

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 3 LESSON 1

SICKNESS: WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

THEME OF THE WEEK: Sickness comes from the devil; healing comes from God

MEMORY VERSE: “The thief [devil] comes only to steal, and to kill, and destroy; I [Christ] came that they might have life, and might have *it* abundantly.” John 10:10 (NAS)

Sickness. Where do you think it comes from? The Bible clearly teaches that sickness comes from the devil. **(Remind the people of John 10:10, which they should have already memorized at the beginning of this lesson.)** Nowhere in the Gospels of the Bible can you find one time when Jesus made someone sick. Nowhere in the Gospels can you find a time when Jesus refused to heal anyone. It has been calculated by some people that Christ spent about 75% of His ministry time healing sick people. We’re not sure how they came up with 75%, but anyone who reads the Gospels **(the first four books of the New Testament)** has to notice that Christ spent a lot of time healing people.

How can people wonder if Christ wants to heal some but not others when the Bible says He healed everyone (Acts 10:38) who came to Him, and the Bible also says that Christ hasn’t changed? The Bible says Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Again, in Acts 10:38 we see who causes sickness. Acts 10:38 (NAS) says, “*You know of* Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and *how* He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him.” If the devil loves anything, he loves stealing from, killing, and destroying God’s people and getting them to blame God for it.

In the Lord’s or the disciple’s prayer, we pray “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven” (Matthew 6:9b-10). We see from this Scripture that God is telling us we can pray for things to happen for us on earth as it is in heaven. Well, how do

you think things are in heaven? Do you think the angels are walking around hacking and coughing with the flu? Do you think Jesus might have stayed in bed this morning with an upset stomach? Of course not! Why? Because there is no sickness in heaven. Why would God want to send you sickness when He's told you to pray for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven? That wouldn't make sense, and God always makes sense.

The devil takes great pride in his job as a garbage man. He doesn't pick up peoples' garbage; he brings it to them. He drives up to peoples' houses, unloads cans of garbage from his truck and carries those cans full of yucky garbage right up to people's front doors—garbage like temptation, sickness, sin, death, and every other nasty thing. He rings their doorbells, then hides. People open their doors, and what do they see? Garbage straight from hell with their names written on the cans.

When a person sees his name written on this disgusting mess, he may say, "Oh, this is mine, I guess I should carry it into the house." Another person might even thank God, calling the garbage a precious gift, telling his neighbors how much God must love him to send this present from heaven to his house just to teach him some mysterious heavenly lesson. Of course, this guy's neighbors either just think he's crazy or run home to lock their doors to hide from God.

A wise person, however, will look around the corner to find where the devil is hiding and will command him, in Jesus' Name, to carry his can of garbage right back where it came from and clear out.

When the devil rings your doorbell, don't accept his garbage.

What did you learn today?

(For teacher and group or teacher only depending on the maturity of your group: John 9:1-4 is sometimes cited as a Scripture passage that indicates God causes sickness in order to receive glory when someone is healed, and we certainly concede that this appears to be the meaning. This understanding, however, is inconsistent with the rest of the Bible. Bible students may recognize this as the synthetical principle of Bible interpretation. The synthetical principle demands that any difficult verse of Scripture must be interpreted in the light of plain, easily understood passages dealing with the same subject. The synthetical principle also demands that we never base any Bible doctrine on any isolated verse which is inconsistent with the rest of the Bible.)

So where does that leave us with John 9:1-4? First, understand that punctuation is non-existent in the original Greek which the New Testament was written in. Bible translators have added their own punctuation. Considering that, let's repunctuate it differently to see if the meaning could be different. First, read John 9:1-4 for yourself in the King James as it is written. Now, reread it but this time, in verse three, change the colon to a period and the *but* to a *But*, and place a comma after *him* at the end of verse three. (By the way, those of you who were told that *But* should never start a sentence, were told wrong. Please consult a good grammar book. *But* is often the perfect word to show an abrupt change in thought.) Now verses three and four read, "Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents. But that the works of God should be made manifest in him, I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." This reading is in full agreement with the synthetical principle and is in agreement with the New Testament Jesus we recognize as not being interested in getting pulled aside into theoretical theological discussions and the Jesus Who reminds His disciples that "it's getting late boys, and we have a lot of work to do." Do remember in the original Greek and Hebrew of the Bible, punctuation is not used. The translators of our current Bibles have done a good job in making the Bible versions understandable to modern readers. There are, however, problems that arise from time to time.

Other healing Scriptures: Luke 13:11-16; John 10:10; Acts 10:38; Matthew 7:16-20; Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:17, 12:15, 14:36; 1 Peter 2:24; Hebrews 13:8; John 6:38; Proverbs 4:20-22 and many others.)

