

CATALYST TECH NOTES

Foundations

(Scriptures quoted in the HCSB version of the Bible, unless otherwise noted)

Recommended reading: Bible Doctrines by P.C. Nelson

INTRO

Why is it important to know what we believe?

Our faith has to become personal to us. We can learn from others and be encouraged from their faith but it must become our own.

In Galatians, Paul addresses a major issue in the church. People had come in and told them they had to follow the entire law in order to be saved. Paul corrects this in Galatians 3.

Galatians 3:1-9

You foolish Galatians! Who has hypnotized you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was vividly portrayed as crucified? 2 I only want to learn this from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now going to be made complete by the flesh? 4 Did you suffer so much for nothing—if in fact it was for nothing? 5 So then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law or by hearing with faith? 6 Just as Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness, 7 then understand that those who have faith are Abraham's sons. 8 Now the Scripture saw in advance that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and told the good news ahead of time to Abraham, saying, All the nations will be blessed through you. 9 So those who have faith are blessed with Abraham, who had faith.

In **1 Peter 3:15** we are told to always be ready to tell about what we have.

but honor the Messiah as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

Lesson 1

THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20-21

First of all, you should know this: No prophecy of Scripture comes from one's own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Matthew 5:18

For I assure you: Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all things are accomplished.

Luke 24:27

Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted for them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

John 5:39 & 46

You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, yet they testify about Me.

46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, because he wrote about Me.

Jesus Himself validated the Word of God and says portions of the Old Testament were speaking about Him.

In the video a chart was mentioned comparing ancient writings. Here is that chart adapted from *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, by Josh McDowell, 1979, pp. 42,43.

Manuscript Evidence for Ancient Writings

Author	Written	Earliest Fragment/Copy	Time Span in Years	Number of Manuscripts
Caesar	100 to 44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,000	10
Plato	427 to 347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,200	7
Thucydides	460 to 400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,300	8
Tacitus	A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1,000	20
Suetonius	A.D. 75 to 160	A.D. 950	800	8
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500	643
New Testament	A.D. 40 to 100	A.D. 125	25 to 50	24,000

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

“The Isaiah scrolls found at Qumran closed the gap to within 500 years of the original manuscript. When scholars compared MT of Isaiah to the Isaiah scroll of Qumran, the correspondence was astounding. The texts from Qumran proved to be word-for-word identical to our standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95 percent of the text. The 5 percent of variation consisted primarily of obvious slips of the pen and spelling alterations, (Archer, 1974, p. 25). Further, there were no major doctrinal differences between the accepted and Qumran texts. This forcibly demonstrated the accuracy with which scribes copied sacred texts, and bolstered our confidence in the Bible’s textual integrity (see Yamuchi, 1972, p. 130) The dead sea scrolls have increased our confidence that faithful scribal transcription substantially has preserved the original content of Isaiah.

Qumran vs. The Masoretic Text

Of the 166 Hebrew words in Isaiah 53, only 17 letters in Dead Sea Scroll 1QIs differ from the Masoretic Text.

10 letters = spelling differences

4 letters = stylistic changes

3 letters = added word for "light" (verse 11)

A total of 17 letters = no affect on Biblical teaching"

(Chart and above quote taken from: Dead Sea Scroll, Enrichment Magazine, Fall 2008)

ARCHEALOGICAL EVIDENCE

There have been many archaeological discoveries over the years that prove the Bible is historically accurate. There are many great resources if you would like to do further reading on this. I would recommend the *Halley's Bible Handbook* or the *Hayford Bible Handbook*. There are some entries you can find online from reliable sources but unfortunately not every source can be trusted. Check the source first.

Here are some of the discoveries mentioned in the video. These come from christiananswers.net a reliable Christian website.

EBLA ARCHIVE—The discovery of the Ebla archive in northern Syria in the 1970s has shown the Biblical writings concerning the Patriarchs to be viable. Documents written on clay tablets from around 2300 B.C. demonstrate that personal and place names in the Patriarchal accounts are genuine. The name "Canaan" was in use in Ebla, a name critics once said was not used at that time and was used incorrectly in the early chapters of the Bible. The word *tehom* ("the deep") in Genesis 1:2 was said to be a late word demonstrating the late writing of the creation story. "Tehom" was part of the vocabulary at Ebla, in use some 800 years before Moses. Ancient customs reflected in the stories of the Patriarchs have also been found in clay tablets from Nuzi and Mari.

