

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE

Book - 1
Level Beginner



A PRACTICAL GUIDE
TO BECOMING A WORLD CHANGER

DR DIRK H

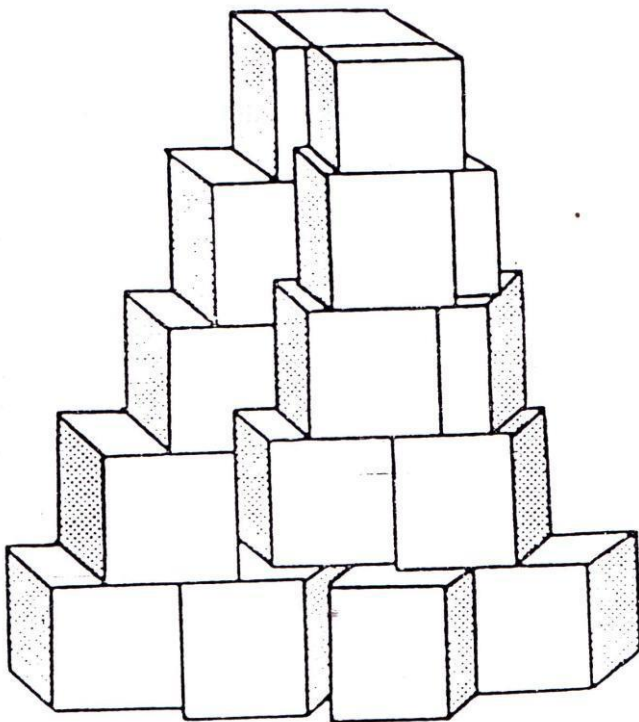
ENGLISH

MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE

Level: **BEGINNER**

Study book no: 1

LEVELS:



5. Minister
4. Leader / Pastor
3. Group or cell leader
2. Disciple
1. **Beginner**

Bible Study Course to grow to spiritual maturity making every believer in Christ a minister and to increase in effective and efficient ministry!!!

Easy to use for self-study as well as to teach others!!!

MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE

PURPOSE:

TO KNOW HIM, THE ONLY TRUE GOD

(Growing / Maturing)

Josh. 1 : 8, "This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success."

II Pet. 3 : 18, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

II Tim. 1 : 15, "Study to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

Col. 1 : 27b - 28, "Christ in you, the hope of glory, Him we proclaim, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man mature in Christ."

AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN TO OTHERS!

(Multiplying / Reproducing)

II Tim. 2 : 2, "And what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

II Tim. 3 : 16 - 17, "All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

Eph. 2 : 10, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

II Pet. 1 : 8, "For if these things are yours and abound, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

<u>PRINCIPLE:</u> "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things! (Rom. 11: 36)

(INCREASING IN KNOWLEDGE; MATURING IN CHARACTER; USING SPIRITUAL GIFTS)

INDEX Study book no: 1

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FIRST STEPS AS A BELIEVER: GROWING IN GRACE

LESSON 1 -- THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

In this first lesson we would like to introduce you to the ‘Person’ of Jesus. We will investigate the mighty fact that Jesus is God, and the wonderful event when He (for a time) became a man. God has made us so that He may enjoy fellowship with us. He loves us, and wants to be able to communicate with us in a deep and satisfying relationship. This is only possible when we know His Son, Jesus, in a personal way.

Jesus lived on earth for 33 years. He was a flesh and blood person, and as such, He came face to face with the same sort of situations as we do. He felt needs such as hunger and thirst; He felt emotions like joy and grief. He confronted the devil and the power of sin, and He experienced ordinary human desires and appetites.

The following Bible references reveal the humanity of Jesus. Look them up, consider them, and from the list given below fill in the gaps.

(was born; became hungry; felt tired; wept; grew up; felt angry; was thirsty; felt compassion; was physically wounded; felt joy; was tempted to sin; felt anguish)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Luke 2:6-7----- | 7. John 19: 1-2----- |
| 2. Luke 2:40, 52 ----- | 8. John 15:11----- |
| 3. Matthew 4:2 ----- | 9. Matthew 26:37 ----- |
| 4. John 19:28----- | 10. Matthew 9:36 ----- |
| 5. John 4:6----- | 11. Mark 3:5----- |
| 6. Matthew 4:1 ----- | 12. John 11:35----- |

We also learn from the Bible that Jesus is God. Please draw a line to the correct verses from the left column to the right column

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. His Name means “ God with us” | Mark 2:5,7 |
| 2. Everything begins and ends with Him | Matthew 1:23 |
| 3. All of God is in Him | John 20:28 |
| 4. He forgives sin | Revelation 1:8 |
| 5. He is holy – He never sinned | Romans 1:4 |
| 6. He rose from the dead | Colossians 2:9 |
| 7. He is lord and God | Hebrews 7:26 |

Why did God become man? The following verses explain some of the reasons why Jesus became a man. Please draw a line to the correct scripture references from left to right.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. To take away our sins | Romans 5:8 |
| 2. To help us when we are tempted | 2 Corinthians 5:19 |
| 3. To pay the price for our sin | Roman 6:23 |
| 4. To show us God’s love | 1 Peter 1:18-19 |
| 5. To restore the world to him | Hebrews 2:18 |
| 6. To give us eternal life | 1 Peter 2:24 |

From the above, in your own words, explain why God became man.

Jesus, as man, confronted every aspect of the power of sin, and in every instance He triumphed! His final victory was over death itself. On that first Easter morning, the body was gone. The tomb was empty. Jesus was alive! He had completely won the victory over the devil and over sin. As we allow Jesus Christ to live His life through us, we will experience this total victory in our lives also.

Listed below are a few of the wonderful provisions that Jesus has made available for us. Please complete the following verses:

1. Love. " And I have declared unto them Thy name, and will declare it; that -----

John 17:26.
2. Joy. "These things have I spoken unto you, that -----

John 15:11.
3. Friendship. " But I have called -----

John 15:15.
4. Healing. "Who -----

Psalms 103:3.
5. Authority over the devil. " And these signs shall follow them that believe; -----

devils" Mark 16:17.
6. Forgiveness of sins. "In whom we have -----

Ephesians 1:7.
7. Abundant life. "I am come -----

John 10:10.
8. Life forever. " I give unto them -----

John 10:28.

Memory Verses: 1) LIFE AND SALVATION ONLY IN JESUS John 10:10; Acts 4:12.
2) WE MUST RECEIVE CHRIST John 1:12; Rev 3:20.

LESSON 2 -- ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Now that you have given your life to Christ, you have changed masters. You are no longer the servant of the devil, but of God. Satan has become your greatest enemy and he will do all in his

power to stop you from living for God. One of his first attacks will be to cause you to doubt your own salvation. But God does not want us to have fears and doubts. His Word clearly tells us that he will never leave us nor forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5) Too many make the mistake of judging their salvation by their feelings. While our feelings are involved in our salvation, we cannot depend upon them because our feelings so often change. But there is one thing that never changes and that is the Word of God. Therefore, believe God and take Him at his Word.

Can I work for my salvation? Why? Ephesians 2:8-9 -----

In whom is eternal life to be found? 1 John 5:11 -----

What does God give to those who have the Son? 1 John 5:11-12 -----

4. Jesus said, “ He that hears my word, and believes on Him that sent Me, has -----,
and shall not come into condemnation (judgement); but is passed from -----
- unto ----- John 5:24.

Can I know for certain that I have eternal life? -----

How? 1 John 5:12-13 -----

Who gives us an inner assurance that we are children of God? Romans 8:16 -----

Since our feelings often change, upon what must we depend for assurance of our salvation?

Peter 1:25 -----

Write out 1 John 5:11-12 from memory.

MEMORY VERSES: 1) SIN: Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23
SALVATION NOT BY WORKS: Ehp. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6
ASSURANCE OF SALVATION: 1 John 5:13; John 5:26.

LESSON 3 -- YOUR NEW LIFE

The bible says, “As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk you in Him” (Colossians 2:6). The moment you by faith received Jesus Christ as your Personal Lord and Savior you were born again! You received a new life from above; a life that you never had before. Your parents gave you natural birth, but God has given you spiritual birth. This new birth took place by the Spirit of God.

1. “Therefore if any man be in Christ (joined to Christ) he is a -----, old things are ----- behold all things are become new” 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Some of the old things which passed away when I gave my life to Christ are listed in Galatians 5:19-21. PLEASE STUDY THEM CAREFULLY. The things which are becoming new in my life are also listed. These are called “the fruit of the Spirit”. Read Galatians 5: 22-23 then fill in the column marked “Fruit of the Spirit”.

WORKS OF THE FLESH
(Galatians 5:19-21)

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
(Galatians 5:22-23)

Sexual sins	1. -----
Filthy mind	2. -----
Indecent living	3. -----
Worship of False gods	4. -----
Witchcraft	5. -----
Hatred	6. -----
Quarreling	7. -----
Jealousy	8. -----
Anger	9. -----
Fighting	
Wrong divisions	
Envy	
Murder	
Drunkenness	
Merrymaking	

As a new creation in Christ, how am I to walk or live?

2 Corinthians 5:7

b. Romans 6:4 -----

4. In John 6:63 Jesus said, “It is the Spirit that -----; the flesh -----”

What does God expect you to do with your body? Romans 12:1

Does your body belong to you? Why? 1 Corinthians 6:19-20:-----

Complete the following verse, “For you are bought with a price; therefore -----

The Bible says we should love one another because love is of God. How has God’s love been put into your heart? Romans 5:5

9. God’s word says “If a man say, I love God , and hates his brother, he is a liar -----

-----1 John 4:20

10. What new commandment did Jesus give? John 13:34

As God’s child I am to live by faith and not by sight. How can my faith be increased? Romans 10:17 -----

Who is the author of my faith? Hebrews 12:2

13. “Whatsoever is not of faith is -----Romans 14:23

14. I must realise that without ----- it is IMPOSSIBLE / DIFFICULT
(underline the correct word) to please God. Hebrews 11:6

15. Complete the following verse; “This is the victory that overcomes the world, even -----
-----.” 1 John 5:4.

MEMORY VERSES: 1) OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST: Rom. 12:1; John 14: 21
2) NEW CREATION: 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 2: 20.

LESSON 4 - THREE ESSENTIALS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

A. BIBLE READING

A newborn baby requires body-building food in order to grow. You too in your spiritual life need to feed upon the Scripture (your spiritual food) immediately and regularly.

Man needs more than just physical food. He also needs spiritual food to live as God intended him to live. How did Jesus say man should live? Matthew 4:4

What did Jesus say about the Word of God? John 17:17

Why is it important to study the Bible? 2 Timothy 2:15

What are the Scriptures able to do for us?

a.2 Timothy 3:15 -----

John 15:3 -----

Acts 20:32 -----

5. What four things are the Scriptures profitable for? 2 Timothy 3:16

- a. -----
- b. -----
- c. -----
- d. -----

Psalm 119:11 says, “Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.” From this verse tell why it is important to memorize the Word of God?

