GETTING CONNECTED
1 Why is it important to be connected to Christ?
JOHN 15:4-5 "Abide Me, and I in you. As the branch bear fruit of, unless it in the, neither can you, unless you abide Me. (5) 'I am the vine, you are the branches. He who in Me, and I in him, bears fruit; for Me you can do"
As the branches need sap to nourish and grow fruit, we need sap flowing from Christ, the living Vine for nourishment and growth. Any attempt to grow without connection to Christ, will only last for a short time, and will be met with disappointment. 2 What did Jesus tell His disciples about their absolute need for connection to divinity?
MATTHEW 19:26 "But Jesus looked at them and said to them, 'With this is, but with all things are
There is a limit to human ability. We may exert the greatest effort to keep ourselves pure and holy, but apart from God there is no lasting success. He is our sufficiency. He alone replaces human frailty with divine vitality. Nev rely on willpower or inner resolve, rely totally on Christ.
How does the apostle Paul reveal the possibilities available only through connection with Christ?
PHILIPPIANS 4:13 "I can do things through who me."
The apostle Paul's secret was simple; he could accomplish everything through Christ, the One giving him strength. Paul knew he could face anything because he knew the Lord would carry him through. In all of his challenges, Paul accepted the grace of Christ as sufficient for him.
4 As the apostle Paul grew in his Christian journey, what did he rely on as assurance in times of weakness?
2 CORINTHIANS 12:9 "And He said to me, 'My grace is for you, for My is made perfect in" Therefor most gladly I will rather in my, that the of may upon me."
When we fail to acknowledge our human weaknesses, we meet with failur and disappointment. When we accept salvation from the condemnation of sins, we are delivered from the penalty of sin. This daily deliverance from

the penalty of sin is the power of sanctification, available when we remain

connected to Christ.

Christ, even after we are forgiven and born again?
ROMANS 6:12 "Therefore do not sin reign in your body, that you should it in its"
We are still living in a world of sin even after we are forgiven and de- livered from the penalty of sin. Being born again is just the start of our battle against sin and our consciousness of sin's power and need of divine strength.
6 What kind of language did the apostle Paul use to symbolize the battle against the power of sin?
EPHESIANS 6:12 "For we do not against and, but against, against the rulers of the of this age, against hosts of in the places."
Without commitment to Christ and rebirth there is no desire to wrestle against sin; sinful practices are the way of life. When we are born again, our eyes are opened to the battle, not against the existence of sin, but against sin's desire to become the controlling factor, once again, after our new birth. We are made spiritually by the righteousness of Christ, but because we are still mortal, we are susceptible to the intrusion of sin wrestling us away from Christ. 7 What does the Bible describe as our defense system against
the intrusion of sin?
EPHESIANS 6:10-11 "Finally, my brethren, be in the Lord and in the of His might. (11) Put on the armor of, that you may be able to against the of the"
Only the Lord's armor ensures victory against the devil. Therefore Satan goads us to fight him in our own strength, where we are easily defeated without the strength of the Lord. After Jesus rose from the dead and demonstrated His power over Satan, He proclaimed, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth." (Matthew 28:18). The only authority the devil fears is the authority of Jesus.
8 What else besides His armor does a connection to Christ give His disciples?
LUKE 10:19 "Behold, I give the to on and , and over the power of the, and shall by any means you."

Although some believe that from this passage God intends for us to literally handle serpents and scorpions, God is giving us the authority to be victorious over Satan's symbolic serpents and scorpions. For this breaking of sin's hold over His disciples, we rejoice.

		power of the enemy?	
HEBREWS 2	2:14 "Inasmuch then a	s the have page	artaken
of flesh and	blood, He Himself likev	vise in the sam	e, that
through	He might	him who had the	of
, that	is, the"		

Jesus fought the battle against the devil on the same field on which we face him, the field of human flesh and blood. Because of our fallen nature, Jesus became like us, to face the satanic artillery that we are helpless against. And He won! His win is recorded in Hebrews 4:15, "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."

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10	Following Jesus'	victory wha	at is now ava	ilable to us?
_	EPHESIANS 6:13	"Therefore t	ake up the	armor of
	, that	may be	to	in the
	day, and having do	ne .to	,,	

Without the "Whole armor of God" we are vulnerable. We need the armor as long as we remain in human flesh and are mortal. Christ' righteousness, however, is sufficient to empower and enable Christians to live a spiritual life in a natural body.

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

- 1. Belt of Truth God's truth will sustain us in times of testing.
- 2. Breastplate of Righteousness The law of God in our heart.
- 3. Feet covered with the Gospel of Peace We walk in peace.
- 4. Shield of Faith The darts of the enemy cannot penetrate our faith.
- 5. Helmet of Salvation Represents Christ our Head that covers us.
- 6. Sword of the Spirit It cuts away error and false teachings.
- 7. Praying Always Unceasing prayer keeps us open to commune with God.