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 3 LESSON 2

HEALING: GOD'S WILL IS TO HEAL

THEME OF THE WEEK: This week's lesson includes seeing healing in the atonement, the Greek definitions of *save* and *salvation*, eight Scriptural ways God heals people, and other important concepts people need to understand in order to receive and keep their healings.

MEMORY VERSE: “[A] multitude gathered...bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.”
Acts 5:16 (NKJV)

Healing is in the atonement. This means that when Jesus died on the Cross for you, He paid for your healing—spirit, soul, and body—and at the same time paid for you to be freed from demonic control or bondage. This doesn't mean that you're automatically healed, but it does mean that your healing has been completely paid for. In every one of these areas (spirit, soul, and body realm healing, and freedom from demonic bondage), you must first believe, then ask, and finally receive what you're asking for. The Bible shows us this in Mark 11:24 (NIV) when Christ says, “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

The easiest way to see that Christ paid for all these different kinds of healings for us when He died on the Cross is to look at what the word *saved* and *salvation* really mean in the New Testament. Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV) says “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.” In this Scripture, we see the words *saved* and *salvation*. What do you think these two words mean? A lot of people think *saved* and *salvation* only mean being able to go to heaven when people die. The words do mean that, but they mean a whole lot more. Remember that the New Testament was originally written mainly in Greek, along with a little Aramaic. To learn what *saved* and *salvation* really mean, we have to find out what the Greek words that were translated into *saved* and *salvation*

mean. The Greek word for *saved* is *sozo* (Teacher: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, Greek Dictionary of the New Testament, # 4982). *Sozo* means "to *save*, i.e. *deliver* or *protect* (lit[erally] or fig[uratively]):—heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole.". The Greek word for *salvation* is *soteria* (Strong's, #4991), which means "*rescue* or *safety* (phys[ically] or mor[ally]):—deliver, health, salvation, save, saving."

Spiritual healing is being born again in your spirit. Soul realm healing is healing for your mind, will, and emotions. It is having peace and joy. "Crazy" people can become normal. Ask God to heal your soul realm whenever you need healing in your mind, will, or emotions (feelings). Sometimes evil spirits rob and steal even from Christians' lives. Don't invite evil in. Tell it to leave in Jesus' Name (Mark 6:7, 7:30, 16:17; Luke 8:35). When your body needs a healing, now you know Christ paid for that too. What you believe has everything to do with what you can receive from God. When you believe it's God's will to heal you, it becomes easier to receive when you pray.

The Bible says that God uses one or more of these eight ways to heal people.

#1 Laying on of hands

"[T]hese signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." Mark 16:17–18 (NKJV)

#2 Anointing with oil

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up." James 5:14-15a (NKJV)

#3 Prayer of agreement

"[I]f two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven." Matthew 18:19 (NKJV)

#4 Gifts of healing

"God has appointed these in the church:...gifts of healing" 1 Corinthians 12:28 (NKJV) (also 1 Corinthians 12:9)

#5 Special anointing (**Teacher: The Bible word, anointing is Strong's 5545: chrisma: "from 5548; an unguent or smearing, i.e. (fig[uratively]) the**

spec. endowment (“chrism”) of the Holy Spirit:—anointing, unction.”

“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” Acts 10:38 (NKJV)

All Christians are anointed: “you have an anointing from the Holy One,...” 1 John 2:20 (NKJV)

#6 Prayer of faith

“And He [Christ] said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has made you well.’” Mark 5:34a (NKJV)

“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.” Mark 11:24 (NKJV)

“And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up” James 5:15a (NKJV).

#7 Speaking faith words

“[W]ith the mouth confession is made to salvation.” Romans 10:10 (NKJV) In other words, speaking the right words, mixed with faith, will save us!

“[C]onfess with your mouth...and believe in your heart...” Romans 10:9

“[W]hat does it say? ‘*the word is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart*’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach):” Romans 10:8

#8 The use of anointed or blessed cloths

“Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.” Acts 19:11-12 (NKJV).

Hebrews 4:14b says, “Let us hold fast *our* confession.” Your confession is the words you speak. When you are believing for healing, speak that (healing), and don’t change your confession. That’s what “hold fast” means. Keep speaking faith filled words. Don’t let your mouth speak

doubt and unbelief over yourself. Keep thanking God you are healed until you are healed. James 1:6-8 says, “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double-minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.” In other words, if you want to receive anything from God, make up your mind what you believe and stick to it. The Bible says life and death are in the power of our tongues (Proverbs 18:21). Speak only life and healing over yourself and others.

What did you learn today?

