



Study Guide - 11

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

Gospel IQ Survey

(Choose the best answer, A or B.)

1. A. The reason why man was created in God's image is so he will act like God and not disobey Him.
B. God created man in His own image so he could rule the earth as God's surrogate king. **Gen. 1:27-28**
2. A. We are sinners because we have sinned (violated God's law).
B. We sin because we are sinners, as a result of the sin of Adam. **Rom. 5:12-14, 19**
3. A. Sin is doing something that is forbidden by God.
B. Sin is being opposed to God because of unbelief. **1 John 3:4; Rom. 8:7; John 16:9**
4. A. God forgives our sins because Jesus died to take our penalty.
B. God forgives our sins because of our sorrow and promise to obey Him afterwards. **Eph. 1:7; Rom. 5:9,10**
5. A. A person who believes in Christ still struggles with sin in his life.
B. A Christian will no longer sin because God has made him holy. **Rom. 7:15-20; Gal. 5:16-18**
6. A. A sinner is accepted by God because of his faith in Jesus Christ.
B. A sinner is accepted by God because of his obedience to God's law or his good deeds. **Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8,9; Rom. 3:20-28**
7. A. A person can never know if he has eternal life; all he can do is his best and hope that in the end his efforts are accepted by God.
B. A Christian can have assurance of eternal life now because his salvation is based on Jesus' work and his acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior. **1 John 5:11-13**
8. A. God does not condemn me when I sin because He promised to keep me saved.
B. God takes away my salvation whenever I sin and He gives it back when I confess and ask for forgiveness. **Rom. 8:1,31-34; John 10:27-29**
9. A. The Holy Spirit condemns me whenever I sin, so I won't do it again.
B. The Holy Spirit makes me realize that I am a sinner, so I will know that I need a Savior. **John 16:7-11**
10. A. A disciple follows Jesus because he loves Him more than anything in the world.
B. A disciple obeys Jesus in order to remain saved. **John 14:15-16**
11. A. I get baptized in order to join a church, so I should wait until I have changed my life.
B. I get baptized as soon as I believe because I am saved through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. **Rom. 6:3-8; Acts 2:41-42**
12. A. Followers of Jesus become like Him in being obedient to God's commandments.
B. Followers of Jesus become like Him in the way He loved people, in the way He ministered to people with signs and miracles, and in the way He depended on the power of the Holy Spirit. **John 13:34-35; Mark 16:17-18; John 14:12-14; Acts 10:38**

GOSPEL SUMMARY

The Story of God and Man The Bible is not about religion or philosophy, but about relationship. God created man to live in perfect relationship with Him and to rule His kingdom on earth as His surrogate “image.” God’s earth kingdom was lost to humanity because of Adam’s disobedience, and human beings became disqualified from fulfilling the destiny that God originally set for them; but they can be restored to God’s eternal kingdom now because of Christ’s perfect obedience.

Gen. 1:27-28; Rom. 5:12; Eph. 1:4-5; Rom. 5:18-19

God - Creator and Heavenly Father Man was created by a wise, powerful and loving God for an intimate relationship with Him and for ruling the earth as His surrogate. Man was created in God’s image so he could exercise his earth dominion authority in a godly manner. Adam failed to perform his responsibility and as a result, humanity is separated from God and disqualified from fulfilling God’s royal destiny for humankind. In spite of this, God never stops loving sinful man as a Father and He desires to restore him completely to His family and kingdom.

Gen. 3:1-13; Jer. 31:3; 1 John 3:1; 1 John 3:1

Jesus - The God-Man Only a person who is both God and man could bridge the separation between sinners and God. Jesus Christ, God’s eternal Son, is the promised Messiah, who became a man to be the Second Adam. Jesus died on the cross for all sins and rose on the third day from the grave to ransom sinners and open the way for them to be restored to God’s kingdom.

John 1:14; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Acts 4:12

Man and the Fall Because of unbelief in God’s word, man was deceived into believing Satan’s lies. Instead of continuing in freedom, he was enslaved by Satan. By sinning, man chose to be separated from God, to live independent of His love and life-giving power. This separation disqualifies man from earth rulership. Apart from God, man can only live in opposition to God’s original plan for him. Every human being has inherited this condition from Adam (“Original Sin” or the “sinful nature”) and it controls what he thinks, feels and does. Without God’s intervention, man is powerless to change his course. Jesus Christ came to set us free by giving us a new spirit. This spirit that the Holy Spirit births in the believer is meant to live only in liberty.

Gen. 2:16-17; Gen. 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12; Psalms 51:5; Rom. 7:18; Rom. 7:18

The Penalty for Sin The penalty for sin is eternal death. **Rom. 6:23**

Jesus - Savior of the World Jesus Christ died on the cross to satisfy and maintain God’s justice and to demonstrate God’s unconditional love for sinners. Because Jesus paid for the penalty of all sins on the cross, once for all time, God forgave all our sins – past, present and future. We are restored to a right relationship with God – no longer considered as guilty and condemned – when we believe in Jesus Christ and accept Him as our Savior and Lord.

**2 Cor. 5:21; Isa. 53:4-5; Eph. 1:7; Col. 2:13-14; 2 Cor. 5:19
Acts 10:43; John 3:16-18**

The Good News Salvation is God’s free gift to sinners who are unable to obey His law and, therefore, undeserving of eternal life. God gives this gift to us through His Son, Jesus, who came to suffer the penalty that we deserve in order for us to receive the life that we don’t deserve. We receive salvation by believing in Jesus as our risen Savior and declaring to the world that He is our Lord.