Would reading of hearing God’s Word tend to increase our faith? Romans 10:17

B. PRAYER

A newborn baby not only needs food for growth, but also need air for breathing. Just as air is necessary to keep the body alive, so prayer is essential to keep us spiritually alive for God. Prayer is fellowship with God and the very breath of spiritual life.

What did Jesus say about prayer? Luke 18:1

Should you ever stop (cease or give up) praying?

Thessalonians 5:17 -----

Why are we to ask or pray? John 16:24

How can you be sure that God hears our prayer? 1 John 5:14

How are we to pray?

John 14:13 -----

1 John 5:14 -----

Mark 11:24 -----

What two conditions has God asked you to meet before He will answer your prayer?

John 15:7 -----

1 John 3:22 -----

What two things does Jesus say we should do to overcome temptation? Matthew 26:41

- a. -----
- b. -----

C. WITNESSING

As exercise is necessary to our physical health, so witnessing is essential to spiritual health. As we begin to grow spiritually through Bible reading and prayer, we must exercise by putting into practice the things we have learned. This will involve witnessing by the way you live as well as by what you say.

What does Jesus tell us to do in Mark 16:15?

What are we called in Matthew 5:14?

Why are we to let our light shine? Matthew 5:16

What should our message be to those without Christ?

Romans 3:23 -----

Romans 6:23 -----

Romans 14:12 -----

Romans 10:9 -----

Was the apostle Paul ashamed of the gospel of Christ? Why? Romans 1:16

God has promised, “I will never leave you, nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would come and make us effective witnesses for Him (Acts 1:8). Should we then be afraid to tell others about the Lord Jesus Christ?

Has God given us the spirit of fear? 2 Timothy 1:7

It is Satan (the devil) who puts fear in our hearts. What will cast this fear out? 1 John 4:18

MEMORY VERSES: 1) BIBLE 2 Tim. 3:16; Josh. 1:8
PRAYER John 15:7; Phil. 4:6-7
WITNESSING Matt. 4:19; Rom. 1:16

LESSON 5 -- WALKING VICTORIOUS

Parents rejoice when their child begins to walk. At first the child may stumble and fall, but soon he will gain strength to stand and walk with confident. So in the spiritual life God expects His children to walk victoriously.

Who is the Christian's greatest enemy? 1 Peter 5:8

2. What two things must you do to cause the devil to flee from you? (James 4:7)

a. -----

b. -----

3. When the devil tempts you to do evil, what is God faithful to do? 1 Corinthians 10:13

4. Who gives us strength to meet the temptation of the devil? Philippians 4:13 -----

5. Complete the following verse: "This is the victory that overcomes the ----- even -----." (1John 5:4)

How must we walk (live) if we are not to fulfill the lust of the flesh? Galatians 5:16 -----

Who will give you power or "ability" to witness for the Lord? Acts 1:8 -----

Did Jesus promise to give us power over all the power of our enemy, the devil? Luke 10:19

----- YES/NO

To prevent people from seeing the light of the Gospel, the god of this world (Satan) -----

----- their minds. (2 Corinthians 4:4)

How does Satan sometimes appear? 2 Corinthians 11:14

What weapon do we have with which to fight our enemy, the devil? Ephesians 6:17 -----

Read Ephesians 6:13-17 and show what the various pieces of the Christian soldier's armour represent by drawing a line to the correct answer.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| a. Belt around loins | of righteousness |
| b. Breastplate | of faith |
| c. Feet shod or sandals put | which is the word of God |
| d. Shield | of salvation |
| e. Helmet | with truth |
| f. Sword of the Spirit | with the preparation of the gospel of peace |

What did Jesus Christ use to meet Satan's attack? Matthew 4:4,7,10 -----

Psalms 119:11 says, "Thy word have I hid (Stored up or memorized) in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee". What must we do in order to have God's word always available for victory over sin?

For what purpose did the Son of God (Jesus Christ) come? 1 John 3:8 -----

What will finally happen to Satan? Revelation 20:10 -----

God promises victory to you as a child of His. Claim that victory and begin to live a victorious Christian life right now.

Jesus said, "I am come that they might have LIFE, and that they might have it MORE ABUNDANTLY" (John 10:10). You may have that more abundant life by simply believing God's word and acting upon it.

VICTORY AGAINST THE DEVIL Heb. 2:18,; Ps 119:9-11; 1
John 3:8; Is. 54:17.

LESSON 6 -- THE CHURCH

The Church is your spiritual home. It provides spiritual food, protection, training, and fellowship. The word "church" comes from the Greek word "*Ecclesia*" meaning: "to call out from." Christians are called out from the world system to be "**in Christ.**" In the New Testament the word "church" denotes first of all, the entire body of believers; and second, individual assemblies of believers meeting together for the purpose of worship, spiritual growth, and services.

1. The entire church is compared to a ----- of which Christ is the -----
And the believers are the ----- Colossians 1:18 ; 1 Corinthians 12:27.

2. What is the proof that we love Christ, the Head of the church?
John 14:21 -----

3. According to Acts 2:41-42 list five things that the Christians, “they that gladly received his Word,” did.

- a. -----
- b. -----
- c. -----
- d. -----
- e. -----

As a child of God what should you not neglect? Hebrews 10:25

According to Romans 8:34:

Where is Christ now? -----

What is he doing? -----

What are two things Christ prays for his Church:

John 17:15 -----

John 17:17 -----

The Mission or Purpose of the Church is stated below. Please draw a line to the correct Scripture verses.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| a. To glorify God | Galatians 6:10 |
| b. To edify (strengthen) believers | Ephesians 4:11-12 |
| c. To purify itself from sin | Romans 15:6 |
| d. To preach the gospel everywhere | Ephesians 5:25-27 |
| e. To promote all that is good | Mark 16:15 |

MEMORY VERSES: FELLOWSHIP Matthew 18:20; Heb.10:24-25.

LESSON 7 -- THE TWO CHURCH ORDINANCES

We may define an ordinance as an outward rite appointed by Christ to be administered in the Church. The two ordinances given in the New Testament by the specific command of Christ are **Water Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper**.

WATER BAPTISM

The word "baptism" is the English form of the Greek word "*baptizo*" which means: "to dip, to immerse, or to make fully wet." Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ upon confession of Him as Savior and Lord.

1. Read Mark 1:4,5 and answer the following questions:

a Where did John baptize his converts? (verse 4)

b What kind of baptism did John preach?

c In what river did John baptize those that came to him?

2 Read Matthew 3:13-17 and answer the following question:

What did Jesus come to John for?

Jesus was baptized by SPRINKLING, IMMERSION, POURING. (underline correct answer)

Was God pleased when Jesus was baptized?

What did God say about his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ?

What command did Jesus give to His followers in Matt. 28:19?

From the following Scriptures we find the meaning of baptism: (Romans 6:11,18; Romans 6:3-6; Matthew 3:13-17; Matthew 28:19). Please fill in the blanks spaces with the correct Scriptures verses.

Obedience to the command of Christ.-----

Following Christ's example.-----

Separation by death from sin.-----

- d. An outward testimony that you have -----
been made alive unto God and righteousness.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Baptism is an important step in you Christian life! Jesus commanded us to be baptized. Do you realize that you are disobeying the command Of Christ if you refuse to be baptized. The only qualification for baptism is that you have received Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and are willing to give up your old sinful life for God.

Why not decide RIGHT NOW that you are going to follow Christ’s example and be baptized.

THE LORD’S SUPPER

This ordinance was instituted by Christ in the night in which He was betrayed (Matt. 16:26 –30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:17-20). Like Water Baptism it is for believers only. The condition of participating in the Lord’s supper are that you are born again believer and are living a life of obedience to Christ.

The two substances used in the Lord’s Supper are bread and wine.

A.What does the bread represent? (Matthew 26:26)

.....

What does the wine represent ? (Matthew 26:27-28).

.....

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34 and then answer the following questions :

A.After Jesus had given thanks what did he do to the bread?

.....

Why did Jesus break the bread?

.....

According to verse 25 what is the purpose of the Lord’s supper?

.....

What are we reminded of when we take the Lord’s supper?

.....

What should a person do before he eats the bread and drinks the wine at the communion service? (verse 28)

.....

Why should you make sure you are right with the Lord and others before you take communion (the Lord's supper)? (verse 29)

.....

What happens to a person who takes the Lord's supper unworthily? (Note: the word sleep means that they die.) (verse 30)

.....
H What must we do if we are not to be judged? (verse 31)
.....

Is the Lord's supper to be taken only in the local church or may it be taken in a home, prison, hospital etc., (Acts2:46)
.....

THIS IS IMPORTANT

The following are some questions you could ask yourselves in order to examine yourselves before taking the Lord's Supper:

- Do I really believe in the Lord Jesus Christ?
- Is there any un-confessed sin in my life? Self pity? Pride? Covetousness? Laziness?
- Disobedience? Love of the world? Has my thought life been clean? Have I consistently witnessed for Christ? Have I been faithful in Bible readings and prayer?
- Do I love God with all of my heart, soul, strength and mind?
- Do I love my neighbour as myself?

MEMORY VERSES: - BAPTISM ACTS 2:38; MATHEW 28:19
THE LORD'S SUPPER 1 COR. 11: 26- 27 JOHN 6:51, 63

LESSON 8 -- THE GRACE OF GIVING

“Every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loves a CHEERFUL giver” (2 Cor.9:7)

The World asks:	“What does he give?”
Christ asks:	“How does he give it?”
The world asks:	“What does he own?”
Christ asks:	“How does he use it?”
The world asks:	“How much does he give?”
Christ asks:	“ How much does he keep?”

In Proverbs 23:26 God says, “ My son give your heart,” What is the first thing God wants to receive from us?
.....

Who does your body belong to? 1 Cor.6:19-20
.....

What does the apostle Paul say we should do with our body? Romans 12:1

.....
According to Luke 10:27 what does God want to receive from us?
.....

Love always sees how much it can do. The Bible says, “ Love seeks not her own.” What did Jesus say about giving? Acts 20: 35
.....

What did Jesus promise to those who give? Luke 6:38
.....
.....

If someone wants to borrow something from you, should you turn him away? Matthew 5:42
.....

The Bible says, “ He who gives to the poor will not lack” (Proverbs 28:27), To whom is the promise of the supply of all need given, to the RECEIVER or the GIVER?
Philippians 4:18-19.....

How are we to give? Matthew 10:8
.....

What kind of giver does God love? 2 Cor. 9:7
.....

The Bible teaches that a tenth of all we have belongs to God and if we keep this to ourselves, we are robbing God. In the book of Malachi we read: “ Will a man rob God ? Yet you are robbing Me. But you say, ‘ How have we robbed Thee?’ In tithes and offerings. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so there may be food in My house, and by this put Me to the test, says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour out for you a more sufficient blessing” (Malachi 3:8-10).

Jesus also gave his approval of the tithe (Mathew 23:23; Luke 11:42). Our tithe is a tenth of what we have. Anything above that is an offering to God. If we really love the Lord with all our heart we will want to give him our tithes plus offerings.