HITTITES—The Hittites were once thought to be a Biblical legend, until their capital and records were discovered at Bogazkoy, Turkey.

KING SARGON—It was once claimed there was no Assyrian king named Sargon as recorded in Isaiah 20:1, because this name was not known in any other record. Then, Sargon's palace was discovered in Khorsabad, Iraq. The very event mentioned in Isaiah 20, his capture of Ashdod, was recorded on the palace walls. What is more, fragments of a stela memorializing the victory were found at Ashdod itself.

KING BELSHAZZAR—Another king who was in doubt was Belshazzar, king of Babylon, named in Daniel 5. The last king of Babylon was Nabonidus according to recorded history. Tablets were found showing that Belshazzar was Nabonidus' son who served as coregent in Babylon. Thus, Belshazzar could offer to make Daniel “third highest ruler in the kingdom” (Dan. 5:16) for reading the handwriting on the wall, the highest available position. Here we see the “eye-witness” nature of the Biblical record, as is so often brought out by the discoveries of archaeology.

You can see more on their website here: <https://christiananswers.net/archaeology/home.html>

Lesson 1 Assignment Upload: Assume you are writing to someone who questions the validity of the Bible being the authentic Word of God. What evidence would you choose to share with them and why?

Lesson 2

THE ONE TRUE GOD

God's nature and character are revealed to us in His Word.

Jesus was the perfect representation of the Father. To know what God is like all we have to do is look at Jesus.

John 10:30

The Father and I are one."

John 5:19-20

19 Then Jesus replied, "I assure you: The Son is not able to do anything on His own, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son also does these things in the same way. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows Him everything He is doing, and He will show Him greater works than these so that you will be amazed.

A few basic attributes of God as seen in the Bible are:

1. **Eternal** - He exists outside of time. Time was part of His creation for us.

Psalm 90:2

**Before the mountains were born,
before You gave birth to the earth and the world,
from eternity to eternity, You are God.**

2. **Omniscient** - God is all knowing.

Psalm 147:4-5

**He counts the number of the stars;
He gives names to all of them.
Our Lord is great, vast in power;
His understanding is infinite.**

Hebrews 4:13

No creature is hidden from Him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account.

3. Omnipresent - God is everywhere.

Psalm 139:7-10

Where can I go to escape Your Spirit?

Where can I flee from Your presence?

If I go up to heaven, You are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, You are there.

If I live at the eastern horizon

or settle at the western limits,

even there Your hand will lead me;

Your right hand will hold on to me.

4. Omnipotent - God is all powerful.

Isaiah 40:12-15

**Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand
or marked off the heavens with the span of his hand?**

**Who has gathered the dust of the earth in a measure
or weighed the mountains in a balance
and the hills in the scales?**

**Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord,
or who gave Him His counsel?**

Who did He consult with?

**Who gave Him understanding
and taught Him the paths of justice?**

**Who taught Him knowledge
and showed Him the way of understanding?**

**Look, the nations are like a drop in a bucket;
they are considered as a speck of dust in the scales;
He lifts up the islands like fine dust.**

THE NAME OF GOD

There is one God but throughout the Word of God people have used different terms to describe His nature. There are also different terms used for God, similar to the way we say: Lord or God.

In Hebrew they used the word *EL* to mean God.

EL SHADDAI: God Almighty

And *ADONAI: Lord* (in most Bibles when you see *LORD* in all capital letters it is the Hebrew word *ADONAI*).

JEHOVAH or *YAHWEH* is the covenant name of God. This is what God called Himself at the burning bush with Moses that is translated there: I AM. (see Exodus 3)

Abraham discovered God was His provider and called Him: *JEHOVAH JIREH - The Lord my provider*

Genesis 22:14 (KJV)

And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen.

Some other descriptions of God.

JEHOVAH ROPHE: The Lord who heals

Genesis 15:26

He said, "If you will carefully obey the Lord your God, do what is right in His eyes, pay attention to His commands, and keep all His statutes, I will not inflict any illnesses on you that I inflicted on the Egyptians. For I am Yahweh who heals you."

JEHOVAH NISSI: The Lord our banner

Exodus 15:26 (KJV)

And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi:

JEHOVAH SHALOM: The Lord our peace

Judges 6:24 (KJV)

Then Gideon built an altar there unto the Lord, and called it Jehovahshalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

(Note: this is not an exhaustive list.)

