s Fall.

- A. The devil came in the form of a serpent.
- B. His goal was to sow doubt in the truthfulness of God’s commands (Genesis 2:17, 3:1,4–5).
- C. The power of temptation (Genesis 3:6, 1 John 2:16).
- D. Adam’s responsibility for the fall.
- E. Man’s nakedness before the Creator (Genesis 3:7).

4. Consequences of Adam’s Fall.

- A. God sought for the man, but the man hid from God. (Genesis 3:9–10)
- B. They layed the guilt on one another (Genesis 3:16).
- C. In the curse of the serpent, there is a blessing for the man (Genesis 3:14–15).
- D. The curse of the wife
 - Pain in conception (Genesis 3:16)
 - Husband’s ruling over the wife is a tyranny for her

Adam's First-Born (Original) Sin

- E. The curse of Adam.
 - The land is cursed because of Adam (Genesis 3:17–18).
 - Sweat and toil in work — *“By the sweat of your brow will you eat bread.”*
 - Physical death.
- F. Deprivation from the fruit of the tree of life.
- G. Separation of the man from God's presence and protection of the tree of life.

5. God's Grace in Eden's Garden.

- A. The man restores his relationship with his wife (Genesis 3:20).
- B. Coats of skins — the sacrifice of blood brought to the Lord for Adam's sin.

Conclusion

Through the first people, Adam and Eve, sin entered into all of us. The devil rules in our life through sin and we cannot escape from the devil's power, just as we cannot escape from sin. The salvation of man is now only in God's hands.



Lesson 4

God's Nature and His Actions for the Salvation of Sinful Man

Introduction

We will examine two aspects concerning God: God's nature — namely, the nature of the Trinity, where all persons are equal in substance; and the role of each person of the Godhead in the salvation of sinful man.

1. God's Nature.

God has life inside of Himself.

- A. Since He is the Creator, He does not submit to the law of cause-and-effect. He is the Originator of it.
- B. One of God's names is I AM (Yahweh) (Exodus 3:14). The meaning of this is the verb "to be" in the present tense, which denotes His eternal aspect.

2. The Holiness of God.

- A. God is separate from His creation and does not depend on it under any circumstances.
- B. God is fully separated from sin. There is no evil in Him. When touched by the holiness of God, a person feels his sin (Isaiah 6:1-5).

3. God is Boundless.

To understand God is to try temporarily to know eternity, and the limited one — to understand the unlimited. He is eternal, and therefore has no form, since form presupposes the existence of boundaries, and He is unlimited and eternally existing:

- In His might (Genesis 18:14).
- In power and understanding (Isaiah 40:28).
- In sovereignty (Daniel 4:31-34).
- In wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:6-7).
- In His working (Psalm 139:15-16).
- in His might (Genesis 18:14).

4. God does not have a shape – the Lord is a Spirit (John 4:23-24).

God can be seen only in the case of His incarnation in any way that gives us an idea of the personality of God, but not of His appearance. Since God has no form, He cannot be fully known.

5. God is Triune.

- A. A cumulative unity is defined by the word “One” (Deuteronomy 6:4; Genesis 1:26; Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 28:19), as well as using the pronouns Me, Us (Isaiah 6: 8) and the verbs in the plural (Genesis 1:26). In the New Testament, in the Gospel of Matthew 28:19, three persons are directly listed — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- B. The Son is God (John 8:58; Hebrews 1: 8-9, Acts 20:29).
- C. The Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4).

6. The Salvation of Sinful Man (Ephesians 1:3-14).

- A. The Work of God the Father (spiritual blessings).

Successful Fishing!

- Election before creation.
- Predestination.
- Adoption.
- The phenomenon of mercy.
- The discovery of secrets.
- Inheritance.

B. The work of the Son, Jesus.

- All of the spiritual blessings, which are given to us by the Father, work through Jesus Christ.
- Redemption by His Blood.
- Forgiveness of sins by the richness of His mercy.
- Head, which unites the earthly and heavenly.

C. The work of the Spirit.

The work of the Spirit is shown to us in Jesus Christ

- The seal of the Holy Spirit.
- The guarantee of an inheritance.

Conclusion

God is great in everything — in holiness, wisdom, power and praise. But His greater awesomeness lies in the fact that in His mercy, He has accepted us into His glory.



Lesson 5

The Law (Torah) and its Meaning in the Life of the Christian

Introduction

If we are saved by mercy, then why do we have to keep the Law? What is the meaning of the Law in our life, if we cannot be saved by keeping the commandments? The answer to this question is in Romans 3:20.