REMEMBER THIS: 1) God measures gift by how much is left, not by how much we give
(Mark 12:41-44)

2) God sees the heart of the giver rather than the size of the gift (2 Cor.9:7)

LET US WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS OF LOVE GIVE TO OUR SAVIOR WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US !

MEMORY VERSE: Giving: 2Cor.9:6-8; Luke:6:38.

LESSON 9 -- LIVING AT HOME

The first place you must live your Christian life is in your home. It is here that you must take your first stand for the Lord. This may not be easy, especially if some of your members do not know the Lord as their Savior. You will probably meet with opposition, and perhaps some persecution, but remember that our Lord Jesus has said, “ I will never leave you or forsake you” (Heb.13:5). Our first duty is to God. “ WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN” (Acts 5:29)

1. How does the Bible say we should try to live with everyone? Romans12:18
.....
2. Jesus did not promise that everything would go well for those who receive him. He knew that there would be opposition to the gospel and so he said, “ I came not to send
..... but a.....” (Matthew 10:34)
3. Read Matthew 10:35-36 and then complete the following verse: “ And a man’s foes shall be”
4. Who should we love the most? (Matthew 10:37) (underline the correct answer)
 - a. Our father and mother
 - b. The Lord Jesus Christ
 - c. Our sons and daughters
 - d. Our brothers and sisters
5. Who should we remember in the days of our youth? (Ecclesiastes 12:1)
.....
6. Why is it important for a child to be properly trained when he is young? (Prov.22:6)
.....
7. If parents love their children, should they punish them when they do wrong? (Prov.13:24)
.....
8. If parents don’t correct and punish their children when they do wrong, do they really love them? (Prov.13:24)
.....
9. What does a mother suffer who lets her children do as they please and refuses to discipline them? (Prov.29:15)
.....
10. Parents who take time to correct their children will be rewarded in two ways. (Prov.29:17)
 - a). Their children will give them
 - b). Their children will give unto their soul.

11. Parents are responsible to teach their children about God. What four times does the Bible say parents are to teach their children about God? (Deut. 6:7)

“When thou

“When thou

“When thou

“When thou

12. Why should children obey their parents?

a. Ephesians 6:1

b. Colossians 3:20.....

13. Children are to obey their parents IN THE LORD. This means they are to obey if their parent’s command is not against the Lord’s teachings. What should a child or a young person do if his parents tell him to do something that he knows is against the will of God? (underline the correct answer)

a. He should obey the parent’s command instead of the Lord’s will

b. He should obey the Lord even though it is against the parent’s will.

c. He should obey neither the parents nor the Lord.

What two promises are given to those who honor their father and mother. (Eph. 6:2-3)

a-

b-

“Be it ever So Humble There’s No place Like Home”

MEMORY VERSE: Training: Prov. 22:6
Obedience: Eph. 6:1

LESSON 10 -- OUR DAILY BREAD

Eating and drinking are a very important part of our everyday life. In this lesson we shall see what God requires of those who live for him.

GIVING THANKS BEFORE MEALS

1. What is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you (1 Thes. 5:18)

.....

2. Jesus set an example for us. Before He ate food what did he do? John 6:11

.....
Paul's example in giving thanks to God indicates that we should never be ashamed to publicly pray a prayer of thankfulness. What FIVE WORDS indicate that Paul was not ashamed? (Acts 27:35)
.....

3. How should food be received? (1 Tim. 4:4)
.....

B EATING AND DRINKING

1. Why should we not be anxious for what we should eat or drink? (Matt.6:31-32)
.....

Underline the correct answer. If we become anxious and say, 'what shall we eat?' or "what shall we drink?" We :

- Are pleasing God by being concerned.
- Are doubting God's goodness and ability to supply our needs.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray "give us this day our daily bread"(food). By this prayer He was showing them their utter dependence upon God. Please answer the following questions by underlining the correct answer,

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| We are to ask God for food: | We are to ask God for: |
| For a day at a time | All that we desire |
| Enough for a whole week | The luxuries of life |
| Enough for our future years | The needs of life |

What three foods are we to abstain from? (Acts 15:29) a.....
b.....
c.....

5. That should our heart attitude be in our eating and drinking? (1 Cor.10: 31)
.....

6 From Proverb 23:20 answer the following questions (note: a riotous eater is a glutton)

Is it wrong to drink alcohol?

Is it wrong to over eat?

Complete the list of things that will come to those who tarry long at the wine. (Prov. 23:29-30)

Woe
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

How does Prov.23: 32 describe the effects of wine on a person?

What three things come from the habit of overeating and drunkenness? (Prov.23: 21)

- a).....
 'Ā ÈĀ ĀĀ'Ā □ Ā □ Ā □

 c).....

Supply the missing words of Ephesians 5:18,

Be not, wherein is excess:
 but be"

C **FASTING**

Fasting means: 'to deny yourself.' It may mean deliberate abstinence from physical food for a spiritual purpose or denial of everything that interferes with an intimate relationship with Christ.

What were eight objectives of God's fast? (Isaiah. 58:6-

- 7) a).....
 b).....
 c).....
 d).....
 e).....
 f).....
 g).....
 h).....

The various occasions when Gods people fasted are stated below. Please draw a line to the correct scripture verses.

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| a) | When Gods judgement is about to come | 2 Samuel 12:15-16 |
| b) | In times of sickness | Acts 13:2-3 |
| c) | When repenting of Sin. | Acts 14:23 |
| d) | When casting out demons | Acts 27:14-20, 29-34 |
| e) | When seeking guidance | Ezra 10:6 |
| f) | When in danger | Jonah 3:1-10 |
| g) | When ordaining elders | Matthew 17:14-21 |

3. What are some of the blessings received from a true fast? (Isaiah 58:8-11)

“Then shall thy light.....morning:
 Thine healthspeedily:
 Thy righteousnessthee;
 The glory.....shall be thy reward.
 The Lord shall.....continually,
 And satisfyin drought;
 And.....bones:

4. What reason did the hypocrites have for fasting? (Matt.6:16)

.....

Whom should we desire to please in our fasting? (Math.6:18)

.....

Should our fasting and praying be displayed before men? Yes/ No

What will be the result of our fasting and praying in secret? (Matt.6:18)

.....
MEMORY VERSES: DAILY BREAD II COR. 9:10; MATT. 6:31-32
FASTING MATT. 6:16; JOEL 2:12-13

LESSON 11 -- YOUR APPEARANCE AND SPEECH

We judge a person’s character by his speech, clothing, and cleanliness. As ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor. 5:20) we represent the King of kings, and therefore should dress and speak in such a way as to please the Lord.

CLEANLINESS:

Someone has said, “ Cleanliness is next to godliness”. When the Spirit of Christ comes to dwell in your heart He puts a new desire within to be clean.

1. What does the Bible say your body is? (1 Cor. 6:19)

.....

2. How is a Christian to use his body? (1 Cor. 6:20)

.....

3. What does God say he will do to a person who defiles his body (the temple of God)? 1 Cor.3:17

.....

4 For what reason does God say His people are to be clean and holy? (Lev.20:26)

.....

From Numbers 8:21-22 we find that God’s people, the Levites: (Please underline the correct answer)

thought clean clothes were required before meeting with God.

thought that cleanliness had nothing to do with godliness.

Why did God tell Moses to have his people wash their clothes? (Exodus19:10-11)

.....

In Hebrews 10:22 we find four conditions of drawing near to God, Please complete the answers below:

With a

In full assurance

Having our hearts sprinkled from

And our bodies

What two things are we to cleanse ourselves from? (2 Cor.7:1)

.....

CLOTHING:

Some people say that wearing clothes is only mans idea and is not necessary. But we shall see from the Bible what God has to say on this subject.

In the beginning man was clothed with the glory of God. When Adam and Eve sinned they lost this glorious covering and realized that they were naked. What did God do for Adam and his wife? (Gen.3:21)

.....
Clothing was given in the beginning as a covering and protection. But man has changed this purpose of clothing. Now clothes are designed to draw attention to self and for the purpose of exciting the sexual passion of the opposite sex. Immorality can be committed in the way you dress. Read Matthew 5:27-28 and answer the following questions by TRUE or FALSE,

- a). If a woman deliberately dresses to entice men (cause them to lust after her) she is guilty of immorality. (.....)
- b). Adultery is committed in the heart when a man looks at a woman. (.....)
- c). Adultery is committed in the heart when a man looks at a woman to lust after her. (.....)
- d). According to Jesus the state of the heart is as bad as committing the act itself. (.....)

Should women wear men’s clothing, or men wear woman’s clothing? (Deut. 22:5)

.....

What does God think of those who do so? (Deut. 22:5)

.....

What does the Bible say about men with long hair? (1 Cor.11:14)

.....

What is long hair to a woman? (1 Cor.11:15)

.....

What should be the Christians attitude towards keeping up with the latest fashions?

(Rom.12:2)

Jesus said, “Be not anxious, saying wherewithal shall we be clothed.” (Please underline the most correct answer:)

- a). We should be careful about our appearance, and trust God to supply our needs.

- b). We should not give attention to our clothing.
- c). We should be anxious about what we wear.

CONVERSATION:

Our speech is a very important part of daily life. It is through the use of words that we communicate with each other.

Which member of our body does the Bible say is the hardest to tame? (Jam. 3:8)

The Bible says, “Out of the same mouth proceeds..... and
(Jam. 3:10)

Should these two things come from the mouth of a Christian? (Jam.3:10)

Where do the words that we speak come from? (Mat.12:34)

Underline the correct answer: To improve your speech:
 Speak immediately whatever comes to mind;
 Read best selling novels for good expressions;
 Ask yourself, when about to speak, “Is it kind? Is it true? Is it necessary?”

Read Mat. 12:36 and underline the correct answer:
 Idle (meaningless) words have no effect whatsoever and are soon forgotten.
 Idle words not only have lasting effect, but must be accounted for on the day of judgement.

What two things are said of a man who says that he is religious but cannot control his speech? (Jas.1:26)

.....

The Bible says, “Thou shall not take the name of the Lord Thy God in vain.” State in YOUR OWN WORDS what you think this means.

.....

Read Eph.4:25 and fill in the blanks. We are to put away, and always speak the with your neighbours.

The promise of good things in life and happy days is given to those that fulfill two conditions concerning the tongue. What are these two conditions? (1 Pet.3:10)

- a.....
- b.

10. Psalm 141:3 is a good prayer to say each morning when arising. Complete the prayer by filling

in the missing words. "Set a....., O Lord, before my;
keep the of my"

MEMORY VERSES: TEMPLE OF GOD 1 Cor. 6:19-20

LIFE AND DEATH Prov. 18:21; Psalms 141:3.

