

Back To Basics

Volume 4
MAY 2006
Number 5

A Monthly Journal Dedicated To Teaching First Principles

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

Donnie V. Rader

What does the blood of Christ mean to you? It is possible to count the blood unholy or common (Heb. 10:29). That is what most of the world has done. But, even some “Christians” have tried to rob the gospel of the redemption through the blood of Christ.

JESUS SHED HIS BLOOD FOR US

1. **A sacrifice had to be offered.** Sin is a violation of the law (1 Jn. 3:4; Rom. 4:15). Law demands that a price (penalty) be paid, else the law is meaningless. Man could not begin to pay the price. The blood of animals was not sufficient (Heb. 10:4). The blood of the sinless Son of God was the perfect sacrifice.

2. **Jesus shed His blood for the sins of man.** Jesus said, “For this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Mt. 26:28). “...without shedding of blood, there is no remission” (Heb. 9:22).

3. **Jesus shed His blood for all men.** Hebrews 2:9 says, “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that he, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.” The remission of sins that is offered through the blood of Christ is offered to one and all alike.

THE BLOOD WAS OFFERED IN HEAVEN

Just as the High Priest had to enter the Most Holy Place to offer the sacrifice of animals (Heb. 9:1-7), Christ also had to rise from the dead so He could enter into Heaven to offer His own blood as a sacrifice for the sins of man (Heb. 9:24-26).

This is the meaning of His being “raised for our justification” (Rom. 4:25). Had Jesus died and not rose to offer that blood, we could not be saved.

THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD

1. **The blood of Christ can cleanse us from *all* sin.** John wrote, “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 Jn. 1:7).

2. **When the blood cleanses us from our sins, God never remembers those sins again.** “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more” (Heb. 8:12).

Indeed, there is power in the blood. It has all the power we could ever need to take care of our greatest problem – sin.

*1533 HWY 41-A North
Shelbyville, TN 37160*

FELLOWSHIPING ERROR

Johnie Paul Edwards

Fellowship is a partaking, a communion, a partnership. It is joint participation in a spiritual work. The Bible teaches that the Christian must not fellowship error. The Christian cannot fellowship one who is excluded from God's fellowship. John said, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father, and the Son. If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaking of his evil deeds" (2 Jn. 9-11). One may ask, "Why can I not fellowship those in error?" The reason is because we cannot have fellowship with those with whom God will not have fellowship. Many ask, "What is the basis of fellowship?" It is the same as the basis of unity, the word of God. If one goes beyond the doctrine of Christ, he has sinned and we can have no partnership with that one. We can have fellowship with brethren (those walking in the light, 1 Jn. 1:7), but not with erring brethren. Those teaching things the Bible does not teach are not to be fellowshiped in any way! If one in any way lends his encouragement to a false teacher, he is indicating his fellowship with such. God forbid that we should do such a thing!

Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Mt. 7:15). There are those among us even this day who would lead others astray by deceit. What are we to do with these false teachers?

1) **STOP THEIR MOUTHS.** Paul said to Titus, "For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped..." (Ti. 1:10-11). Their mouths are to be stopped by convicting them of their error and converting them to the truth. This is all to be done by preaching the gospel (2 Tim. 4:2-3).

2) **REBUKE THEM SHARPLY.** "This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith" (Ti. 1:13). When one rebukes the false teacher, he convicts, refutes, and reproves their teachings by God's word.

3) **REJECT THEM.** "A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject" (Ti. 3:10). Those of sound faith will have no association with the heretick (false teacher).

Beware of false prophets!

Back To Basics

P.O. Box 251
Ellettsville, IN 47429
1-800-889-0338

BcktoBscs@edwardspublishers.com

Back To Basics, published by Edwards Publishers, is a 12-page monthly journal dedicated to teaching first principles. www.edwardspublishers.com

Subscription Information:

One Year: \$12.00
Single Issue: \$1.00

Available in bundles of 10 or more

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LORD'S HOUSE

John Isaac Edwards

The establishment of the Lord's house is prophesied in the Old Testament and revealed in the New Testament. Let's look at it.

1) **OLD TESTAMENT PROPHESED.** Isaiah told of the establishment of the Lord's house in Isaiah 2:2-3: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Isaiah gave three significant details concerning the establishment of the Lord's house. First, he identified the PERIOD (*the last days*). Second, he mentioned the PEOPLE (*all nations*). Third, he specified the PLACE (*Jerusalem*). Thus, the Lord's house would be established in the city of Jerusalem among all nations in the last days.