THE TRINITY

The trinity refers to the three parts of God: The Father, The Son & The Holy Spirit. There are not three separate God's, but one God. Man was created in God's image as a triune being. Man is a spirit, he lives in a body and he has a soul (mind and emotions). The trinity can be seen at creation.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

The Hebrew word here for God is Elohim, a plural word for God. Again there are not multiple God's, but one God with three parts. The Holy Spirit is described as "hovering over the surface of the waters." God the Father is also present and speaks, "Let there be light."

Jesus was there at the beginning. John 1:1 tells us that He was the Word of God.

John 1:1-3

**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.**

He was with God in the beginning.

**All things were created through Him,
and apart from Him not one thing was created
that has been created.**

John 1:14 tells us that the Word became flesh and is Jesus.

**The Word became flesh
and took up residence among us.
We observed His glory,
the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

The trinity is even more clearly seen at the baptism of Jesus.

Luke 3:21-22

When all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized. As He was praying, heaven opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in a physical appearance like a dove. And a voice came from heaven:

**You are My beloved Son.
I take delight in You!**

You see Jesus getting baptized, the Holy Spirit descending like a dove and the voice from heaven is the Father speaking about Jesus.

For more about this topic see our recommended text: *Bible Doctrines* by P.C. Nelson

Lesson 2 Assignment Upload: What aspect of God's nature (e.g. Omniscience, healer, peace, etc.) do you find most assuring for your life? Why?

Lesson 3

THE DEITY OF CHRIST

Recommended reading: The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel

“The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- a. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35)*
- b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22)*
- c. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38)*
- d. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21)*
- e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4)*
- f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3)”*

(From Bible Doctrines, by P.C. Nelson, p. 21)

Testimonies about Jesus

God Himself called Jesus His beloved Son.

Matthew 3:17

And there came a voice from heaven:

This is My beloved Son.

I take delight in Him!

John the baptist testified that Jesus was the Son of God.

John 1:33-34

I didn't know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The One you see the Spirit descending and resting on—He is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 I have seen and testified that He is the Son of God!”

Angels declared Him to be the Son of God at His birth.

Luke 1:32-33

He will be great

and will be called the Son of the Most High,

and the Lord God will give Him

the throne of His father David.

He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,

and His kingdom will have no end.

The prophets spoke about Jesus that He was God.

Isaiah 9:6

For a child will be born for us,

a son will be given to us,

and the government will be on His shoulders.

He will be named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

ABOUT THE PROPHECIES

There are many prophetic Scriptures throughout the Old Testament that speak about Jesus being the Messiah.

Just a couple great examples are Psalm 22 - that describe in chilling detail the events of the crucifixion and Isaiah 53 that describe Jesus as taking our sin and sickness at the cross.

In his book: *The Case for Faith*, Lee Strobel interviews Louis Lapidus and asks what the odds are that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies by chance. Let me quote the answer below:

“Not a chance,” came his response. “The odds are so astronomical that they rule that out. Someone did the math and figured out that the probability of just eight prophecies being fulfilled is one chance in one hundred million billion. That

25 “I did tell you and you don’t believe,” Jesus answered them. “The works that I do in My Father’s name testify about Me. 26 But you don’t believe because you are not My sheep.27 My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish—ever! No one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. 30 The Father and I are one.”

Again the Jews picked up rocks to stone Him.

32 Jesus replied, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. Which of these works are you stoning Me for?”

33 “We aren’t stoning You for a good work,” the Jews answered, “but for blasphemy, because You—being a man—make Yourself God.”

The I AM’s of Jesus

God revealed Himself to Moses as I AM or Yahweh at the burning bush. Jesus called Himself I AM in John 8:58 (see above). There are seven specific I AM statements made by Jesus that are worth pointing out.

- 1. I AM the bread of life (see John 6:35,41,48, 51)**
- 2. I AM the light of the world (see John 8:12)**
- 3. I AM the door (John 10:7-9)**
- 4. I AM the resurrection and the life (John 11:25)**
- 5. I AM the good shepherd (John 10:11 -14)**
- 6. I AM the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6)**
- 7. I AM the true vine (John 15:1-5)**

Lesson 3 Assignment Upload: How would you explain to someone who doesn’t know about Jesus who He is? What scriptures would you use to show His divinity?

Lesson 4

CREATION AND THE FALL OF MAN

Man was created in the image of God to rule the earth.

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.”

So God created man in His own image;

He created him in the image of God;

He created them male and female.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.”

The tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil were both in the garden. Adam could eat freely from the tree of life but was told to never eat the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:9

The Lord God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:16-17

And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.”

The devil questioned what God said.

Genesis 3:1-7

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden’?”

He told her if she ate the fruit she would have her eyes opened and be like God.

4 “No! You will not die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

They ate the fruit and introduced physical and spiritual death into the world.

6 Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Through their sin the curse came upon the earth. (see Genesis 3:14-19)

The curse affected every part of life
(see Deuteronomy 28:15 - 68)

Lesson 4 Assignment Upload: Read Deuteronomy 28:15-68 in 2 different translations.
List 10 effects the curse has on mankind.

Lesson 5 SALVATION

All the way at the beginning God spoke prophetically about Jesus coming to destroy the devil's works.

Genesis 3:15

**I will put hostility between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed.
He will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.**

In Revelation, Jesus is called the Lamb slain before the foundation of the World. Since God can see the end at the beginning, He had already decided Jesus would come and die for us.

Revelation 13:8

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Jesus redeemed us from the curse.

Galatians 3:10-14

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, because it is written: Everyone who does not continue doing everything written in the book of the law is cursed. Now it is clear that no one is justified before God by the law, because the righteous will live by faith. But the law is not based on faith; instead, the one who does these things will live by them. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, because it is written: Everyone who is hung on a tree is cursed. The purpose was that the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles by Christ Jesus, so that we could receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Lesson 5 Assignment Upload: Read Galatians 3:10-14
What do you think is meant by “the blessing of Abraham?”
Read Deuteronomy 28:1-14 in 2 different translations.
List 10 effects of the blessing.

Lesson 6

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The promise of the Holy Spirit was spoke of by the prophet Joel.

Joel 2:28-29.

28

After this

**I will pour out My Spirit on all humanity;
then your sons and your daughters will prophesy,
your old men will have dreams,
and your young men will see visions.**

29

**I will even pour out My Spirit
on the male and female slaves in those days.**

Jesus is the baptizer.

Matthew 3:11

11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the One who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to remove His sandals. He Himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is for all believers.

Acts 2:39

39 For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is for power to live and to be a witness.

Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

2 Peter 1:3

3 His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives was described by Jesus:

Jesus describes some of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in John 14 & 16.

John 14:12, 15-18, 26

16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. 17 He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive Him because it doesn't see Him or know Him. But you do know Him, because He remains with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.

26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit—the Father will send Him in My name—will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

John 16:7-15

7 Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don't go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send Him to you. 8 When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: 9 About sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 about

righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see Me; 11 and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

12 “I still have many things to tell you, but you can’t bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 Everything the Father has is Mine. This is why I told you that He takes from what is Mine and will declare it to you.

The initial sign of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues (a language that you have never learned.) The pattern of speaking in tongues can be seen throughout the book of Acts. Along with water baptism, it was the normal next step after salvation.

Acts 2:4

4 Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages, as the Spirit gave them ability for speech.

Acts 10:46

46 For they heard them speaking in other languages and declaring the greatness of God.

Acts 19:1-6 (notice in this story how Paul doesn’t leave the men he encounters until they are baptized in the Holy Spirit.)

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples 2 and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

“No,” they told him, “we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

3 “Then what baptism were you baptized with?” he asked them.

“With John’s baptism,” they replied.

4 Paul said, “John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the One who would come after him, that is, in Jesus.”

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began to speak in other languages and to prophesy.

Lesson 6 assignment upload: What was the initial sign that people were filled with the Holy Spirit as seen in Acts 2:4?

Is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit still for today? Why? (use Scripture to support your view)

Lesson 7 HEALING

Recommended reading: Christ the Healer by T.L. Osborne

God's Will to Heal by Keith Moore

Download *God's Will to Heal* for free here:

[https://flcmedia.nyc3.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pdf/
Book_GodsWillToHeal_English.pdf](https://flcmedia.nyc3.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pdf/Book_GodsWillToHeal_English.pdf)

Sickness and death came with the curse.

There was no sickness on the earth until man sinned.

Sin brought death and with it sickness and every kind of disease.

Sickness is connected to the curse.

Deuteronomy 28

15 “But if you do not obey the Lord your God by carefully following all His commands and statutes I am giving you today, all these curses will come and overtake you:

16

**You will be cursed in the city
and cursed in the country.**

17

Your basket and kneading bowl will be cursed.