LESSON 12 -- OUR CITIZENSHIP

The Bible tells us that Jesus "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with GOD and MAN" (Luke.2: 52). We too should endeavor to live with harmony with God and man. Our first obligation is to God for the greatest commandment is that we love the Lord with all our hearts. The second commandment is that we love our neighbour as ourself. In Romans 12:18 we read these words: "If it be possible, as much as lies in you, live peaceably with all men. "If we fulfill these two great commandments of our Lord, then we will truly be good citizens of our country and will live a life that is well pleasing to God.

Where is our citizenship? (Phil.3:20) Note: the word "conversation" is better-translated "citizenship".

Since our citizenship (or our real home) is in heaven and we are only pilgrims on earth, our main concern should be:

For the material things of this world,

To live for God and to help others to know the Lord. (Please underline the correct answer)

Although our citizenship is in heaven we still have duties and responsibilities towards the rulers of our land.

Is it right to speak evil about the rulers of our land? (Acts 23:5)-----

4. Instead of criticizing our leaders we should ----- for them (1 Tim. 2:1-2)

Why are we to pray for kings and all that are in authority? (1 Tim 2:2)-----

Romans 13:1 says, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers (governments). For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. " We are to be subject to and obey our government because: (Please underline the correct answer)

a). God ignores the powers that rule the governments of the world.

b). God either establishes or permits the establishment of every governmental power.

Whose ordinance (order) are we really resisting when we resist the power of the Government? (Rom.13:2)

What shall happen to those who resist the powers which have been set up of God? (Rom.13:2)

Romans 13:7 instructs us to, “Render therefore to all their duties: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.” This means: (Please underline the correct answer)

We are to refuse to pay taxes, duty and give honour and respect to none but God.

We are to be humble, giving taxes, duty, honour to those whose position requires it.

We are to be willing to give taxes, duty, honour and respect only when demanded of us.

Caesar was the Roman emperor when Jesus spoke the words, “ Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and unto God the things that are God’s.” This means: (Please underline the correct answer)

We should give our government what it expects of us, and give to God what He expects of us.

We should criticize our government but praise our God.

We should take from the government its benefits and give them to God.

When the laws of the land are against the laws of God, who are we to obey – God or Man?

----- (Acts 4:18-20,5:27-29)

Read Hebrews 13:17 and then complete this verse. “Obey them,

and for they watch for your souls, as they must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief for that is unprofitable to for you.”

A person who is truly at rest with God will also be restful as a citizen of his country. No matter how confused governments may be, or what hardships and trials may come, he knows that God is in CONTROL. If you want a happy and a peaceful life take heed of the words of Philippians 4:6-7, “Do not worry about ANYTHING; instead pray about EVERYTHING; tell God your needs and don’t forget to thank Him for His answers. If you do this you will know God’s peace which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.”

MEMORY VERSE: OUR CITIZENSHIP: Phil. 3:20; Heb. 13:17

LESSON 13 -- EMPLOYMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

It is God’s will that we should be engaged in some kind of employment. Only as we labour in the place of His appointment can we claim God’s promise to supply all our needs. Our main concern then should be to find the place where God wants me to labour, and to do the job as unto the Lord.

Before sin entered into the world, and before the curse came upon mankind, God had given work and responsibility as a very important part of man’s life. What work did God give Adam? (Gen. 2:15)

.....
.....

The curse of God came upon Adam, because he sinned. God sent him out of the garden to work by the sweat of his brow. What kind of work was given to him to do? (Gen 3:23)

.....
There are three short commands given in 1 Thessalonians 4:11 for all who want to follow God. Please write this out,

- a).....
- b).....
- c).....

Paul gives two reasons for this short command. Please complete the verse (1 Thes. 4:12)

- a).“ That you may walk (live) towards them that are without (the unsaved).”
- b).“That you may have”

What two things does the bible say about a person who does not provide for his own family? (1 Tim. 5:8)
Note : an infidel is an unbeliever.

- a).....
- b).....

Through the apostle Paul, God gave instructions concerning those who do not want to work. What did Paul write? 2 Thes.3:10.

.....

It is suggested in the following verse (2 Thes.3:11) that if we are not busy with work we become gossips and trouble makers. Supply the missing word which suggests this: “For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are

.....”

What strict command does the apostle Paul give to those who instead of being workers are busy bodies? (2 Thes.3:12)

.....

THE EMPLOYEE

Read Colossians 3:22–24 and answer the following questions by underlining the correct statement, or word, in a) , b), and c) options given.

- a). Servants (employees) are to obey their employees in (ALL / SOME / NO) things.
- b). Servants are to serve their employers by:
 - Doing aptly what he is told to do.
 - Doing a job to impress the boss
 - 3.Doing more than is expected.
- c). We should do our work:
 - Unwillingly, knowing that we are not being paid enough.
 - Eagerly and willingly, trying to please the Lord.
 - With the idea that we will show how inefficient the other workers are.

We may be serving the government, a business, a private employer, or a Christian organization, but

a). If we are followers of Christ who are we really serving? (Colossians 3:23)

.....

b). Who, after all will give us our right wages? (Colossians 3:24)

.....

What attitude should we, as servants of the Lord, have towards our employer?

Underline the most correct answer

a). We should honour our Heavenly Father but curse our employer.

b). We should love and honour our employer.

Christian servants should count their masters worthy of all honour. Why? (I Timothy 6:1)

That the and His be not blasphemed.” (to blaspheme is to speak evil against)

A Christian should work hard and honestly for an employer who is also a believer because: (I Timothy 6:2)

a). “They are”

b). “ They are and”

Underline the most correct statement: (I Peter 2:18)

a). We, as servants, are to be in subjection to only the good and gentle masters.

b). We are to be in subjection to both the good and the severe (forward) masters.

THE EMPLOYER

The employer must give that which is just and equal to those who work for him. His conscience must help him in this. Give one good reason why the employer must be fair in dealing with his workers. (Col. 4:1)

.....

Is it right to threaten your employee? (Eph. 6:9) YES/NO (Please underline the correct answer)

Read Eph. 6:9, then underline the correct answer: a).

God respects the employer above the employee.

b). God despises all employers but loves employees.

c). God holds the employer and employee in equal respect.

A man who hires a servant but does not give him his wages is in God’s sight: (Jer. 22:13)

Cursed /Blessed/ Exalted ?

The Lord Jesus Christ gave two simple instructions to those who are ‘greater’ and ‘chief’.

Obeying these instructions in that which really proves greatness. What are these two instructions? (Luke 22:26)

a). “He that is greatest among you”

b). “He that is chief,.....”

How was the Lord Jesus Christ a special example to those who are in superior positions? (Phil.2:5-7)

.....

MEMORY VERSE: EMPLOYMENT RESPONSIBILITIES ACTS 20:35; 1 TIM. 5:8

LESSON 14 -- MONEY AND POSSESSIONS

Goldsmiths try to test gold with acid. If there are any impurities, the acid will eat them, showing up the false mixture in the gold. This is called the acid test. The “acid test” of a true follower of Jesus Christ is seen in his honesty and attitude in financial matters. Satan has undoubtedly defeated more Christians in this way than in any other. What is your standard of honesty in financial things? Let us now study what God expects of us.

The words “Thou shall not respect persons” in Deuteronomy 16:19 does not mean showing respect,” but means showing “showing favouritism” We are told further that we should not “take a gift” this of course refers to taking bribes. According to the text, why should we not take bribes.

- a).....
- b).....

Here is a rule to guide us in all matters of honest. Fill in the missing words and then learn the rule by heart.

“That which is.....shall thou follow” (Deut 16:20)

In what four main things are we told to be careful to do no unrighteousness? (Lev. 19:35). Note: ‘Meter yard’ is a linear measure; ‘measure’ is a liquid measure.

- a)..... c).....
- b)..... d).....

What does God say about your neighbour’s property? (Deut. 19:14)

.....

Zacchaeus had earned much of his money by cheating others. But one day, he trusted Jesus Christ as His Savior. His life was changed. He made two statements that proved that he was saved. What were theses? (Luke 19:8)

- a).....
- b).....

WE SHOULD NOT SET OUR HEARTS ON MONEY

.....
any feel that getting money or worldly goods is great gain. What does the Bible say is great gain? (1 Timothy 6:6)

.....

Not many can become rich and remain free from the evils that riches often bring. What are three evils await those who desire to become rich? Fill in the missing words, thereby answering the questions: (1 Timothy 6:9)

- a). They fall into
- b). They fall into a
- c). They fall into foolish and hurtful.....

What does God say is a root of all kinds of evil? (1 Timothy.6:10).....

What two fold description is given of some who have reached money? (1 Timothy 6:10)

- a).
- b).

Those who are godly are encouraged to charge or instruct those who are rich in this present World. What seven instructions are we to give to the rich? (1 Timothy 6:17-18)

- a). b)
- c). d)
- e). f)
- g)

6. The Lord Jesus said that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. This is true because:

- a). God does not love rich men and so he only lets a few in.
- b). Rich men often make riches their god and therefore find it very difficult to trust Christ completely for their salvation. (Please underline the correct answer)

Instead of laying up for ourselves treasures upon the earth, what should we be doing? (Matthew 6:19-20)

- a). Treasure can be stored on earth or in heaven. What may happen to treasure stored on earth (Matthew 6:20).....
- b). There is another danger in storing up treasure here on earth. It is that we will not have an interest in heavenly things. Please complete the statement which expresses this thought. (Matthew 6:21) “Where your treasure is

What good reason is given in Hebrews 13:5 as to why we should not love money and why we should be content with such things as we have?
.....

Money and riches are not evil in themselves. It is only when our heart is set on riches more than God that they become evil. The Bible tells us that God wants his people to prosper and be in health (3 John verse 2). In Joshua 1:8 we find the key to success. We are to meditate (read and think about) in the Word of God every day and also obey the commands of God. For then God says,

“thou shall make thy way.....and then thou shall have.....(Joshua 1:8).

WE SHOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE.

Ā □ Ā □ Ā □ Ā □
here are three things for which we should not be anxious: What we shall eat; what we shall drink;
and what we shall put on. What should we do to make certain that we shall receive these three
necessities ? (Matt. 6:31-33)

.....

We are told not be anxious, but to let our requests be made known to God, in what three
ways are we to let these requests be made known unto Him? (Phil. 4:6)

.....
.....
.....

What are we to do with our anxiety or cares? (1 Pet. 5:7)

.....

Psalm 23:1 states, ‘The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.’ This means: (Please
underline the correct answer)

As a shepherd guards, feeds and cares for his sheep, so Jesus cares for his own.
We should no longer work since the Lord is the one who provide our needs.

WE SHOULD PUT GOD FIRST IN OUR LIFE

What are the dangers to our souls, when we have eaten and are full, and have built goodly
Houses and have dwelt therein, and our silver and gold is multiplied? (Fill in the missing Words
from Deuteronomy 8:11-18)

“then your hearts be.....”(vs. 14)

“and you.....the Lord thy God”(vs. 14)

“and thou say in your heart,.....”(vs. 17).

If a child of God is to be wealthy where does the power come from?
(Deut.8:18).....

The Bible says that two types of people come to want, or poverty. Who are these? (Prov.
22:16)

.....
.....