2) **NEW TESTAMENT REVEALED.** The Lord's house as prophesied in the Old Testament is set forth as the Lord's church in the New Testament. Paul spoke of "the house of God, which is the church of the living God" (1 Tim. 3:15). We find the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy concerning the establishment of the Lord's house (the church) in Acts 2. Verse 5 records, "And there were dwelling at Jerusalem (that's the right PLACE) Jews, devout men, out of every nation (we've got the right group of PEOPLE) under heaven." Now, if we can find the last days, we'll have the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in every detail.

When the apostles spoke "with new tongues" and were falsely accused of being "full of new wine," Peter said, "these are not drunken...this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days (now we have the right PERIOD)..." (Acts 2:16-17). Peter informs us that the events in Acts 2, on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus, took place in the last days, in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. For the first time, the Lord's church (the house of God) is said to be in existence, when in verse 47 the Bible says, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Come ye, and let us go to it.

The Blood Of Christ Donnie V. Rader.....	1
Fellowshipping Error Johnie Paul Edwards.....	2
The Establishment Of The Lord's House John Isaac Edwards.....	3
When Family Has Been Withdrawn From Melba Edwards.....	4
Who Turned On The Wipers? David McPherson.....	5
No Excuse Shane Williams.....	6
Except Ye Repent Dan Richardson.....	7
Salvation According To The Bible Tom Tebault.....	8
Three Tools Of Success T. Sean Sullivan.....	9
Kids Activity Page Paul Adams.....	10
Bible Endurance Larry R. Ping II.....	11

WHEN FAMILY HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM

Melba Edwards

Perhaps one of the most difficult situations is when a family member or loved one has been withdrawn from. All social ties cease. We can't go with him or her to that favorite restaurant, or shop, or even those special family dinners, "with such an one no not to eat" (1 Cor. 5:11). This is done that they may be saved (1 Cor. 5:5) and be ashamed (2 Th. 3:14). But there are some things we can do.

1) WE CAN PRAY FOR THEIR RETURN.

Paul's heart's desire and prayer to God was that Israel might be saved (Rom. 10:1). This is our heart's desire and prayer to God for our loved one to be saved. We can pray that the Lord will open their heart to heed the things they have been taught (Acts 16:14). We can also pray that as we have planted and others have watered God will give the increase (1 Cor. 3:6). James wrote, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (Jas. 5:16). I must be righteous myself, if my prayer will avail much. My prayer must be fervent. My prayer must be intense and with zeal. It is strained or stretched and earnest. We can find strength through prayer. I must always pray and not faint or lose heart (Lk. 18:1). In this text, we read about the persistent widow. Because of her continual coming she would be avenged or given the thing she asked (Lk. 18:5).

2) WE CAN ADMONISH THEM AS A BROTHER. There may come times of contact. As we have noted, it cannot be socially. We are not to count them as an enemy, but

admonish them as a brother (2 Th. 3:15). In the verse before that, Paul said, "have no company with him, that he may be ashamed." Yet, times may arise where there is contact. During this time, I can admonish or warn him/her as a brother/sister. It must be done with love and not as one would treat an enemy. Paul warned night and day with tears (Acts 20:31). When he wrote to the Corinthians, he wrote not to shame them but as beloved sons to warn them (1 Cor. 4:14). In Galatians 6:1, Paul wrote, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." I need to be sure I am spiritual. Also, I must have a spirit of meekness or gentleness. And I must consider myself, lest I also be tempted.

3) WE CAN WATCH FOR THEIR RETURN.

We can learn much from the parable of the lost son (Lk. 15:11-32). When the father saw that his son was bound to leave, he let him leave. This is very difficult to accept when one is leaving the Lord. Yet, the son would have to come to himself. Sometimes people have to hit rock bottom in order to come to themselves. Verse 20 reads, "But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him." His father was looking for his return. We must always be looking for their return and never lose sight or hope of their return.

Prayerfully, these are some things that will help us through this difficult time.

WHO TURNED ON THE WIPERS?

David McPherson

I received the following as one of those widely spread, must read, forwarded emails. It is called, "The Rain."

One rainy afternoon I was driving along one of the main streets of town, taking those extra precautions necessary when the roads are wet and slick. Suddenly, my daughter Aspen, spoke up from her relaxed position in her seat. "Dad, I'm thinking of something."