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 3 LESSON 3

TURN ON GOD'S POWER TO HEAL

THEME OF THE WEEK: Many people never receive healing or any of God's other blessings because either they don't ask Him or they do ask Him but don't really believe God will answer their prayers. **(Teacher, it is assumed that you cover the "Theme of the Week" and the "Memory Verse" before you start the lesson each week. These set the stage.)**

MEMORY VERSE: "And what is the exceeding greatness of his [God's] power to us-ward who believe." Ephesians 1:19a

Miracles and healings seem to happen for some people but don't happen for others. God's Word shows us that God doesn't have favorite kids that He does cool stuff for but refuses to help others. That's not what God is like. Acts 10:34-35 (NKJV) says "Then Peter opened his mouth and said: 'In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.'" God offers all of us precious promises, but as with all gifts, it is up to us to reject or receive them. The truth is that the more we understand about how to receive from God, the more easily we will be able to receive what we need. The Bible in John 8:32 (NKJV) tells us "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Think of God's power flowing to you in the same way that electricity flows to your house. Until you pray to receive Christ as your Savior, you have no power flowing to the house of your life. It's like you didn't pay your electric bill and your power was cut off. Christ pays your power bill when you become a Christian. Your house has electricity, but until you flip on a switch that power doesn't do you any good. I could walk around my house in the dark crashing into things and just wishing the lights will come on, and they still won't come on. I can even pray for God to turn the lights on for me and guess what? I'll still be in the dark. God has turned on the power, but I have to flip a switch.

Praying in faith is the switch that's hooked up to God's power. Romans 10:9-10 teaches us that what we say is important, but so is what we believe in our

hearts. Although it is true that we flip on a switch to God's power when we pray, when we speak faith words, and when we don't speak doubt and unbelief, it is just as important to believe in our hearts what we are saying with our lips. James 1:5 (NIV) tells us that "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does."

The Bible says "[F]aith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17) (NKJV). To build your ability to believe, speak Bible healing verses over yourself. Many times people who have had a hard time receiving healing are healed when they listen to cassette tapes of nothing but healing Scriptures night and day until they are healed. You can get a list of healing Scriptures from me (teacher) and make your own tape if you want to. **(Teacher, see addendum at the end of this lesson.)**

Faith – totally believing God will do for you what He's promised in His Bible – flips the switch that gets God's power to you. Faith doesn't pretend problems aren't real; faith works for you to solve your problems (Romans 4:17).

Imagine that you are lost in a dry, hot desert. You haven't had a drink of water in a couple of days, and you think if you don't get a drink soon you will die. At last you see a water well off in the distance. Full of joy and hope you stagger over to it only to find the well has no bucket and rope! You can see clean, clear water at the bottom of a very deep well, but how can you get to it? Then you spy a long garden hose lying by the well. Some thoughtful person must have left the hose for thirsty travelers. You know that if you hold one end of the hose and let the rest of it fall into the well, you can suck up all the water you want.

You drop the hose into the well and begin to suck, but it takes longer than you think it should to get the water up the hose and into your mouth. You know that if you keep sucking on that hose, the water will come up eventually, but it's so hard to wait! Will you keep sucking or give up? Yes, some people are so lazy that they would rather die of thirst than suck. But if you want to live, you will suck until the water comes. In the same way, true faith will not give up until the answer comes.

Healing often comes right after we pray, but sometimes it may take a while. The Bible tells us in Luke 18:1 (NKJV), that people "always ought to pray and not

to lose heart [give up]” and Galatians 6:9 (NKJV) says, “let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

What have you learned today?

LESSON 3 Addendum: Healing Scriptures

Exodus 15:26

Psalms 12:28; 30:2; 34:10b; 42:11c; 55:18; 91; 103:1-6; 107:20; 138; 118:17;
119:93

Proverbs 3:24; 4:10; 4:20-22; 12:18; 14:30; 17:22; 18:14; 22:4

Isaiah 53:5; 57:19

Jeremiah 17:14a; 33:6

Malachi 4:2

Matthew 8:17b; 10:7-8; 15:13

Mark 11:23-29; 16:17-18

John 8:36; 14:14

Acts 10:38

Romans 8:2; 8:11; 8:32

2 Corinthians 2:14a

2 Timothy 1:7

2 Thessalonians 3:3

Hebrews 12:12-13

1 John 3:8b

3 John 2

1 Peter 3:24; 3:12a

James 5:14-16

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 3 LESSON 4

HOOK UP TO GOD'S POWER TO HEAL

THEME OF THE WEEK: God expects us to hook up to His power.

MEMORY VERSE: “*The word is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart*” (that is, the word of faith which we preach.)
Romans 10:8 (NKJV)

Last week we began to look at the role faith plays in a person's ability to receive healing. We hope everyone understands that God is big enough to heal any sickness anyone has.