1. The Ritual Law.

- A. The tabernacle was built in God's image; hence it reflected God Himself (Hebrews 9:11-12). Fellowship with God happened on the foundation of blood.
- B. Jesus fulfills the role of the high priest's sacrifice (Hebrews 10:11-12).

2. The Law of Cleanliness of Food.

- A. To separate Jews from other nations (Daniel 1:8).
- B. Physical food is the representation of spiritual food, which is Jesus Christ (John 6:27).

3. The Eternal Moral Law: "Love God and love your neighbor" (10 commandments) – Exodus 20:1-17.

- 1. You shall have no other gods.

Successful Fishing!

2. You shall not make a graven image.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

These four commandments talk about relationship between God and man.

5. Honor your mother and your father.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness.
10. You shall not covet.

These six commandments are directed toward relationships between people.

Conclusion

When we break these commandments, we come to understand that we are sinners in need of God's grace.



Lesson 6

Changes in the Believer's Heart

Introduction

The change in the priorities and inner values is one of the signs of the new birth. Faith in God leads man to change his life and make important decisions.

1. New Covenant Relationship (Jeremiah 31:34).

- A. The Law of the Torah in our hearts.
- B. We have full forgiveness from all sins.

2. Personal Discipline – the Work of the Holy Spirit in Us (Titus 3:3-7).

- A. Self-esteem (we are, and now we became).
- B. God's work:
 - mercy appears (not by works).
 - the work of the Spirit of God to forgive our sins.
 - the work of the Spirit of God to renew us.
- C. Trust in God's promises, particularly the inheritance of eternal life.

3. Church Discipline (1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 11-13).

- A. The testimony of the church about its purity.
- B. The testimony of the sinner in the church.
- C. The responsibility of the church to take care of discipline.

4. Repentance (2 Corinthians 7:8-12).

Repentance is always present in the life of the reborn Christian.

- A. Conviction precedes repentance.
- B. Repentance is preceded by sorrow for God's sake.
- C. The decision and changes in the life of the man are the result of repentance.
- D. Joy is the result of repentance.

Conclusion

There is always a contrast between the life of the man before his rebirth and after making the decision to follow God's way. It is always important to dedicate ourselves to the Lord and always put Him in first place as the main priority of our lives.



Lesson 7

Baptism

Introduction

Many churches today baptize infants, dedicating them to God. They declare that by doing this, they fulfill a necessary condition for salvation. Many people refer to the verse in Mark 16:16: *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved.”* But they forget the second part of the verse, *“but he who does not believe will be condemned.”* Therefore, a few questions arise:

- Is baptism a necessary condition for salvation?
- Can the believer refuse baptism? And another question:
- What kind of responsibility does a person take on through baptism?

1. Repentance Precedes Baptism.

“He said therefore to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits that befit repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’” Luke 3:7–8

- A. A person baptized without repentance will not escape God’s anger.
- B. True repentance is accompanied by fruit: a changed lifestyle and correct priorities.

2. Appeal to God for a Clear Conscience.

“Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 3:21

- A. The Old Testament type of physical salvation points to the salvation of our soul from condemnation.
- B. The appeal to God for a clear conscience is a promise to live for God and to die to the world, having a good conscience which leads us to repentance.
 - A seared conscience — the conscience that isn’t bothered when the person is in sin.
 - A bad conscience — is accusing and not giving hope for the forgiveness of sin.

There are symbols in baptism, of the death of personal wishes and desires and of arising with Christ unto eternal life.

3. The Responsibilities of the Baptized Man (Act. 2:41-42).

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Act 2:41-42

- A. Reading, discussing, and learning the Word of God.
- B. The common life of the Christian:
 - taking part in any service (ministry) of the congregation;
 - testimony of the Gospel by word and works;
 - financial service (tithe).
- C. The Lord’s Supper as a remembrance of the sacrifice of Christ and proclaiming that we have a part in His resurrection.

Baptism

D. Prayer.

- personal prayer;
- corporate prayer;
- fasting and prayer;
- intercessory prayer.

Conclusion

“And Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2:38

Baptism and repentance are conditions that God requires us to fulfill. God promises to forgive our sins and give us the gift of the Holy Spirit, which will produce the fruits of repentance in our lives, and help our inner man to be strengthened by faith. The Holy Spirit will reveal the meaning of the Word of God, and also awaken in us the desire to live in accordance with it.



Test on the topic: “The Basis of Faith”

Mark the correct answer.

1. What does the Bible say about the creation of the world?

1. God is a part of the Universe.
2. The Universe is a part of God.
3. God created the Universe.
4. The Universe and God are without a beginning.