From the parable given in Luke 12:15-21 state IN YOUR OWN WORDS why God described
the rich man as foolish.’

.....

A covetous man is one who makes an idol of the thing he wants to possess. It becomes his
God. What inheritance does such a man have in the kingdom of God? (1 Cor.6:9-10)

.....

D DEBT AND INTEREST

The Bible teaches that we are not to get ourselves in debt to any man, but what is it that we owe all men? (Romans 13:8).....

Usury' means 'interest' What does the Bible teach us about loaning out our money to the poor in hope of getting interest? (Exodus 22:25)

The Bible describes the man who shall never be moved. He is a man who is firm and reliable. He is the same man who abides in God's tabernacle, dwelling in God's holy hill. What eight things are said of this man who is enjoying such fellowship with God ? (Ps. 15: 1-3, 5).

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| a) | b) |
| c) | d) |
| e) | f) |
| g) | h) |

What kind of man is he who borrows but does not pay back again? (Ps. 37:21)

MEMORY VERSE: MONEY AND POSSESSIONS Deut 8:18; Matthew 6:31-32

LESSON 15 -- SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

What should a Christian's attitude be towards those who oppose, persecute, and attack him? Someone said, "For many years I have adopted a motto that has stood me in good stead. It consists of but four words. "No Attack, No Defense." I never attack any one personally, and I never defend myself when I am attacked. I leave the matter entirely with God. "Here is a good motto for us to adopt as we study this lesson.

LAWSUITS AND DISPUTES

In 1 Cor. 6:1-7 Paul describes a conflict between two Christian groups. According to verse seven is it right for a Christian to go to law (court) to sue or accuse another Christian? YES\NO

Before whom should arguments among Christians be settled? (Please underline the correct answer)

Before unrighteous authorities.

Before the saints, or a wise Christian Brother.

Instead of going to court, what should a Christian do when he finds that a Christian brother has trespassed (sinned) against him? (Mat.18:15)

.....

4 When we go to our brother in the Lord to explain to him his sin against us, and he ignores us completely, what should we then do? (Mat.18:16)

If our brother refuses to hear the witness, what is there left to do? “Tell it unto

If the brother does not hear what the church has to say, what can be done? (Mat.18:17)

“ Let him be unto thee and a

7 What should we do when a brother sins? (Luke 17:3) (Please underline the correct answer)

We should do nothing to make him feel that he has done wrong.

We should rebuke him and be willing to forgive him.

Jesus said, “ And if he (a brother) sins against thee seven times in the day, and seven times turn again to thee, saying, I repent, shall forgive him.” (Luke 17:4). This means: (Please underline the correct answer)

We should always be ready to forgive a person, no matter how often he sins against us.

We should forgive a person only after he has asked for forgiveness at least seven times.

We should never forgive a brother who repeatedly sins against us.

Who is to restore the man overtaken in a fault (sin) ? (Gal. 6:1)

.....

In what attitude (or spirit) should one restore a sinning brother?

(Gal.6:1).....

YOUR ENEMIES

If people hated Jesus Christ, and you follow Him, then they will hate you for the same reason. What example did Jesus leave for us in His last words while being crucified? (Luke 23:33-34)

.....

Someone said that the best way he knew for destroying his enemies was to make friends of them. Jesus said, “ Love your enemies.” Complete the following sentences which tell how we can win our enemies. (Luke 6:27 – 29)

To those who hate us we should

To them that curse us we should

To them that despitefully use us we should.....

To those who smite us on one cheek we should.....

The Bible says, “ Render to no man evil for evil. “ Tell briefly in your own words what this means.

.....

What should our attitude be towards our enemy who has need? (Rom. 12:20)

.....

How are we to overcome evil? (Rom.12:21)

.....

Suppose your enemy is seriously injured, or in trouble what should be your attitude? (Prov. 24:17,29) (Please underline the correct attitude)

He got what he deserves and he needs more punishment.

Here is my chance to take revenge

Here is my chance to prove to Him that though I hate his wrong deeds, I love him.

God’s Word says, “Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow His steps. “There are three different steps by which we may follow Christ in his sufferings. What are these? (1 Pet. 2:23)

.....

.....

.....

PERSECUTION FOR WHAT IS RIGHT

Jesus said that a servant is not greater than his Lord. Since Jesus experienced persecution, what may those who are His servants expect? (John.15:20)

.....

Jesus warns all those who would follow Him that there may come a time when they would be persecuted and go to jail.

But Jesus did not say, “ It will turn you for a tragedy”, but “it shall turn unto you for a

..... (Luk.21:13)

Who will help us to know what to speak in times of trial? (Luke 21:14-15)

.....

Jesus taught His disciples that though the body may be killed, the soul, which trusts in Jesus, will never die. Jesus also instructed that If you do not trust in Him, both our bodies and our soul shall be cast into hell. Fill in the missing words to the statements which suggest this truth (Mat.10:28)

“ Fear not them which

“ Rather fear Him which.....

What belongs to him who is persecuted for righteousness sake? (Mat. 5:10)

.....
Jesus describes the man as most happy or blessed when men shall reproach, persecute and say all manner of evil against him falsely for Christ's sake. Jesus says, "Rejoice and be glad." Give two reasons why we should rejoice in Christ when under such persecution? (Mat. 5:11-12)

a.....

b.....

Two things have been given or granted us in the behalf of Christ. What are they? (Phil.1:29)

.....

.....

We are told to be happy if we share in Christ's suffering. We are told that we are blessed if we are reproached, that is: suffer shame, because we follow Christ. Why shall we be blessed if we so suffer? (1 Pet.4:13-14)

.....

What should be the attitude of the Christians who suffers because he is a Christian? (1 Pet.4:16)

a.....

b.....

The Lord Jesus tells us not to be surprised if we have tribulation in the world. "Be of good cheer," He exhorts. What reason is given in the text for our being of good cheer? (John 16:33)

.....

PRAYER

Plead my cause, O Lord, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me. Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me. Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: Yea, let them say continually, let the Lord be magnified, which has pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long" Psalm 35:1, 26-28.

MEMORY VERSE: Social Responsibilities: Luke 6:27-28; Romans 12:20-21.

LESSON 16 -- IDOLATRY AND WITCHCRAFT

God completely denies the power of idols. How ever, he warns that "spiritism" is dangerous for it is the power of Satan. In this lesson we shall learn more of the dangers of these two powerful instruments of Satan, which take the place of worshipping God.

IDOLATRY

The dictionary defines an idol as: “an image or representation of a god made or used as an object of worship.” But let us remember that an idol can also be anything to which we are passionately devoted - whether that be money education, pleasure or pride.

Exodus 20:4-5 gives three strict commands concerning “graven images”. What are these three commands?

“Thou shall not any graven images.”

“ Thou shall not to them.”

“nor them.”

Can you suggest one good reason why these commands were given ? (Exod.20:3)

.....

3. Where does God live? (2 Cor. 6:16) (Underline the most correct answer)

In idols and temples.

In churches and buildings.

In human beings who love.

Fill in the missing words so indicating what God says regarding separation from idols and ungodly things. (2 Cor. 6: 17-18)

“ Wherefore, from among them, and

.....says the Lord , and touch no unclean thing.”

What three promises are for those who do take the step of coming out from bondage and darkness into the fellowship of Christ? (2 Cor.6:17-18)

a.....

b.....

c.....

Fill in the missing words (1 Cor. 8: 4)

“ We know that an is in the world.”

This means: (Underline the correct answer)

Idols can mean nothing to a worldly mind.

Idols have no purpose or meaning for us who are in the world since they cannot help us to know the invisible God.

The Bible says that idols are merely the work of man’s hands. They are powerless. They have mouths, eyes, and ears, but cannot speak, see, or hear. What is said of those who make such idols and trust them? (Psalm 135:15-18)

.....

When sacrifices are made by those who are Gentiles (Heathen or unbelievers) to whom do they make them?

(1 Cor.10:20)

WITCHCRAFT (Spiritualism and Fortune Telling)

Why should a person not turn to them that have familiar spirits(spiritualists), and wizards (witches or fortune tellers)? (Lev.19:31)

.....

God spoke strongly to the Israelites who were inclined to turn from God in order to seek out information from “wizards” and those having “ familiar spirits.” What warning given to them, should we also heed? (Lev.20:6)

.....

.....

Some feel that it doesn’t matter if one associates with those who have powers of speaking with evil spirits, so long as he himself does not practice such. But the Bible condemns all these idolatrous practices. What does God think of those who do such things? (Deut.18:10-12)

.....

What good answer can you give to those who may advice you, “ Seek unto them that have familiar spirits and unto the wizards.”(Is. 8:19)

.....

What judgment came upon God’s people in Old Testament times when they used divination (foretelling future happenings in rites and ceremonies) and enchantments (casting spells by witchcraft)? (2 Kings 17:17-18)

.....

Fill in the missing words that describe whether those who divine (foretell) speak truth or not . (Zech.10: 2)

“ The diviners have seen a; and they have told dreams, they comfort in ”

Fill in the missing words of 1 Sam 15: 23

“Foris as the sin of witchcraft, andis as iniquity and idolatry.”

8. What law was given concerning a witch? (Exod. 22:18)

.....

In 1 Sam.28: 7 – 25 it seems that Samuel actually appeared to Saul, but in 1 Chron.10:13 it is clear that it was a familiar spirit imitating Samuel which appeared.

NOTE: “Familiar spirits” are demon spirits which possess mediums who have given their will over to them, to imitate dead human beings, make predictions, promote doctrines, etc.

What punishment did King Saul receive for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit? (I Chronicles 10:13-14)

.....
The apostle Paul predicted Spiritism, or Spiritualism in 1 Timothy 4:1
“Now the Spirit speaks expressly (clearly), that in the latter times some shall depart from the
faith, giving heed, to, and

.....
(Please complete this verse)

MEMORY VERSE: Idolatry and Witchcraft: 2 Cor. 6:16; 1 Samuel 15:23

LESSON 17 -- DIVINE HEALING

Good health is one of the most precious possessions we can have. A great comedian once said, “without health, riches, possessions, and fame are all mud.”

Healing of the body is more closely connected with the soul than most people realize. Healing is more than physical, more than mental, it is spiritual. “peace does not come in capsules.” This is regrettable because medical science recognizes that emotions such as fear, sorrow, envy, resentment and hatred are responsible for the majority of our sicknesses. Estimates vary from 60 per cent to nearly 100 per cent.”

The basic requirement for good health is to live in right relationship with God and man. Although there are many causes of sickness, much of it could be avoided by allowing the peace of God to reign in our hearts. It is also important to eat the right kind of food, to exercise daily, and to fast at regular intervals.

God heals in many ways. He heals through doctors and medicine, through nature and climate, through love and understanding, and through faith in the miraculous healing power of God.

SOME CAUSES OF SICKNESS

Please draw a line to the appropriate scriptures as in the example.