Imagine this with me for a minute. Imagine that heaven has a giant, pulsating power plant of blessings. All the blessings you could ever need are in heaven. Imagine that hanging down from heaven are giant electrical cords you can hook yourself up to so that you can receive whatever you need from God. Imagine that if you stand on any street anywhere in the world you can see many power cords hanging down within easy reach of anyone – even the smallest child. **(Teacher, read Romans 10:6-13, reminding your people that the words *saved and salvation* denote being made whole – spirit, soul, and body.)** Ah—we might see something like those imaginary power cords if we had spiritual eyes. But feel your eyes. Are they physical eyes or are they spiritual eyes? Of course they are physical eyes.

You do have spiritual eyes though because you have a spirit man who lives within you if you are born again of spirit, that is, if you've asked Christ to be your Lord. But your spirit man has to be taught to see and to understand what he sees. As you feed him what he needs, his eyesight will grow and sharpen.

Praying, worshiping God, reading and studying the Bible, attending a church where the Bible is preached and the people there allow the Holy Spirit to use them in the gifts of the Spirit, praying in tongues (your heavenly prayer language)—all of these are the kinds of activities that will bring sight to the eyes of your spirit man. Then you will see where and how to hook yourself up to God's power cords of blessings.

God's power is available to us at all times. We don't have to wait to see if God wants to heal us. He's waiting for us to hook ourselves up to His power. Let's read about a couple of people who understood this.

(Read Luke 8:43-48 as a group.) What did Christ say made this woman well?
(Answer: her faith.)

(Read Mark 10:46-52). What did Christ say made this man well? **(Answer: his faith.)**

In Isaiah 45:11 (NKJV), God says to us about the things He's already promised,—“concerning the work of My hands, you command Me.” In John 14:14 (NKJV) Jesus says, “If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

Get hooked up; get healed. Stay hooked up; stay blessed in every area of your life.

What did you learn this week?

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 3 LESSON 5

HOOK UP TO GOD'S POWER TO HEAL (continued)

THEME OF THE WEEK: We don't deny that sickness is real, but we do deny its right to rule in our bodies. **(This lesson is a continuation of the previous healing lesson.)**

MEMORY VERSE: "God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;" Romans 4:17 (NKJV)

It is foolishness to say we are not sick when we are. Romans 4:17 (NKJV) says, "God...calls those things which do not exist as though they did." According to this Scripture, God calls or commands things that are not what He wants them to be to become the way He wants them to be. God doesn't deny or ignore problems or pretend they aren't real. He speaks the solutions or answers to the problems and expects the power of His Word to change things. God has put the Holy Spirit in you (1 Corinthians 2:12), given you His words to speak (Isaiah 55:11), and He's given your words power and authority: "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*" Mark 11:24. Speak what you desire or want to happen. Speak the solution or answer to the problem.

We don't pretend or say we're not sick when we are. Christ never denied sickness, but He did deny its right to continue to exist in someone He was healing. We don't say we're not sick when we are, but we do say "by Jesus' stripes we're healed" because that's what God's Word says about us in 1 Peter 2:24 and in Isaiah 53:5.

But isn't it a lie to say "by Jesus' stripes I'm healed" if I'm sick? No, it's never a lie to speak God's promises over yourself. That's how we get God's promises to happen in our lives. And we keep speaking God's promises over ourselves until what we desire or want to happen actually happens. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Figure out what you're hoping for and pray that.

You may wonder if it is wrong to go to the doctor or to take medicine. The Bible doesn't say that going to doctors or taking medicine is wrong. What the Bible does say is wrong is to trust in people instead of God. Go to the doctor and take your medicine, but trust God to heal you. The doctor can tell you when you're healed. But when He does, be sure you give the glory to God and not to the doctors.

Some people will flush their medicine down the toilet to prove they have faith and probably to try to force God to heal them. But this doesn't prove they have faith, and God already wants to heal them. These people really need to find out how to get hooked up to God's healing power flow. We have nothing to prove to ourselves, to God, or to anyone else. God already knows what's in our hearts anyway. If fear is in our hearts, that will short circuit our faith every time. Fear is the opposite of faith. Build up your faith by speaking God's Word over yourself and watch fear leave.

What have you learned this week?

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 3 LESSON 6

HEALING: UNCLOGGING GOD'S POWER FLOW OF HEALING INTO YOUR LIFE (Part I)

THEME OF THE WEEK: Although it is God's will to heal, sometimes lack of love, sin or unforgiveness can clog the pipes to God's flow of the living water of healing. When we unclog the pipes, God's healing can flow to us.

MEMORY VERSE: Galatians 5:6 "[F]aith...worketh by love." 1 John 3:21 (NKJV) "Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God."

If you were to build a house out in the country, you might have to dig a well in order to get water. Let's pretend you need to dig a well on your land. What's the first thing you will need to do? The first thing to do is to find the best place to dig your well. Second, you will need to dig the well's hole and you will need to keep digging until you hit water. Third, you will have to run a pipe from the water in the ground to your water pump on top of the ground. Of course, you will need to run a pipe from your water pump to your house. After you've done all this, you hope that when you turn on a water faucet in your house water will come out.