2. Can we know if God exists?

1. It is not possible to learn anything about God.
2. It is possible to learn about God from creation.
3. It is possible to learn about creation from the Bible.
4. It is possible to learn about God from the Bible.

3. What is special about the creation of the man?

1. Man created God in his image and likeness.
2. God created man in His image and likeness.
3. Man is a part of God.
4. Man is God.

4. Are good and evil two eternal values?

1. Good is eternal, but evil came into existence at a certain point in time.
2. Good and evil are eternal.
3. There is no evil. It is just a relative thing.
4. Evil overcomes good.

5. How does God reveal Himself to men?

1. God has to reveal Himself to us.
2. We cannot know anything about God.
3. We don't need God's revelation.
4. God reveals Himself to us by His good will.

6. Who participated in the process of the creation?

1. God alone took part in the act of creation.
2. God and angels together created the Universe.
3. God and people together created the Universe.
4. The Universe was created by gods (the god of water, god of the sun, etc.).

7. Who created God?

1. God -Jehovah was created by a more powerful God.
2. God is a part of the Universe. He came into existence at the moment the Universe was created.
3. Primitive people created God because they were not able to explain many different events in nature.
4. God has life in Himself. He was not created by anyone. He is eternal and is the primary reason for everything.

8. Is God good or an avenger?

1. God is bad because He created bad men.
2. God may be good to a man, or He may be bad to him.
3. God is good to good people and bad to bad people.
4. God is holy and created man to be just, but man fell into sin. By this he became separated from God's holiness.

9. How did sin enter man?

1. Man sinned because sin had been put into him.
2. Man sinned by breaking God's commandment.
3. Man is not guilty for sin because all of the responsibility for sin is on his wife.
4. Man is not guilty for sin because all the responsibility for the sin is on the snake that tempted wife.

10. What are the consequences of the fall?

1. God cursed the snake.
2. God cursed the wife.
3. God cursed the man.
4. God cursed the snake, the wife, the man and the whole land.

11. How can a man be justified before God?

1. Man can become just before God by his works.
2. Man can become just by keeping religious rituals.
3. Man cannot become just before God.
4. Man cannot become just before God unless God shows him His mercy.

12. What is needed to be saved?

1. Repentance is necessary for salvation.
2. Repentance and the sacrifice of Christ are necessary for salvation.
3. A sacrifice is necessary for salvation.
4. Good works are necessary for salvation.

13. Define the Trinity of God.

1. The Father is God.
2. The Son is God.
3. The Spirit is God.
4. The Father, Son and Spirit are God.

14. The nature of Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus was created by the Father.
2. There are two individuals in Jesus: God and man.
3. When Jesus was born He was only man, and then God settled in Him.
4. There are two natures in Jesus: God's and man's.

15. Distinctions between the persons in the Trinity.

1. The Father is greater than Jesus.
2. The Father and Jesus are greater than the Spirit.
3. The Father is greater than Jesus, and Jesus is greater than the Spirit.
4. The Father, the Son and the Spirit are in fact equal.

16. Who sent Jesus to His earthly ministry?

1. Jesus' father, Joseph.
2. God the Father and the Holy Spirit.
3. God the Father.
4. The Holy Spirit.

17. Who died for our sins?

1. The Father died for our sins.
2. Jesus died for our sins.
3. The Spirit died for our sins.
4. The Father, the Son, and the Spirit died for our sins.

18. Which of the commandments in the Old Testament is eternal?

1. The law of sacrifices in the temple is an eternal law.
2. The law of kashrut is an eternal law.
3. "The Ten Commandments" is a moral and eternal law, but the law of kashrut and sacrifices are fulfilled in Jesus.
4. Jesus abolished all laws.

19. How did we receive salvation?

1. We are forgiven by mercy.
2. The law enters into our hearts.
3. We are saved by keeping the law.
4. We are forgiven by mercy and the law enters into our hearts.

20. Who changes the heart of a believer?

1. The Spirit of God produces changes in our hearts.
2. The Spirit of God produces changes in our hearts by our will.
3. We change by our own desire.
4. God cannot change us, if we don't want to be changed.

21. What is the meaning of repentance?

1. Repentance is being sorry for sin.
2. Repentance is a decision to turn to God from sin.
3. Repentance is a decision to follow God's commandment and church traditions.
4. Repentance is a desire to approach God.


What are the two most important commandments?

1. Love _____
2. Love _____

Answer the questions:

1. Where are you going to be after death: in hell or in heaven?
2. What is the basis for your answer?





Contact with the author:
mn7.decision@gmail.com

Baruch

www.baruch-books.com
sales@baruch-books.com