8. Being Watchful - Keeps us alert to the wiles of the enemy.

11	Through what means do we maintain the Christia	an victory?
• •	1 CORINTHIANS 15:57 "But thanks be to God, who	us the
	through our"	·

Joshua also wrote about God's protecting care. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 (NKJV).

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
12 How does Christ impart His daily power to us?
ACTS 1:8 "But you shall receive when the has come you; and shall be to in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
Dr. Luke points out, when we receive the Holy Spirit, we will be witnesses "to Jesus" not just "for Jesus." Many desire to witness for Jesus, but our first priority is to witness to Jesus: to reflect what Christ has done in our life, character, words, and deeds. The Holy Spirit first worked on us to bring us to Christ, then in us to reflect Christ and finally through us to share Christ.
13 Why is the Holy Spirit's work in us vital to our witness?
TITUS 1:16 "They to God, but in they Him, being abominable, disobedient, and for every work."
Before we are qualified to work for Christ, a work must first be done in us. Christ qualifies us by developing His character in us, before He imparts His gift of the Spirit.
14 What is the first evidence that we are developing Christ's character?
MATTHEW 7:20 "Therefore by their you will know them."
A tree without fruit is an unproductive tree; a Christian without fruits is not developing a Christ-like character. As we look for fruit on a tree, Jesus looks for fruit in the lives of His children.
15 What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit in us? GALATIANS 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is,,
(23),, Against such there is no law."
The indwelling Christ is revealed through the character traits emanating from Him. The fruit of the spirit are not human qualities, but evidence of Christ being alive and present in His children.
16 What does Christ see in those without a Holy Spirit-developed Christ-like character? LUKE 13:6 "He also spoke this parable: 'A certain man had a fig tree planted in his, and he came seeking on it and found""
The people of God are synonymous to Christ's Vineyard. As the owner, Christ longs to find our lives bearing fruit. The absence of fruit on examination indicates Christ's absence in our lives.

17	What does Jesus teach	n is the reason onnected to Hi	His character is	s absent in
	MATTHEW 7:17-18 "Ev	en so, every	tree bears	fruit,
	but a tree bears	fruit. (18) A o	good tree	_ bear
	fruit nor can a	tree hear	fruit "	

The law of righteousness is illustrated in the nature of the tree: "bad tree, bad fruit, good tree, good fruit." Even in the same manner, Christians are not to be identified by their work, but by their fruit: Christ-like character, good fruit; substitute work for Christ's character, harsh and unchanged bad fruit. The latter cloak their identity by being works oriented. But Christ sees otherwise.

18 Why is it imperative that our Christian character accompanies our Christian works?

ot everyone who	to Me, Lord, Lord,
m of heaven, but he v	vho does the of
) Many will say to Me	in that day, 'Lord, Lord,
in Your name, cast o	ut in Your
in Your na	me?' (23) And then I
ever you;	from Me, you who
;"	
	m of heaven, but he v) Many will say to Me _ in Your name, cast o in Your na

Salvation is not by works. Don't become content working for Christ and loose your focus on the Holy Spirit's development of Christ's character within. Doing so is counterfeit Christianity. The proof of our connection to Christ is, His character will be revealed in us through participation with the Holy Spirit.

19 How does the Bible reveal the divine possibilities in those that are connected to Christ?

EPHESIANS 3	:20 "Now to	V	vho is able	to do
	above	that we	or	, according to th
that _	in us			

When we quit obstructing the Holy Spirit's work, there is no limit to what Christ can accomplish. He is looking for availability, not ability. We don't work through Christ; He does His work through us. When Christ is resident, His presence is evident.

20 What assurance does Jesus give those connected to Him?

PHILIPP	IANS 1:6 "Being		of this ve	ry thing, that He
who has	a	work	you will	it unt
the	of Jesus Christ."			

Jesus will not only finish His work in us, He will finish His work through us. As Jesus fills us with His Holy Spirit we are transformed and qualified to work connected to Christ.



ave you ever seen a tree grow without connection to its source of nourishment? Have you ever seen fish swimming without water? Have you ever seen a deep-sea diver dive without carrying oxygen to sustain him in deep water? In the same way it is impossible to enter the Christian Life without connection to life-sustaining power from somewhere or someone other than us.

Many people join the church or say they are following Christ without connection to Christ, the only source empowering us to live a Christian Life.

Life, without the Holy Spirit's power, is like a major city experiencing a power outage or a car unable to start, because the battery has died: no power no life. Flowers nourished through their roots and Christians planted in Christ will grow and flourish.

Getting connected is just the beginning. Bible study, prayer, Christian service, and the exercise of spiritual gifts must be incorporated in daily living and worship to continue to grow in Christ. This outline has been designed to lead you into learning the important elements of your connection and growth in your Christian walk. The promise is, "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." Philippians 2:13 As you study, you will discover that there is no greater joy than growing and sharing your faith in Jesus.