But what if it doesn't? You already know that water is in the well, so you'll check to make sure the pump is working. Yep, that's okay, so now what? If the pipes are connected properly and are not broken, then they are probably clogged with mud, rocks, sticks or something like that.

Sometimes it's just like this for us when we are trying to receive from God. If we're Christians, then there's water in the well. We are hooked up to the living water: God. God gives us the water pump, all the piping we need, and He even hooks everything together for us. We are hooked up to living or heavenly water (John 4:10,13-14; John 7:37-39). He can do everything for us except flip the faith switch and clean out the clogs. But He does show us where the clogs are so that we can clean them out.

Three big clogs that can keep people from receiving healing are these: #1 – not walking in love, #2 – sin, #3 – unforgiveness.

You've already learned about the importance of faith in receiving anything from God, but Galatians 5:6 says, "[F]aith...worketh by love." Without love, faith just won't work. Because love is a fruit of the Spirit, the love is already in you – let it grow. Let a loving, caring, helping attitude come to fruit in your life. Cast out hate, anger, and resentment. Remember, without love your faith won't work, and without faith you won't get healed. Let love grow and rule in your life.

Another big pipe "clogger" is sin. If sin is in our lives and hearts we usually know it. When we go to God in prayer with unconfessed sin, our hearts condemn us and let us know we're not going to receive from God.

Together let's read 1 John 3:14-24. **(Leader, read with people.)** Notice how important both walking in love and getting rid of sin are according to these verses.

Okay, so what if you're praying and your heart condemns you – what should you do? Let's read 1 John 1:7-9 to find out. **(Leader, read with people.)** What does this Scripture promise for those who ask for it? **(Answer: forgiveness)**

Next week we will talk about the last clog: unforgiveness.

What two clogs did we learn about this week? **(Answer: lack of love and sin.)**

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 3 LESSON 7

HEALING: UNCLOGGING GOD'S POWER FLOW OF HEALING INTO YOUR LIFE (Part II)

THEME OF THE WEEK: Although it is God's will to heal, sometimes lack of love, sin or unforgiveness can clog the pipes to God's flow of the living water of healing. When we unclog the pipes, God's healing can flow to us.

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 6:12 "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

Last week we learned that there are some things we can do to unclog God's channel of blessing to us. Number one is to walk in love because faith works by love. Without love your faith won't work! Number two is to get rid of sin. We need to ask God to forgive us of sin and do our best to live right, in order to unclog our pipes of sin.

The number three pipe "clogger" is unforgiveness. Let's read Matthew 18:21-35. **(Leader, read with people as a group.)** The King, of course, is God and the servants are people. God has forgiven us and expects us to forgive others. Let's read Mark 11:25-26. **(Leader, read with people as a group.)** God says to do what? **(Answer: forgive.)** If you refuse to forgive, God won't forgive you; if you forgive, God will forgive you. Let's read Matthew 6:12, 14-15. **(Leader, read with people as a group.)** We can be forgiven by God as long as we do what? Forgive!

When you forgive someone, that doesn't make the bad things that person did to you right, but it will unclog your pipes so that you can receive from God. Besides, unforgiveness can make you a really nasty person both inside and out. You will like yourself better, and other people will like you too when you are a gentle, kind, forgiving person. Forgiveness allows God to work in you and in the life of the person who hurt you. Leave it up to God to deal with, change or punish that person.

Beautiful Feet Ministries

Keep these three clogs out of your pipes: not walking in love, sin, and unforgiveness. Just watch God's blessings flow to you as you learn to call the blessings to you, as you learn to keep the devil from stealing those blessings, and as you learn to keep your faith switch turned on.

What are the three blessing pipe "cloggers" we've learned about? **(Answer: lack of or not walking in love, sin, and unforgiveness.)**

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 3 LESSON 8

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT (Part I)

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Bible shows us that every Christian can be and should be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

MEMORY VERSE: “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me” Acts 1:8

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Matthew 3:11; 26:36-75; John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 2:1-41; 10:44-48; 19:1-7; Romans 8:14.

Jesus said in Acts 1:8, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me.” When we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, we receive the power to witness or tell other people about Jesus.

Remember that God is one God in Three Persons: The Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, Who is also known as the Holy Ghost. When you are born again, that is, when you invite Jesus to be your Savior and Lord, your human spirit is reborn or made alive to God, and when you do that, the Holy Spirit of God Himself moves right into your body. This is why the Bible calls Christians temples for the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 6:16). This doesn't mean, however, that you have received all of the Holy Spirit that you are allowed to receive. If you ask God to baptize you with His Holy Spirit, He will fill you all the way up with the Holy Spirit until you are overflowing. This is what the word *baptize* means. It means to be immersed or covered. Remember when we studied water baptism? Remember when we learned that the Greek word for baptize, *baptizo*, means to be immersed or covered? To be baptized in water is to be covered with water. To be baptized in the Holy Spirit is to be covered with the Holy Spirit.