This announcement usually meant she had been pondering some fact for a while, and was now ready to expound all that her six-year-old mind had discovered. I was eager to hear. "What are you thinking?" I asked. "The rain" she began, "is like sin, and the windshield wipers are like God wiping our sins away."

After the chill bumps raced up my arms, I was able to respond. "That's really good, Aspen." Then my curiosity broke in. How far would this little girl take this revelation? So I asked, "Do you notice how the rain keeps on coming? What does that tell you?" Aspen didn't hesitate one moment with her answer: "We keep on sinning, and God just keeps on forgiving us."

Question: Who turned on the wipers? The previous story, while undoubtedly cute and sweet to many who found it in their inbox, fails to clarify an important truth. Yes, God does the forgiving. And yes, the blood of Christ will continually wash away the Christian's sins. But, that is all dependent upon our attitude toward the sin. As we walk in the light (1 Jn. 1:7) and repent, confess, and pray (Acts 8:22; 1 Jn. 1:9), then the blood of Jesus cleanses us. Without our part,

we are like the man driving in a downpour refusing to turn on the wipers.

This is not said to take anything away from God. Clearly, without His grace and mercy there would be no forgiveness. But do not overlook the fact that man has requirements to meet in order to receive it. Continual freedom from the guilt of sin is conditional upon how we act.

You know, some of the fancy, top-of-the-line, top dollar automobiles today I suppose have automatic wipers. The driver does nothing. The rain hits the glass and "presto," General Motors or Ford, or whoever, takes care of it for you. Some sadly try to make God and His forgiveness that way. Friend, let General Motors be General Motors. But let God be God! Let man come to Him on His terms and find the forgiveness that he so desperately needs.

Is there rain on your windshield? Turn on the wipers. Is there sin in your life? Then dear Christian, "*Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee*" (Acts 8:22).

3039 State Route 97
Mayfield, KY 42066

Women Professing Godliness

From 1 Timothy 2:10, *Women Professing Godliness* is an eight-lesson series of Bible studies designed for women. Only \$4.25 ea.

No Excuse

Shane Williams

One person's failure to live as they ought should never become another's excuse.

Consider the life of Elkanah, Samuel's father. He is described in 1 Samuel 1 as a man who "went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh" (v. 3). That doesn't sound like a big deal, traveling approximately 20 miles once a year, but really it is a stunning fact in light of the rest of the story. We read, "Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests to the Lord there."

Hophni and Phinehas were selfish, corrupt, immoral men with no regard for God!

1 Samuel 2:12, "Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the Lord."

1 Samuel 2:22, "Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting."

They wouldn't listen to correction (v. 25) and the text says they despised the offering of the Lord (v. 17). However, their spiritual failure never became an excuse for Elkanah to stop worshipping the Lord! Think about how you would feel in this situation. You go up once a year to make sacrifices and to worship the Lord in Shiloh. You have to deal with these two crooked priests. They were not doing things the way the Lord instructed. Again, they were selfish, stubborn, corrupt, and even immoral! It would have been easy to think that if the priests of the Lord aren't doing what they are supposed to, then why should I? Or perhaps we might reason that since

these guys aren't doing the sacrifices correctly, I'm not coming back to worship!

There may be times when we see other people doing things they should not do, going places they should not go, or saying things that should not be said. We may see people we know and trust fail, either intentionally or unintentionally. It can be easy to become discouraged or disheartened by the actions of others. However, it would be double the tragedy if we wavered in our own service to God because of someone else's actions.

Elkanah remained faithful because he focused on the Lord, not on the priests or anyone else. God calls upon us to keep our eyes and hearts centered on Him. Are your eyes and heart focused on Him in your life?

*P.O. Box 107
Kewanee, MO 63860*

Website Services

Edwards Publishers offers affordable website services for brethren. Would you like to have a website? We can help. By utilizing our services, you can offer limitless materials including audio sermons and PowerPoint slideshows. To see some of our work, visit:

www.ancientlandmark.com
www.edwardspublishers.com
www.ellettsvillechurchofchrist.com
www.westsidechurchofchrist.info

Contact us at 1-800-889-0338

EXCEPT YE REPENT

Dan Richardson

A basic truth regarding man's relationship with God is repentance. In Luke 13:1-5, Jesus teaches about repentance – what hinders it, why we need it, and the consequences if we don't repent. Consider His teachings.

1) HINDRANCES TO REPENTANCE (v. 1).