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Physical breakdown through overwork | Ex.15:26 |
| 2. Not discerning the Lord’s body | Acts 10:38 |
| 3. Sin (disobedience to God) | 1 Cor. 11:29-30 |
| 4. Being oppressed of the devil | Phil. 2:25-30 |

SOME OBJECTIONS TO DIVINE HEALING

Is it the will of the Lord? Some people believe that God heals some and does not heal the others according to his will. The Bible does not teach this.

- a). Does God favor one person above another? (Romans 2:11)
-

b). What did Jesus say to the leper who asked if it was His will to heal him? (Luke 5:12-13)

.....

c). Read the story of the man at the Pool of Bethesda who had been sick for 38 years (John 5:1-9). This time it was not the man who asked Jesus if it was his will to heal him, but Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed. What were the words that Jesus said to him? (John 5:6)

.....

d). Read the story of the demon-possessed boy whom the disciples could not deliver (Mark 9:14-29). The father of the boy brought him to Jesus and said, "If thou can do anything, have compassion on us, and help us." But Jesus corrected the father. What did Jesus say in verse 23:

.....

Some teach that sickness can bring glory to God. However we should note that it is never the sickness, but the healing that brings glory to God.

a). In the story of the man who was blind from his birth, how were 'the works of God made manifest in him? (John 9:1-38) (Please underline the correct answer).

- 1). By his being blind.
- 2). By his being healed.

b). Jesus said that the sickness of the Lazarus "is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby" (John 11:14). How was the Son of God glorified?

- 1). By Lazarus being sick
- 2). By the death of Lazarus
- 3). By bringing Lazarus back to life again (Please underline the correct answer).

Some of Paul's fellow laborers in the gospel became sick. The Bible does not teach that a Christian will never become sick anymore than it teaches that a Christian will never sin. But just as it is not God's will for a Christian to sin, so it is not God's will for a Christian to remain sick. In 2 Tim. 4:20 Paul said, "Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick." We also read of the sickness of Epaphroditus in Philippians 2:25-30. It seems clear that these two men became sick through over-work in the gospel. What does Paul say regarding the cause of Epaphroditus' sickness? (Verse 30)

.....

.....

4. Paul's thorn in the flesh- 2 Cor. 12:7-10

The common teaching on Paul's thorn in the flesh is that it was sickness presumed to be eye trouble. Paul says it was a "messenger" sent from Satan. The word "messenger" infers a person, not a disease. God assured Paul that this angel of Satan was his will and that grace would be provided to suffer at things that he should learn to depend wholly upon the power of God. In every other reference in the Bible to a thorn or thorn in the flesh it has to do with an enemy.

a). God told his people to possess the land of Canaan and to drive the Canaanites out. If they failed to do this what would the Canaanites become to them? (Num. 33: 35)

- 1). "..... In your eyes"
- 2). ".....In your sides"

b). In II Cor. 12: 10 Paul gives us some idea of what this thorn in the flesh was. What five things does he mention?

.....

-
- 3.....
- 4.....
- 5.....

HEALING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

God told the children of Israel that He would bless their bread and water if they would serve Him.
 What promise did He give them in regard to sickness? (Exodus 23:25)

.....

In the story of Hezekiah, what did God do for the people when they got right with him? (II Chronicles 30:20)

.....

One of the names of God is “Jehovah Rapha”. What does this mean according to Exodus 15:26?

“I am the

4. What conditions did Israel have to meet in order that none of the diseases of the Egyptians is put on them? (Ex.15: 26)

- a).....
- b).....
- c).....
- d).....

In Psalm 103:3 was see the Lord as the Savior from the sin and the Healer of diseases. a).

How many sins does he forgive?..... b).

How many diseases does he heal?.....

In Psalm 107:20 we find that the Lord healed the people by His.....

HEALING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Isaiah 53:4 says, “Surely He (Jesus) has borne our griefs (sicknesses), and carried our sorrows (pains).” Verse five says, and with His stripes we are healed.” The fulfillment of this prophecy is found in Mathew 8:16-17. According to verse 16 what did Jesus do for:

a). Those possessed with demons:

b). Those that were sick:

In Mark 2:1-12 we find Jesus healing the man sick with the palsy. Here salvation and healing seem to be related. For the man to be healed Jesus could say one of two things:

a). “Thy sins be.....” or

b). "Arise, and....."

There is no set pattern for healing in the Bible. Sometimes Jesus came to the sick, at other times the sick came to Him, and sometimes He just sent his word. One method of healing given to the Church is found in James 5:14-15

- a). The sick person is to call for
 - b). The elders are to.ointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.
 - c). "And the prayer of faith shall
- And the Lord shall.....

How many sicknesses and diseases did Jesus heal? (Matt.4: 23)

.....

When news came that Jairus daughter had died, what did Jesus say? (Luke 8:50)

"Fear not:.....and she shall be made whole."

Jesus power was given to His disciples to meet not only the spiritual, but also the physical needs of man.

What two things did He send His disciples forth to do? (Luke 9:1-2)

- a).....
- b).....

MEMORY VERSE: Divine Healing Ps. 103:2-3; Ex 23:25.

LESSON 18 -- SUFFERING

The goldsmith refines his gold by melting it with an intense heat so that the impurities will come to the top. He does not intend to harm the gold, but desires to make it more useful and valuable. God sees the lives of his children as unrefined gold. He desires to purify His children and does so by putting them through the fires of affliction, troubles and sorrow.

Jesus Christ, through the Son of God, learned obedience only through a special way. How did He learn this? (Hebrews 5:8)

.....

If we suffer with Christ we shall also bewith Him. (Romans 8:17)

"If we, we shall alsowith Him." (2 Tim. 2:12)

What does 2 Timothy 2:3 tell us that we should do?

.....

When Jesus turns sorrow into joy can anyone take it away? (John 16:20,22)

.....

John the disciple saw the revelation of Jesus and viewed heaven as it will be. There are five things connected with sorrow that will not be in heaven. List those five things below: (Revelation 21:4)

- a).....
- b).....
- c).....
- d).....
- e).....

Romans 8:18 says that the sufferings of this time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us. This means: (Please underline the correct statement) a).

Our sufferings are worthless.

b). Our glory and sufferings shall be with us forever.

c). Our eternal reward will be so great that our present sufferings will seem as nothing.

What is God to us in times of trouble? (Psalm 46:1)

.....

Why should we glory in tribulations? (Romans 5:3)

.....

In the days of the old the Lord was the Savior of the Israelites. What happened to the Lord when His children were afflicted? (Isaiah 63:8-9)

.....

There is much to learn from the verse in Isaiah 43:2 which mentions the child of God passing through the waters, in the rivers and in the fires.

Answer the following questions after studying this verse by underlining the correct word or words in capitals:

- a). God EXPECTS/DOES NOT EXPECT His children to pass through the waters of trouble.
- b). Rivers of opposition WILL/WIII NOT FLOW against the child of God.
- c). God WILL NOT LET US/EXPECTS US to walk through the fires of tribulation and troubles.
- d). God PROMISES/DOES NOT PROMISES to be with the believer when he passes through the waters of troubles.
- e). Rivers of opposition WILL/WILL NOT overflow God's child.
- f). The child of God Shall /SHALL NOT be burned when walking through the fire of tribulation.

How can we be equipped to comfort those who are in any trouble? (2 Cor. 1:3-5)

.....

.....

MEMORY VERSE: SUFFERING: Isaiah 43:2-3 2 Cor. 1:3-5

LESSON 19 -- DEATH

The Bible says, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Heb. 9:27). For the Christian there is no fear in death because it is only a passing from this earthly life into the most glorious heavenly life. But for the unbeliever it means judgement, hell, and everlasting punishment. We need to understand that clearly that there are two deaths – one for the body, and one for the soul. The Christian soul will never die for he has received eternal life- but his body will die. However, even our bodies will be restored to us in a new form. This is what Jesus meant when he said, "he that believes in me, though he were dead (his body), yet shall he live (his soul): And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die." (John 11:25-26).

Ecclesiastes 12:7 says, "Then shall the dust (body) return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

a). Where does the body go when the person dies?

b). Where does his spirit go?

The apostle Paul explained death in a similar way in 2 Cor. 5:8 To him death meant "to be absent from the body, and to be

.....

Please read the words of Jesus in Revelation 1:18 and answer the following questions: a).

Did Jesus body die once? (yes /no)

b). Will Jesus die again? (yes /no)

c). Who now holds the keys of death?

At the time of death of a believing loved one the Christian say, "Blessed be the name of the Lord." Why can we praise God, even at such time? (Job 1:21)

.....

Because of suffering and death, what was Jesus crowned with?

(Heb. 2:9).....

Our savior Christ Jesus did two things through the gospel. What are these? (2 Tim 1:10)

a).....

b).....

Because Jesus is the resurrection and the life, what does he promise to those who believe in Him? (John 11:25-26)

.....

Death has no victory over those who follow the Lord Jesus. Nor does death have any sting. (1Cor 15:55-57)

a). Who gives us victory over death?

.....

b). How?

What do we have left if the earthly house of our tabernacle were dissolved (that is, if we should die)? 2 Cor. 5:1

.....

We are told that through others sorrow over loved ones who die, Christians should not sorrow in the same way over believing loved ones who die. The reason that our sorrow is not the same and we are not in despair, it is because we have a great hope. Tell what briefly what the Christian’s hope is over a loved one who has “fallen asleep” in death. (1 Thess. 4:13-14).

.....

.....

The most encouraging truth to the Christian is that Jesus Christ is coming back again. Two strange but wonderful things will take place at that time. State what they are by completing the statement below: (1Thess. 4:16-17)

a). The dead in Christ

b). We who are alive shall together with the Christ be caught up in the clouds to

.....

When our body dies and is buried it is compared to the planting of a seed. The seed must die in order that a new plant may come up. Even so our body must die, but when Christ returns it will be raised up a new and a different body (1 Cor. 15:35-44). From verses 42-44 please state four ways in which the body is sown and four ways in which it will be raised.

a). It is sown inIt is raised in

b). It is sown inIt is raised in

c). It is sown inIt is raised in

d). It is sown inIt is raised in

If we are faithful unto death what will God give us? (Rev. 2:10).

.....

MEMORY VERSE: Death 1 Cor 15:55; 2 Cor. 5:1; Rev. 2:10-11.

LESSON 20 -- SERVING GOD IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We have been saved to serve. It is not only our privilege, but also our responsibility to witness for the Lord. But this task is too great to do our own. Jesus Himself said, “without me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). But praise God, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:13) Jesus knows our weakness. This is why He told his disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit

whom He would send to empower them for service. It was this power that changed the disciples from unstable, powerless followers of Christ, to consistent, fearless witness for him. We too need to be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to become effective witnesses for the Lord.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BAPTISM OR FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. In Acts 1:8 we find two reasons for receiving the Holy Spirit:

- a). “ You shall(ability), after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and
- b). You shall be

The primary purpose of the Baptism or fullness of the Holy Spirit is to purify and empower the life of the Christian Over 90 times in the Bible the adjective “holy” is used of the Spirit of God. What are some other things that the Holy Spirit does in our life?