When we are born again, we do receive a measure or some of the Holy Spirit, but when we are baptized with the Holy Spirit, we are filled up and covered with the Holy Spirit.

In John 20:19-22, after Christ had risen from the dead, He returned to His disciples. Even though He breathed on them telling them to receive the Holy Spirit, He later told them to go to Jerusalem (Acts 1:4-5) and wait there to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Jesus knew they already had the Holy Spirit living in them when they were born again as He breathed on them, but He knew they needed all of the Holy Spirit they could get if they were going to be able to do the amazing things He was asking them to do. They needed to let Christ baptize them with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11).

All of the twelve apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4). The people of the early churches seem to have been filled with the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 14:18; Ephesians 5:18). Shouldn't you ask God to fill or baptize you with His Holy Spirit? Next week we will learn more about this.

(Teacher, do a “glass with water” object lesson for your people. Explain as you do the object lesson. The glass is a person. The water is the Holy Spirit. Empty glass: non Christian. Half-full glass: born again Christian who has not been baptized with the Holy Spirit. Full and overflowing glass: the Holy Spirit baptized Christian.)

What did you learn this week?

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 3 LESSON 9

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT (Part II)

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Bible shows us that every Christian can be and should be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

MEMORY VERSE: “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me.” Acts 1:8

Last week we learned that God expects His kids to allow Him to baptize them with the Holy Spirit. Remember what the word *baptize* means? (**Answer: to be covered or immersed in something.**) Remember our glass and water object lesson? Who can tell me what a half full glass of water represents? (**Answer: Christian without baptism of the Holy Spirit.**) And the full, overflowing glass? (Answer: Holy Ghost baptized person.) Whenever we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, we receive power to live for God, which includes being able to tell other people about Jesus.

We can learn a lesson about the power of the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost to give us boldness by reading about a man named Peter in our Bibles. Peter was one of Jesus’ twelve apostles who followed Jesus everywhere during His earthly ministry. After Jesus was arrested and was being questioned by Jewish religious leaders, Peter was asked if he were one of Jesus’ followers.

Frightened, Peter cursed and swore that he didn’t even know Jesus. Later, Peter, ashamed of himself, had learned that he couldn’t serve God in Peter’s power alone. Peter needed God’s power to help him live for God. At this point in our story, Christ had not yet died and risen from the dead; therefore, people could not yet be born again. Even though Peter loved Jesus, he didn’t have the power within himself to live for Jesus. If we could live for God without God, we really wouldn’t need Him, would we? Right before Jesus was arrested, Peter had told the Lord he would gladly die fighting for Him, but after Jesus was arrested, Peter said he didn’t even know the Lord. Peter thought he could live for God in his own power, but learned he could not.

But guess what? After Peter was born again and baptized with God's Holy Spirit, he preached a salvation message that led 5000 people to Christ. He lived the rest of his life for the Lord – preaching, healing the sick and helping to lead the Church. He died by being crucified upside down because he refused to deny Christ. What a change in Peter! What made the difference in his life? Receiving the Holy Spirit! **(For the teacher, Peter's ministry: Matthew 10:1-42, 26:69-75; Acts 1:1-6:7 ; 9:32-12:19; 15:1-29; 1 and 2 Peter)**

Next week we will talk about how you, just like Peter and the other apostles, can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

What did you learn this week?

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 3 LESSON 10

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT (Part III)

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Bible shows us that every Christian can be and should be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

MEMORY VERSE: “I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all.”
1 Corinthians 14:18

The Bible calls the Holy Spirit a gift for God’s kids (Acts 2:38-39). Jesus is God’s gift for unsaved people (or the world) (John 3:16); but the Holy Spirit is God’s gift for His kids (Acts 2:38). First, people are born again or saved; after that, they can be baptized with the Holy Spirit. God’s Word promises when you ask Him for the Holy Spirit, that’s exactly what you get – the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:11-13).

In the Bible, whenever God baptized people with the Holy Spirit, those people received an extra blessing which came along with the package. This blessing is called the gift of *tongues*. Tongues is a heavenly language that you will be able to use in your prayer time to pray when you don’t know how to pray. Your mind will not understand what your spirit is praying when you pray in the spirit or in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:14-15). The Bible says you are speaking divine mysteries – God is giving you things to pray for that your mind doesn’t even know about (1 Corinthians 14:2).