History is replete with mistaken notions about sin which hinder repentance. Genuine repentance demands a proper understanding of and conviction regarding sin. In this text, Jesus deals with the error that associates one's sinfulness to his degree of suffering as two catastrophic incidents of that time are considered. While it is true that suffering and death associated with earth life are consequences of sin's entrance into the world (Gen. 3), it does not hold true that suffering is a gauge for sinfulness. Suffering is universal, experienced by the just and unjust alike (Rom. 8:20-25; 2 Cor. 4:16-17). In fact, the righteous often suffer as a consequence of their godliness (2 Tim. 3:12) and, with God's help, suffering becomes a means for spiritual development (Jas. 1:2-4). Therefore, such a view of sin not only unjustly condemns the innocent (cf. Job's friends, and the disciples question regarding the blind man, Jn. 9:1-3), it also diverts attention from honest self-examination regarding one's personal sin to the observation of others.

2) THE NEED FOR REPENTANCE (vv. 2, 4).

Jesus teaches that all are guilty of sin (Rom. 3:23). Scripturally defined, sin is "lawlessness" or acting without God's law as the directive in our lives (1 Jn. 3:4; Mt. 7:21-23). David, recognizing this fact with Bathsheba, confessed before God, "Against thee, and thee only, have I sinned..." (Ps. 51:4). One's transgressions can

be either of "commission" (open violation, transgression of a command, 2 Jn. 9) or "omission" (a failure to do what is commanded, Jas. 4:17). Furthermore, one can sin and be counted guilty before God, even though committed with sincerity and in good conscience. A sin of ignorance is still a sin (1 Tim. 1:12-13). Therefore, the need for all to repent is clear.

3) THE URGENCY OF REPENTANCE (vv. 3, 5). The urgency of repentance is clearly set forth in Jesus' command: "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." "Ye" constitutes individual responsibility. In other words, whatever else others may be guilty of – what they're doing or not doing – doesn't change your personal duty to repent of your sin. "Except" suggests the conditional nature of repentance and that I must exercise my freedom of choice to do so (Josh. 24:15; Acts 2:37-38; 17:30). There is no neutral ground here; we will all make a choice (Mt. 12:30). "Repent" means a change of heart or mind which is the result of "godly sorrow" working in our hearts, and which will result in a changed life (2 Cor. 7:10-11).

Jesus presents an ultimatum before man: "repent...or perish." This perishing is eternal. Hell will be filled with all who, in error or neglect, didn't properly consider their sin and repent (Rev. 20:15; 21:8). "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" (Ps. 32:1).

P.O. Box 106
Bell City, MO 63735

SALVATION ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

Tom Tebault

What must I do to be saved? was a question the Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas (Acts 16:30). This is the most important question one can ask. Let's briefly outline the response to this question.

1) **A RECOGNITION OF SIN.** The question is based upon the knowledge that one has a need for salvation, "for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Spiritual death, which is a separation from God, exists because of sin. Before one can receive God's forgiveness, there must be recognition of being in sin. Paul, writing the church at Ephesus, penned, "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1).

2) **THE RESPONSE OF FAITH.** We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He is Lord. The Philippian jailer had to believe in order to be saved. Biblical faith is more than just believing in Jesus. It is trust and taking God at His word. Paul told the Romans, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Once we hear God's word, we must then choose to believe it and act upon it. Through faith we have full access to the grace of God through Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1-2).

3) **REPENTANCE OF SIN.** If we recognize that we are sinners and respond to the word of God through faith, then we must decide to turn from sin and strive to live according to His word. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30). Since this is a command of God, we need to be obedient to what He has commanded or pay the ultimate cost.

4) **CONFESSION OF JESUS AS LORD.** Paul wrote the Romans, "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" (Rom. 10:9). Salvation is the result of one confessing Jesus as Lord because we are declaring that Jesus is now the master of our lives. This implies that we are willing to do whatever He commands us to do. If we call Him "Lord," then we must do His will (Lk. 6:46).

5) **BAPTISM INTO CHRIST.** On the day of Pentecost, there were some Jews present that had asked the same question that the jailer asked (Acts 2:37). Peter responded, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). If we want to complete our response of faith in order to be saved, we must be immersed in water.