18

**Your descendants[d] will be cursed,
and your land's produce,
the young of your herds,
and the newborn of your flocks.**

19

**You will be cursed when you come in
and cursed when you go out.**

The list goes on and on. Read through the rest of this chapter on to see the list of the curses. They include things like: disease, fever, inflammation, boils, tumors, rashes, scabies (without a cure), madness, blindness, mental confusion, and that's just the curses that come on the body and mind. There were curses on every part of life. He goes on to say that other diseases and sickness that weren't mentioned would come too and they would have no peace in their lives. (see verses 61 & 65)

But thank God we're not under that curse anymore!

Jesus came to break the curse of sin and death.

Galatians 3:10-14

10 For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, because it is written: Everyone who does not continue doing everything written in the book of the law is cursed. 11 Now it is clear that no one is justified before God by the law, because the righteous will live by faith. 12 But the law is not based on faith; instead, the one who does these things will live by them. 13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, because it is written: Everyone who is hung on a tree is cursed. 14 The purpose was that the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles by Christ Jesus, so that we could receive the promised Spirit through faith.

It says that Christ has redeemed us from the curse. He became a curse for us when He died on the cross. In the Old Testament it was written that everyone who was hung on a tree was under a curse. Jesus died by hanging on a wooden cross or "tree." (see Deuteronomy 21:23) He redeemed you so that the blessing could come on you.

Sickness is a work of the devil, not God.

Acts 10:38

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were under the tyranny of the Devil, because God was with Him.

Jesus went about healing all who were under the tyranny of the devil. God doesn't put sickness on people the devil does. Some people think God uses it but that is not His

work. His work is seen in Jesus, who did good, healing all. You just read the list of curses from the Old Testament so it can sound like God is causing sickness, but remember Jesus redeemed us from all that. Also the curses came because they broke the law. If they followed the law they were blessed. God's desire for His people has always been blessing but in order for them to be blessed they had to keep the law. When they couldn't they opened themselves up to the curse (sickness, disease, etc.) Jesus paid the price for our healing at the cross.

Isaiah 53:4-5

**Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses,
and He carried our pains;
but we in turn regarded Him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.**

**But He was pierced because of our transgressions,
crushed because of our iniquities;
punishment for our peace was on Him,
and we are healed by His wounds.**

Notice it doesn't say He will take our sickness but that He bore them. That is in the past tense. Now this verse was written hundreds of years before Jesus died on the cross. But it is still in the past tense. How could that be? Because to God who exists outside of time it was already done. He had decided He would send His only Son to die in our place.

When Jesus died He took not only our sin but our sickness. Some people wonder if it is God's will to heal. Understand the decision has already been made. He's already paid the price.

We have to receive our healing by faith.

Matthew 9:29

Then He touched their eyes, saying, "Let it be done for you according to your faith!"

You cannot receive anything from God without faith. You are saved by faith and you are healed by faith. We are not waiting on God to make up His mind or to do the work. He did the work when He died on the cross. All we have to do is believe.

Jesus healed all who came to Him. He never once told anyone, no, not yet or wait a while. He never told anyone God was trying to teach them something. Man has come up with these ideas to explain why we don't always see what we want to see.

Matthew 8:16

When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick,

Jesus told us to do the same things He was doing.

Mark 16:15-18

Then He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages; 18 they will pick up snakes; if they should drink anything deadly, it will never harm them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will get well."

He told us to pray for the sick and they will get better. We understand that at some point everyone will have to die but I don't believe they have to die sick. We can live in health and when it's our time to go home we can die without being sick.

James 13-18

Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone cheerful? He should sing praises. 14 Is anyone among you sick? He should call for the elders of the church, and they should pray over him after anointing him with olive oil in the name of the Lord. 15 The prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will restore him to health; if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The urgent request of a righteous person is very

powerful in its effect. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours; yet he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the land. 18 Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced its fruit.

Our prayers are powerful and effective. In short we believe it is God's will to heal. We can pray and expect results. That is not to negate doctors and those in the medical field. God is the source for everything. He can use a doctor to heal me or He can give me a miracle some other way, either way it all comes from Him and I will receive it any way He wants to send it. If you or someone close to you need a healing first of all pray. Believe God. Go to the doctor and pray there too. If they give you medicine pray over it. Keep believing God because He wants you well. He sent His Son to make you whole: body, soul and spirit.

Lesson 7 Assignment Upload: What does the Bible say about healing? (who can be healed, how, etc.)
Is healing God's will? Why? (use scripture to support your answer)