The Apostle Paul said that all Christians can speak with tongues (Acts 14:5; 18:23). There is also a manifestation gift of tongues which only some can have (1 Corinthians 12:10; 12:30; 14:23). This manifestation gift of tongues is usually used during church services when God wants to give a message to a whole congregation, although it can also be used in various other settings. This kind of tongues must be interpreted. In other words, someone will say something in tongues and the same person or someone else will say what the tongues means. That is not the kind of tongues we’re talking about today. We’re talking about the kind of tongues that every Christian can have. Some people, even church people

seem to hate tongues, but the Apostle Paul said he spoke in tongues more than anybody else, and he warned the church people not to forbid people to speak in tongues, which tells us he thought this gift is important (1 Corinthians 14:18, 39).

Praying or singing in tongues means the same thing as praying or singing in the spirit (1 Corinthians 14:15). The Apostle Paul said that we would not understand what we're praying for when we're praying in tongues. For your private prayer language, God may give you the interpretation, but He usually doesn't. Let's read what Paul said about this in 1 Corinthians 14:14-15. **(Read as a group.)** Paul goes on to explain that when someone gives a message in tongues in church, it must be interpreted. In your private prayer time and for your group praise and worship time in church, when you are praying or singing in tongues, that doesn't have to be interpreted because you're not giving a message to the church. But if someone is used in the manifestation gift of tongues, that kind of tongues will actually be a message from God for the church, and if it is, it must be interpreted.

Why be baptized with the Holy Spirit? Don't all of us need all of God that we can get in order to live overcoming lives? A thirsty person wants a full, overflowing glass of water, not just a half a glass will do for him. Jesus says for all of those who are thirsty to come to Him. Jesus says we shall have rivers of living water flowing out of us. The living water is the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39). How about you? Do you have your own personal well of water, just enough for your own use, or do you have living waters flowing from you to bless others? Are you feeling run down spiritually? Charge yourself up by praying in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:4; Jude 20). Speaking in tongues, in an unknown, heavenly, spiritual language is the sign that you are filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:6). When you pray in tongues you automatically pray God's will (Romans 8:26-27). Holy Spirit boldness comes with the presence of more of the Holy Spirit in your life (Acts 1:8). You are also speaking of God's wonderful works (Acts 2:11), and you are speaking to God divine mysteries (1 Corinthians 14:2) when you speak in tongues. This must please our Heavenly Father very much.

Next week, if you choose, you can receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 3 LESSON 11

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT (Part IV)

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Bible shows us that every Christian can be and should be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

[Teacher, this week includes an altar call to pray for people to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. If you have any additional questions concerning how this is done, please speak to your church's pastoral staff ahead of time. If you have new people, I recommend that you tell them you will pray with them in several weeks to give them a chance to settle in and receive God's Word. (Please note that you are encouraged to pray for the people's needs each week, including the need to be born again, baptized in the Holy Ghost, and healed, as those needs become known and as the Lord leads. Please also note that, for many reasons, a special receptivity to prayer often exists in a given area when that area is being focused on in the teaching.)]

MEMORY VERSE: "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:"
1 Corinthians 14:18

In the Bible, whenever people were filled with the Holy Spirit, they all spoke in tongues – not some of the time but all of the time (Acts 2:4; 10:44-48; 19:6). In the Bible, sometimes God just poured out His Spirit on people so that they could be baptized with His Spirit. At other times God used people whom He'd already baptized with His Spirit to lay hands on other people so that they could be baptized or filled with God's Spirit (Acts 2:4; 9:17; 10:44-48).

Today we will give you the chance to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit but first there are a few things you need to know. One of the things you need to know is that God will not make you speak in tongues. God is not dropping a radio into your belly. If you don't open your mouth and speak the words that God is giving you out loud with your own voice, then no sound will come out. In the Bible, Paul explained that the Holy Spirit gives the utterance. That means the Holy Spirit makes you able to speak in tongues, but you do the speaking (Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 14:14-15). God will put strange sounds into your spirit man – sounds that are different from mine or the person sitting next to you, sounds that may seem foolish to your mind. But God expects you to speak those sounds out of your

mouth. When you do, the Holy Spirit in you is telling your spirit man what to say to your mind, and your mind is telling your body what to pray.

That is God's order: Holy Spirit to human spirit, human spirit to mind or soul, soul to body. The mind or soul sometimes fights against the things of the spirit (Romans 8:7). It is up to you to train or renew your mind. How do you do that? By studying God's Word, of course (Romans 12:2)!

It's really so simple and so easy that a lot of people miss the whole point. God is not giving you an earthly language. He is giving you simple sounds that His Holy Spirit uses in order to pray through you – you may only start out with a few sounds. That's all God needs because it's your spirit praying to God about things that are important to God. You're only letting Him use you. Why would He need a huge complicated language to speak back to Himself (1 Corinthians 14:14-15; Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31)?

Just remember these five things.

#1 God says you need the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17).