6) **A FAITHFUL LIFE.** When one is baptized, it doesn't mean that it is the end of obedience. It is the beginning of a new life in Christ (Rom. 6:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:17). A Christian has Christ living in him (Gal. 2:20), and his life is consistent with the teachings of God's word. The Lord said, "be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

6475 A Brandenburg Rd.
Ekron, KY 40117

Visit Our E-Store

www.edwardspublishers.com

THREE TOOLS OF SUCCESS

T. Sean Sullivan

What is the secret of success among Christians? How is it that some are able to excel in service, faith, and duty more than others? I trust you would quickly find a pattern well worth emulating in the lives of those who are excelling. Success is not achieved through any secret plan or formula. If you want to see steady growth in your life, I suggest these steps:

1) **TRY PRAYING MORE.** The opportunity of prayer is a blessed privilege we need to use every day. What does prayer do? Prayer draws us closer to God (Jas. 4:7). He is able to relieve the weight of our cares (1 Pet. 5:7). God has promised to provide such things as forgiveness (Acts 8:22), care (1 Pet. 5:7), peace (Phil. 4:6-7), and wisdom (Jas. 1:5). Prayer is the channel through which we petition these promises. Besides the necessities of daily life and praising God, we should specify our goals in prayer. If our goal is to grow, pray for God's help (Col. 1:9-10; Phil. 1:9-11). If our goal is to overcome a particular weakness, spell it out and seek His help (2 Cor. 13:7-9). If our goal is helping someone find the truth, pray for a door of opportunity (Col. 4:2-3). We can never pray too much. Pray more and soon you will be growing.

2) **TRY STUDYING MORE.** The Bible is God's will for our lives (Heb. 1:1-2). With the Bible alone, we have every instruction to become a true disciple of Christ (Jn. 8:31-32), become righteous (2 Tim. 3:16-17), become ready for judgment (Jn. 12:48), and become an heir of eternal life (Ti. 3:4-8). The Bible is the good and perfect gift (Jas. 1:17-18), the truth of God (Jn. 17:17), and God's power unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). Study begins by opening the Book today.

Read a passage and its context (at least six verses before and six verses after). Think about what it is saying. Think about how to explain it to someone else and then read it again. Do this every day and soon you will be growing.

3) **TRY TRUSTING MORE.** This is the part where you have prayed and you have studied. Now you are going to apply what you know. Consider the words of Paul as he encouraged growth in Timothy: "Give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Meditate on these things. Give yourself entirely to them." Giving yourself entirely to the Word means actively applying the Word of God. Growth as a Christian is found in knowing and doing God's will (Jas. 1:17-25). Start doing the will of God more and soon you will be growing.

Are you growing steadily? If not, perhaps you need more prayer, study, and trust. God will not fail you. Trust Him. Dedicate your life to doing His will and soon you will be growing.

*306B W. Main St.
Newbern, TN 38059*

Enjoy Back To Basics?

If you enjoy getting Back To Basics, why not sign up for family and friends to get Back To Basics each month? Think of those you know who could profit from reading Back To Basics. Send their names and addresses to us via e-mail at BcktoBscs@edwardspublishers.com or USPS mail at P.O. Box 251, Ellettsville, IN 47429.

Kids Activity Page

Paul Adams

Memory Verse: *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right” (Eph. 6:1).*

Match The Child With The Parent

Match the child in the left column with the parent in the right column.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| ___ Timothy (2 Timothy 1:1-5) | A. Elimelech |
| ___ David (Ruth 4:22) | B. Hagar |
| ___ Abram (Genesis 11:27) | C. Hannah |
| ___ Jesus (Matthew 1:16) | D. Eve |
| ___ Abel (Genesis 4:1-2) | E. Terah |
| ___ John (Luke 1:13) | F. Eunice |
| ___ Samuel (1 Samuel 1:20) | G. Jesse |
| ___ Samson (Judges 13:22-24) | H. Mary |
| ___ Ishmael (Genesis 16:15) | I. Zacharias |
| ___ Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:6) | J. Manoah |
| ___ Chilion (Ruth 1:2) | K. Jonathan |
| ___ Rehoboam (1 Kings 14:21) | L. Naamah |

*“Suffer the little children to come unto me,
and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14).*

BIBLE ENDURANCE

Larry R. Ping II

To endure is to brave difficulties calmly; to hold fast to one's faith in Christ Jesus under the severest of circumstances. Have you taken note of what the Bible says to endure? Observe the following and make application.

1) **ENDURE HARDNESS AS A GOOD SOLDIER OF CHRIST.** This admonition was to Timothy from Paul in 2 Timothy 2:3. Hardships come the way of the faithful warrior of Christ, and Paul expected Timothy to courageously wage war against Satan and his soldiers. It is difficult to fight against the father of liars (Jn. 8:44), the devouring lion (1 Pet. 5:8) and the one who has his own cavalry of angels (Mt. 25:41). Nonetheless, if one expects to walk through the gates of Heaven, he must persevere through difficulties that come his way. How well are you enduring hardness, and how well are you fighting the enemies of Christ?