- a). Romans 5: 5, “The..... is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.”
- b). John 14:26, “ He shallthings.”
- c). John 16:13, “He will guide you
- d). John 16:13, “He will show you
- e). John 16:14, “He shall

The Bible says that Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:18,20). His whole life was guided by the Spirit of God. What did the Spirit of God do at His baptism? (Luke 3:21-22).

.....

Immediately after Jesus was baptized and anointed by the Spirit of God He “being full of the Holy Spirit returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.”(Luke 4:1). In Luke 4:14 and Acts10: 38 there is a FIVE letter word, which tells what Jesus received from the Holy Spirit. Please write down this word:

IS THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR TODAY?

Every person who has been greatly used of God down through the centuries has been endowed with power from on High.

Such men as Finney, Brainerd, Moody and many others worked along as best they could until one day they were led to see there was such an experience as the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The moment they received the Holy Spirit in all His fullness there came into their service a new power that utterly transformed its character.

R.A.Torrey said, “It is quiet possible to have something, yes much, of the spirits presence and work in the heart and yet come short of that special fullness and work known in the Bible as the Baptism or filling with the Holy Spirit.”

Dr. Billy Graham says, “I wonder if one of the secrets of Pentecostalism cannot be learned by our main stream churches with the great emphasis upon the Holy Spirit. The time has come to give the Holy Spirit His rightful place!”

WE NEED TO LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, we need to know what Paul meant when he wrote, “be filled with the spirit,” Give it any terminology you like, we need to accept, to get something, for we do not have the same dynamic that the early church had.”

Peter explained the coming of the Holy Spirit upon them as the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy. What two things did Peter say the people must do in order to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit? (Acts 2:38).

- a)
- b).....

2. In the next verse we are told who the promise of Joel was meant for please complete this verse: “For the promise (of Joel) is unto(present generation), and to (next generation), and to (future generations), even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”(Acts 2:39).

3. What is the commandment given in the present continuous tense in Ephesians 5:18?
.....

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is important to notice that Jesus, who was born of the Spirit and lived a perfectly sanctified life in the Spirit, still received the anointing of the same Spirit for His three years ministry. Jesus did no miracles and made no real impact on society until he had been “anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power”(Acts10: 38; Luke 4: 14- 15).We too must be born of the Spirit, led of the Spirit, and empowered by the Spirit for our ministry!

IS THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT A SEPARATE EXPERIENCE FROM SALVATION?

There are three baptisms mentioned in the Bible First there is the baptism BY THE SPIRIT into the BODY OF CHRIST which takes place at the time of your salvation (1 Cor.12: 13). Second there is WATER BAPTISM which is an outward sign of what has taken place within, that is, that you have died to sin and are alive to God (Romans 6:4). Third there is the baptism BY THE SON into the HOLY SPIRIT to make you an effective witness for the Lord (Acts 1:8; John 1:33).

1. Please underline the correct answer:
- a). The first baptism has to do with SERVICE /SANCTIFICATION /SALVATION.
 - b). The second baptism has to do with SERVICE /SANCTIFICATION /SALVATION.
 - c). The third baptism has to do with SERVICE /SANCTIFICATION /SALVATION.

A SIMPLE ILLUSTRATION OF WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT does can be made with water. When you are saved it is like taking a drink of water. YOU RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT into your life. Being baptized by immersion in water might be compared to washing in water. It is a sign that you have been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. YOU ARE CLEANSED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is like jumping into a swimming pool. You no longer hold the water, but the water now holds you. THE HOLY SPIRIT RECEIVES (controls) YOU. Note this pattern in the Bible.

Please draw a line to the appropriate scriptures:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| a). Jesus was born of the Spirit. | Matt. 3:16 |
| b). Paul (Saul) was saved on the road to Damascus | Acts 9:18 |
| c). Jesus was baptized in Jordan | Matt. 1:20 |
| d). Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit. | Acts 9:5-6 |
| e). Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit | Matt. 3:13 |
| f). Paul was baptized in water | Acts 9:17 |

Note this pattern in the Bible. Please draw a line to the appropriate scriptures.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| a). The people of Samaria were saved | Acts 8:17 |
| b). There were some disciples in Ephesus | Acts 19:6 |
| c). The people of Samaria were baptized | Acts 8:14 |
| d). These disciples were baptized | Acts 19:1 |
| e). The people of Samaria receive the Holy Spirit | Acts 8:16 |
| f). These disciples received the Holy Spirit. | Acts 19:3 |

D. HOW DO I RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OR FULNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a Gift, which must be received by FAITH just as you received salvation (Acts 2:38).

What are some of steps to take in order to receive this gift of the Holy Spirit? (Only one or two words are needed for each answer).

- a). Acts 2:38.....
- b). Acts 5:32.....
- c). John 7:37.....
- d). John 7:38-39.....
- e). Luke 11:13.....

What are some of the evidences of being filled with the Holy Spirit? (Please put in your own words)

- a). Acts 1:18.....
- b). Romans 5:5.....
- c). Acts 4:31.....
- d). Acts 19:6.....
- e). John 16:14.....

It is essential that we receive the initial filling or baptism of the Holy Spirit, but we should realize that this experience is not the end of the road. It is only the stepping-stone to richer fuller life in the spirit. The Christian walk in the Spirit involves daily cleansing from sin, daily feeding on the word, and daily communion with our Lord, daily obedience to the Spirit's prompting, and daily being filled with the Spirit.

Please complete the following verses, which bring out these different aspects of the spirit filled life:

- a). Daily Cleansing – “Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and”.(Psalm 51:2)
- b). Daily Feeding – “This book of the law (God’s Word) shall not depart out of thy mouth; but you shall..... therein.....and....., that you may observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shall....., and then you shall.....” (Joshua 1:8)
- c). Daily Communion – “He that....., and I in Him, the same brings

forth.....fruit: for without me you can do” (John 15:5)

d). Daily Obedience – “the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to them that.....” (Acts 5:32).

e). Daily Filling – “Be not drunk with wine wherein is excess; but be continuously” (Ephesians 5:18).

MEMORY VERSE: Serving God in The Power of The Holy Spirit:

Acts 1:8;

Luke 11:11-13;

Acts 2:38.

LESSON 21 -- THE CROSS

When Jesus Christ was put to death by being nailed to a wooden cross, wicked men thought they were just executing a man who was disturbing their way of life. They did not realize that the Cross was planned by God from the beginning of the world.

A. GOD DEALS WITH ALL SIN

Through His Son’s death on the Cross, the great Creator God was dealing with every person’s sin, suffering and sorrow. Jesus was dying in the world. Receiving personally what He has done on the Cross brings the answer to all our needs.

God Reveals His Power Through The Cross

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:18). See also Romans 1:16.

2. God Shows His Love On The Cross

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).

3. God Removed Our Sorrows On The Cross

“Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by him, and afflicted” (Is. 53:4).

4. Jesus Took The Punishment For Our Sins On The Cross

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed... We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Is. 53:5-6). See also 1 Peter 2:24.

B. NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH THE CROSS

Because God is so holy and righteous, sin separates us from Him. No one with sin in their hearts is able to be in His presence.

So, not only by dying on the Cross did Jesus suffer for our sins in our place; but also He made it possible for us to know God personally and to experience the love, peace and joy which fellowship with him brings.

1. We Become Acceptable To God Through The Cross

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21).

2. We Receive Forgiveness Through The Cross

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Col. 1:13-14). See also 1 John 2:1-2.

We Became Members Of God’s Family Through The Cross

“Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, ‘I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation. I will sing your praise’” (Heb. 2:11-12). See also John 1:12.

4. Racial Barriers Are Broken Through The Cross

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of two, them making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.” (Eph. 2:13-16).

C. FREEDOM THROUGH THE CROSS

Jesus death on the Cross was a great victory for us. Because God dealt with our sin on the Cross, it means also that all the misery and suffering which is a result of sin was dealt with. The Cross has won great freedom for us!

1. Freedom From Satan

“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the Cross “ (Col. 2:15) See also Colossians 1:13.

2. Freedom From Past Sins

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36). See also Colossians 2:13.

3. Freedom From Present Sins

“For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace” (Rom 6:14).

4. Freedom From Sickness

This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” (Matt. 8:17).

Freedom From The Curse

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree” (Gal. 3:13). See also Deuteronomy 28:15-68.

6. Freedom From the Judgment

“Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement” (Heb. 9:26-27).

7. Freedom From Everlasting Death Everlasting Death

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perished but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

D. LOVE AND JUSTICE MEET AT THE CROSS

The Cross is the place where the love of God and the righteous judgement demanded the death penalty for sin- the shedding of blood. His love met His own demands and Jesus, the Son of God, died in our place.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s

wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! "Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation" (Rom 5:8-11).

E. THE CROSS IS THE CENTRE OF HISTORY

The Cross of Jesus Christ is the center-point of mankind's existence on earth. From the moment the first man and woman sinned (See Genesis 3), it was pre planned by God that Jesus would die on the Cross.

From that time on, people looked forward in faith to what God promised. He would do on the Cross to save them. Today we look back and, by believing what Jesus has done for us on the Cross, receive forgiveness and new life.

MY COMMITMENT

Today I put my whole trust in what God was doing for me when Jesus died on the Cross. I believe. He took the punishment for my sin. I receive the forgiveness that God is offering to me. And I thank Him for the relationship this now gives me with Him. I make a decision today that I will live each day in this personal relationship with God and commit myself to share this truth with others.

LESSON 22 - THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

The shedding of Jesus Christ's blood on the Cross was a factor in order for us to receive forgiveness for our sins and acceptance into the presence of God.

"Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Heb. 9:22).

A. LIFE IS IN THE BLOOD

"For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves, it is blood that makes atonement for one's life" (Lev. 17:11)

When we sin, we earn death. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). Jesus paid this penalty for us by shedding His blood (dying for us – in our place).

Atonement (at-one-ment) means to be made AT ONE with God. Jesus gave His life (shed His blood) on the Cross for our AT-ONE-MENT (atonement). This made it possible for us to be AT ONE with God. Jesus' blood means we are no longer His enemy but His friend, His sons and daughters. By faith we accept what He did for us.

WHAT SIN DOES TO OUR LIFE

1. Separates Us From God

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear" (Is. 59:2).

2. Makes Us Feel Guilty

"My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear" (Ps. 38:4)

3. Allows Satan To Accuse Us

"...the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night..." (Rev. 12:10)

4. Demands The Death Penalty

"...The soul who sins is the one who will die" (Ezek. 18:4)

The blood of Christ meets all of our needs:

C. THE BLOOD IS FOR GOD

The blood of Christ wholly satisfies God's law – which requires a penalty for breaking the law. I John 3:4 says "sins is breaking the law."

The blood protects us from the penalty of breaking the law (death).

In Exodus 12, God commands the people of Israel to put the blood of a lamb on their door-posts to protect them from the destroyer – who would kill all the firstborn.