#2 The Holy Spirit is a gift (Acts 2:38-39)

#3 When someone who is already filled with the Holy Spirit lays hands on you to receive the Holy Spirit, that person should say something like—"Receive the Holy Spirit." After that, you should say something like—"I receive the Holy Spirit." You see, you need to first give God permission to baptize you with His Spirit. He won't do it against your will (John 20:22; Acts 19:1-7; Revelation 3:20).

#4 Speak out the words God puts in your spirit.

#5 Use your prayer language in praise and prayer every day. But remember that this is a private prayer language. The Bible tells us that people who aren't taught about such things will think you're crazy if they hear you praying in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:11, 16, 23), so don't pray in the Spirit out loud around them. Except for special times of prayer and praise, our prayer time is normally done privately (Matthew 6: 5-6).

Those of you who desire to be baptized with the Holy Spirit, please come forward now.

(Teacher, use sensitivity. Don't force anyone to come forward. Once you do begin to pray with a person, work with him or her patiently until a release comes in the prayer language. Usually, just encouraging the candidate to speak out those words that God is giving is enough to get the flow started.)

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 3 LESSON 12

OBEYING THOSE IN AUTHORITY

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Bible clearly tells us to obey those in authority over us and to not speak evil against them.

MEMORY VERSE: “Obey those who rule over you,” Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV).

The Bible says that we need to obey those in authority over us because that is what God wants us to do. Children and young people are to honor and obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3). Older people are still to honor their parents. Obeying this commandment brings a promise of long life and prosperity (Ephesians 6:1-3).

All people are commanded to obey God (Deuteronomy 27:10). After that, we are commanded to obey government leaders, church leaders, teachers, police officers and all who are in authority over us in any way (Titus 3:1; Hebrews 13:17; Romans 13:1-7), unless what we are told to do is against what God tells us to do in His Word, the Bible (Acts 5:29). For instance, if someone in authority were to tell you to steal or to lie, you wouldn't do those things because God's Word tells us not to. Nevertheless, even when people in authority are wrong according to God's Word and we cannot obey, we are still to honor and pray for them (1 Timothy 2:1-3; Acts 23:1-5). In fact, according to the Bible, all human beings are created in the image of God and are worthy of our respect (Genesis 1:26-27; Titus 3:2-3).

(Teacher, if time allows, you may want to encourage a group discussion concerning the difference between the words *honor* and *obey*.)

What did you learn this week?

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 3 LESSON 13

FAITH, LOVE, AND THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

THEME OF THE WEEK: This week we will discuss how faith and love work in conjunction with each other, and we will study the fruit of the Spirit.

MEMORY VERSE: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” Galatians 5:22 (NKJV)

This lesson is called “Faith, Love, and the Fruit of the Spirit” because all of these work together. The Bible says without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6), so it really is important to make your faith grow by studying God’s Word (Romans 10:17). Faith is simply trusting God. Can you trust God? You can trust Him with your body, your mind, your spirit. You can trust Him with your family, your friends, your money. You can trust God with everything. The Bible shows us that bigger faith comes by hearing God’s Word (Romans 10:17). For example, when people need healing, they need to study what the Bible says about healing, and they should speak and pray healing Scriptures over themselves until they are healed.

But the Bible says faith works by love (Galatians 5:6). If you tried to make a cake, but you forgot to add the baking powder, your cake would be a pancake! It wouldn’t work. Without love, your faith won’t work either.

But what is love? Let’s see how the Bible defines love. **(Teacher, read 1 Corinthians 13 out loud, slowly, letting each statement sink in.)** You need God to have and to show this kind of love! Ask God to do a *love work* in you. The Bible says love covers a multitude of sins – yours and other peoples’ (Proverbs 10:12; 1 Peter 4:8). Love people, don’t condemn them. Pray for them, don’t expose their sins to anyone you can get to listen to you. For yourself though, don’t cover your sins. Admit them to God so that you can receive His forgiveness (Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9). If you’ve hurt other people, tell them you are sorry and ask for their forgiveness.

Let's look at the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. **(Teacher, read aloud once, then go back to talk a little about each fruit. For some of the harder to understand words, read from different translations or give a dictionary definition. Let your group talk about the words until they really understand each one.)**

Actually love heads the list. If you think about it, you'll realize that some of these other fruit are not able to work without love. Love is the main thing.

Every fruit is important. Think about joy. The Bible says "the joy of the LORD is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). When you feel tired and sad, praise God with songs until you get joyful because the garment of praise will kick out that spirit of heaviness (Isaiah 61:3).

The fruit of the Spirit is the fruit of the Holy Spirit Who lives in you. Live for the Lord in every area of your life and the fruit of the Holy Spirit will grow and ripen in your life. Don't get discouraged! Fruit takes time to grow, but it will grow if you let the Holy Spirit do His work in your life. Let's read the fruit of the Spirit list a couple of more times. (Read Galatians 5:22-23).

Remember, faith and love work together.

What have you learned today?