**Rom. 3:20; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:4-9; Rom. 3:27
Rom. 3:28; Rom. 3:21-26; Romans 10:8-10**

Salvation by Faith We receive God’s gift of salvation by believing in what Jesus did for us and inviting Him to come into our lives as our Savior and Lord. This is known as being born again. Those who receive Jesus by faith are no longer under condemnation. **John 1:12, 13; Rev. 3:20; Rom. 8:1**

The Righteousness of Christ Through the obedience of Jesus all men will be made righteous and given eternal life. **Rom. 5:18-21**

Assurance of Salvation God wants me to know that I receive eternal life when I receive Jesus Christ by faith. Since I don’t earn salvation by my performance, I don’t lose it whenever I sin. God promised to keep me saved and secure in my relationship with Him because He planned for me to do good things, not out of fear but out of my love for Him.

**1 John 5:13; John 5:24; Rom. 8:1; Rom. 8:31-34
John 10:27-29; 1 John 5:11-12**

The Holy Spirit The Holy Spirit is the divine agent for the fulfillment of the New Covenant. This covenant was ratified by the blood of Jesus Christ on Calvary, thus opening the way for the Holy Spirit to write God’s law in man’s heart. The Holy Spirit guarantees the new believer’s complete restoration to God’s kingdom by living in him. The Holy Spirit fulfills God’s promise of a full life in Jesus Christ by empowering the believer for witnessing and giving him

special abilities (spiritual gifts) for service and exercising his earth dominion authority.

Eph. 1:13-14; Titus 3:3-5; John 14:17; Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Cor. 12:7-11

Discipleship God saved me for a grander purpose than merely avoiding eternal punishment. I was saved so I could be restored to God's original purpose for humankind – ruling earth. In the place of Adam, I now have Christ to rule with me. After my legal restoration to God's Kingdom, I am called to undergo a process of growth, maturity and equipping for my royal duties in this life and for eternity. The process involves increasing levels of commitment as my value system changes, until Jesus becomes my first priority in life, above all of the things of this world.

John 8:31; 13:34-35; 15:8; Luke 14:26,27,33; Matt. 16:24-26

Baptism Jesus commanded His disciples to baptize people when they believe. Baptism by immersion symbolically depicts the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. By being baptized the new believer publicly declares his salvation in Jesus and his new life with Him. Baptism is also the means by which new believers openly join God's church and enter His service.

Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:3-8; Acts 2:41-42

The Lord's Supper The Lord's Supper is the symbol of the completed Messianic work of Jesus Christ. His blood represents Christ's payment for the forgiveness of all sins. His broken body represents the ransom that Christ paid for the healing of our diseases. Christians are commanded to join together in this hallowed commemoration of our salvation through Jesus Christ alone. Every time we participate in communion, we are reminded that we now live under the New Covenant era.

Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

Spiritual Community Believers will grow and serve in a spiritual community (the Church).

Acts 2:42-47

- a. For teaching - **Discipleship**
- b. For fellowship - **Community**
- c. For sharing the Gospel (with signs and wonders - **Evangelism**)
- d. For blessing each other and their community - **Ministry**
- e. For joyously praising God together - **Worship**

Preaching of the Gospel with Power As they preach the Gospel, Christ's followers will do the same things (miracles and authority over demons) that

He did in His ministry. He promised that they will perform "even greater works" in His name.

Mark 16:17-18; John 14:12-14

Spiritual Warfare The warfare that royal ambassadors fight is against spiritual powers. So, they are spiritually equipped and empowered to fight and win from a position of victory – the victory that Christ won at Calvary for all humanity. Believers are given authority over demonic forces, so they can assert the victory that Christ already gained over Satan and his kingdom. We fulfill our destiny as earth rulers by overthrowing Satan from his control of human hearts and souls. Believers engage in spiritual warfare in order to open the eyes of those who have been blinded by Satan, so they can understand the Good News and receive forgiveness and citizenship in God's kingdom.

2 Cor. 10:3-5; Luke 10:19; Matt. 10:1; Eph. 6:10-18

Ambassadors of Christ We, who have responded to Christ's call to follow Him, are the Body of Christ, His chosen people, His holy nation – a royal priesthood. We have been commissioned by Jesus as His royal ambassadors – His Kingdom representatives on earth. We have been tasked to bring His marvelous light – the Good News of the Kingdom – to this dark and dying world. We have been re-born by the Holy Spirit for this very important life-mission. As citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, we have no priority greater and more urgent than this divine imperative. Christ Himself invites us to join Him in restoring lost earth to His eternal kingdom. This has been, and will always be, at the heart of His Messianic persona and must also be at the core of our earthly existence. Nothing matters more than the Kingdom of God and its revelation and fulfillment in our lives and our world. All other things are secondary.

John 20:21-22; 2 Cor. 5:18-20; 1 Peter 2:9

Matt. 16:16-19; Matt. 5:13-16

Christ's Second Coming Jesus promised to return someday, "when everything is ready," to be with His followers. The day will come, soon, when we will welcome Jesus back to earth with joy and celebration. For now, let us rejoice in the certainty of our hope in Jesus Christ and diligently work to fulfill our mission of sharing the Good News of the Kingdom.

John 14:1-3; Isa. 25:9

The Resurrection of the Saints The bodies of the believers who die will rise from the grave to life when Christ returns. The "transformed" bodies of both the dead and living saints will be "immortal" and "incorruptible."

1 Cor. 15:50-55; 1 Thes. 4:13-17