2) **ENDURE CHASTENING.** The writer of Hebrews recorded, "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not" (Heb. 12:7)? To chasten is to instruct and discipline in order that one may turn from the bad to the good. Most do not like it, but these need to note that God, through His Word, chastens because He loves us (Heb. 12:6). He also chastens because we are His children (Heb. 12:8), and because He seeks our profit and our company in Heaven (Heb. 12:10-11). For that reason, we should boldly let the word, which is able to save our

souls (Jas. 1:21), correct our paths and point us in the way of eternal life. How accepting are you of God's chastening?

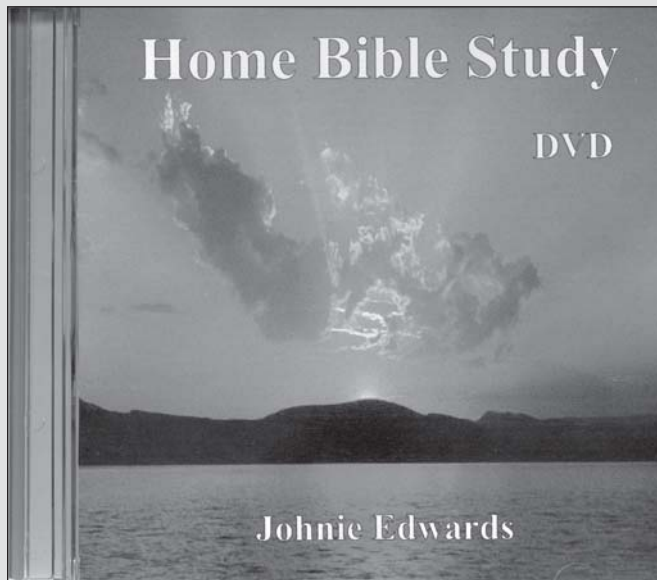
3) **ENDURE TEMPTATION.** James 1:12 reads, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." Temptation is as common as man himself (1 Cor. 10:13). Even Christ was "tempted like as we" (Heb. 4:15). The commonalities end in the ways in which we react to temptation. There is pleasure to some sin (Heb. 11:25), yet we must valiantly take victory over temptation and sin. Some temptations will not bother us in the least, while others will cause us tremendous trouble. It is then that we must bear up and resist the devil "and he will flee from you" (Jas. 4:7). Enlist the help of others if need be, for your eternal life depends solely upon your ability to endure or not endure temptations! Remember, with every temptation, there is a way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13). How capable are you of handling temptations and finding ways of escape?

Take into account, "he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Mk. 13:13). Heaven is worth all of the endurance and patience that we can possibly collect, don't you think?

720 Indianapolis Rd.
Mooresville, IN 46158

Subscribe To Back To Basics For Your Family And Friends!

Home Bible Study on DVD



Only \$24.95

Would you like to see the church where you attend increase in number? Most conversions that take place today come as a result of a home Bible study. For many years, the 4-lesson *Home Bible Study* workbook by Johnie Edwards has been used all across this country, and in many other countries, with much success in bringing the lost to Christ. With new digital recording technology, Edwards Publishers is pleased to make available to you the *Home Bible Study on DVD*.

Home Bible Study on DVD is an audio/video presentation of the 4-lesson *Home Bible Study*, conducted in a home by Johnie Edwards. The DVD is designed to be used in teaching non-Christians. Simply put the DVD in your DVD player,

select the lesson to view, and watch with your prospect as they fill out the companion *Home Bible Study* booklet. The DVD can also be used as a training video in showing members of the church how to teach a home Bible study. This is an excellent personal work tool for church members in converting the lost. It would be good for each member to have this available to use in their personal evangelism. Order a copy for yourself today. It would also be good for churches to purchase some copies to make available to their members where they can check out of a library. Since the cost of producing these has come down, we are happy to be able to make these available now for only \$24.95. The DVD is guaranteed to last throughout your personal work. If for some reason your DVD becomes defective, simply return it to us and we will replace it absolutely free. Order by phone at 1-800-889-0338.

Back To Basics

P.O. Box 251
Ellettsville, IN 47429

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ELLETTSVILLE, IN
PERMIT NO. 110