This lamb was picture of the Lamb-Jesus – Who would come later. God said, "...when I see the blood, I will pass over (protect) you..."(verse 13).

1. Fellowship Is Restored

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him" (Rom. 5:8-9).

2. We Are Redeemed (Purchased Back From Slavery)

'In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace" (Eph. 1:17)

D. THE BLOOD IS FOR MAN

The blood has satisfied God; now it is to satisfy us in the cleansing of our conscience from guilt.

The Blood Cleanses From Guilt

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our conscience from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" (Heb. 9:14)

The Blood Sanctifies Us

"And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood" (Heb.13:12).

The Blood Brings Us Close To God

"...and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you..." (Col. 1:20-22).

The Blood Gives Boldness To Enter God's Presence

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is his body.

"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water." (Heb. 10:19-22).

5. The Blood Perfects Us In The Sight of God

"...because by one sacrifice he has made perfect for ever those who are being made holy" (Heb. 10:14).

E. THE BLOOD IS FOR THE DEVIL

Satan's most strategic activity in this age is as the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10) and it is as this that the Lord confronts him in His special ministry as High Priest through His own blood (Heb. 9:11-14).

The Blood Puts God On Man's Side Against The Devil

"...If God is for us, who can be against us?... Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?

“Shall God who justifies? Who is he that condemns? Will Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – and is at the right hand of God and is also interceding (praying) for us?” (Rom. 8:31,33-34)

The devil has no ground for accusation against those who have received the work of Christ’s shed blood for them.

The Blood Dissolves All Satan’s Legal Rights of Ownership

“...in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Col. 1:14).

‘Redemption means to buy back’. We are under new ownership, and the price that was paid for us was the shed blood of Jesus.

“...the church of God, which he bought with his own blood” (Act 20:28). See also I Corinthians 6:19-20; I Timothy 2:6.

F. WHAT THE BLOOD OF CHRIST HAS BROUGHT US

1. Purity of Heart

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin” (1 John 1:17).

2. Eternal Life

“Jesus said to them, I tell you the truth, unless you eat, the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:53-54).

3. Approach To God

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ”. (Eph. 2: 13).

MY COMMITMENT

I now understand what the shed blood of Jesus means to God, to Satan and to me, I make my commitment to share with others the truth concerning, the blood of Christ. I will remind myself often of the covenant God, has with me, to forgive my sin and cleanse me from sin and protect me from Satan’s harm.

LESSON 23 -- TEMPTATION

A. SATAN ATTACKS

Satan attacks the individual Christian mostly through temptation. And he focuses this assault in two spheres:

The Desires Of the World

He will seek to tempt a believer to become absorbed into the world’s system:

to make the material blessings that the world offers a central desire;

to make the honor and recognition of this world an important goal; and

to make the comfort of being one with those of this world our basis for Security.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him”. (1 John 2:15). See also James 4:14; 1 Timothy 6:6-11.

The Desires Of The Flesh

Through Christ’s work on the Cross, the true Christian is delivered from the results from the results of sin, and from the power of sin (Rom. 6:6-14). But he still lives in a physical body that is subject

to natural appetites and desires. Satan will use these to try and get a Christian to place greater importance upon them than upon the promptings of the Holy Spirit within him (Rom. 8:5-9). See also James 1:14; Ephesians 2:3.

SATAN’S ORIGINAL VICTORY

It was in the areas of the world and the flesh that Satan won his original victory in the temptation of the first man and woman, and these are still his tactics today.

“For all that is in the world, the LUST OF THE FLESH (Craving for sensual gratification), and the LUST OF THE EYES (greedy longings of the mind) and the PRIDE OF LIFE (assurance in one’s own resources or in the stability of earthly things) – these do not come from the Father but are from the world (itself)” (1John 2:16 - Amplified)

Compare Eve’s Temptation With This Verse:

Genesis 3:6

- Good for FOOD
- Pleasing TO THE EYE
- Desirable for GAINING WISDOM

1 John 2:16

- “Lust of the flesh”
- “Lust of the eyes”
- “Pride of life”

Since the fall of Adam and Eve, all mankind has been governed by their flesh (the three things outlined above).

The flesh is also corrupted by a sinful nature (Gal. 5:19-21).

VICTORY WON BY CHRIST

Through His Life

Jesus was tempted in everything, exactly as we are, “yet was without sin” (Heb. 4:15).

Compare Jesus’ Temptation With this Verse

Luke 4: 1-13

- Stones to bread
- Kingdoms of the earth
- Pinnacle of the temple

1 John 2:16

- “Lust of the flesh”
- “Lust of the eyes”
- “Pride of Life”

Through His Death And Resurrection

Faith that appropriates (claims, receives) Christ’s work releases the Christian from the power and dominion that sin had over him (Rom. 8:9).

He is now free to choose to walk in obedience to God. (Rom. 6:8-14).

“For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man... in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature (flesh), but according to the Spirit (Rom. 8:3-4).

The CHRISTIAN’S CONTINUAL VICTORY

Based on the foundation of this great victory won for us by Christ, the Christian can now defeat any attack from the enemy. Here are seven keys to continual Victory:

Know The Victory Is Already Won

Because of his defeat at the Cross, the devil’s only strength now is found in a Christian’s ignorance (Hos. 4:6). But when a Christian knows the complete work of the Cross and Resurrection in his life, the devil is stripped of any weapon against him.

Walk In Step With The Spirit

A new power is placed within the Christian – the Holy Spirit Himself. We are to walk in obedience to His inner promptings day by day (Gal. 5:22-25).

Recognize Temptation for What It is

Temptation is NOT sin, YIELDING to temptation is! (Jas. 1:15). See Genesis 4:6-7.

Understand There is A Way of Escape Provided

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it” (1 Cor. 10:13). James 4:7 details the way of escape: Submit to God, resist the devil and he shall flee!

Keep The Right Focus in Life

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things” (Col. 3:1-2). See also Philippians 4:8; I Timothy 6:11-12; 2 Peter 3:11-13.

Keep Away From Obvious Areas Of Temptation

“I will set before my eyes no vile things” (Ps. 101:3). See also 1 Timothy 6:9-11.

Be Aware of Satan’s Scheme

It is important for us to know the tactics that the enemy uses against us so that we are not out-witted by him (2 Cor. 2:11).

He is a liar (John 8:44).

He is a slanderer and accuser (Rev. 12:10).

He is a deceiver (Rev. 12:9).

He is a tempter (Mat 4:1-11).

He is an oppressor (Acts 10:38).

He is a hinderer (1 Thes. 2:18).

He is as a roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:8).

He can transform himself into an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14).

As Christians / Believers, we are called to live in VICTORY! Through Christ, this victory is ours:

Over the world (1John 5:4).

Over the flesh (Gal. 5:16).

Over the enemy (Eph. 6:11,13)

MY COMMITMENT

I thank God for His promise to deliver me during time of temptation. I commit myself to respond to His help which is always available so that I can live in victory. I will share this truth with others also.

LESSON 24 -- FELLOWSHIP

A. THE PURPOSE OF FELLOWSHIP

The fellowship of Christians together is very important, for it is in our unity together that.....

1. The Believer Is Encouraged And Grows In Christ

“I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong – that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith” (Rom 1:11-12).

2. The World Comes To Know That Jesus Was Sent Of God

“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete. Unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (John 17:22-23).

B. CONDITIONS OF FELLOWSHIP.

1. A Basic Commitment To One Another

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves” (Rom. 12:10). Without a basic trust there can be no fellowship. The depth of fellowship will vary according to the depth of commitment.

Our Commitment Must Be Based On ‘Agape’

‘Agape’ is a one-way love, which loves ‘in spite of, not ‘because of.’ In other words it is sacrificial, giving without expecting a return. Such a commitment therefore will not be affected by the other person’s inconsistent behavior.

“A new commandment I give you: Love and another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another” (John 13:34).

True Fellowship is Christ-Centered

Our fellowship with one another is founded in our common commitment to Christ.

“...And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ” (1John 1:3). See also Philippians 2:1-2.

4. Walking in The Light

Our fellowship embraces the need to be open, honest and truthful with one another. This at times may mean:

Confessing Our Own Sins To Others, Or Lovingly Covering Another’s Sin.

“If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin” (1John 1:6-7). See also Matthew 18:15.

Obedience To The Light – general and specific commandments God has given.

The removal of any Masks Or False Coverings.

So much of the world’s fellowship is hypocritical -acting out a role, and not genuine.

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the Hearts” (1 Pet. 1:22).

A Genuine Interest In The Other’s Well Being

There should be no hidden motives of self-gain. Our desire should be to give, not to get.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Phil. 2:3-4).

A Willingness To Lay Down One’s Life

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends: (John 15:12,3).

Life involves more than physical life. It also includes our material possessions, our personal interests and preferences, etc. (Jas. 2:15,16). This also means a willingness to openly share of one’s self. We can only know people to the extent they are prepared to reveal themselves.

C. FELLOWSHIP IN THE CHURCH MEANS.....

Sharing All Things

There were three stages of development in their fellowship in Act 4:32 – firstly, they were of one heart (spirit), then they were of one soul (mind), and then followed the physical expression of having all things in common.

“All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they have to anyone as he had need” (Act 2:44-45).

Laying Down Their Lives

“Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them” (Rom. 16:3-4).

Devoted To Serving The Brethren

“You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints...” (1Cor. 16:15).

Being A Channel Of Supply To Others In Need

“At the present time you plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality (2 Cor. 8:14). See also 1 Corinthians 16:17).

Sharing in Sufferings

“Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles” (Phil. 4:14).

Sacrificial Giving

“Our of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability” (2 Cor. 8:2-3).

7. Practicing Hospitality

“Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the strangers to you” (3 John 5). See also Hebrews 13:2.

8. Building Up And Encouraging One Another

We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us” (1 Thes. 2:8). See 2 Timothy 3:10-14.

D. RESULTS OF FELLOWSHIP

The results of fellowship in the early Church were:

- a fear of God (Acts 2:43);
- joy (Act 2:46);
- favour with all people (Act 2:47);
- addition of new believers (Act 2:47)
- all needs supplied (Phil. 4:19)
- emergence of leadership (1Cor. 16:15- 16).

MY COMMITMENT

Though this study I now understand the importance of having fellowship continually with other Christians. Today I commit myself to being a part of a group of believers to whom I will give my loyalty, my love and my service.

Additional notes for teachers on: Growing in Grace

NOTES ON LESSONS 1 + 2.

The purpose of this lesson is give the believer confidence based on God's Word that their salvation is assured and that their security is because of the work of God in their lives.

Some of the reasons why even believers doubt their salvation are:

- their feelings go up and down: sometimes they feel spiritual and sometimes not so. When they feel “low”, some people start doubting their salvation.
- their prayers are not answered; unanswered prayer can lead to Christians losing faith and in turn doubting their salvation.
- their lives are not ‘perfect’ and because of this they feel that they are not saved.
- they go through difficulties and because of their difficulties lose their faith.

The answers to these doubts are:

Our salvation is not based on our ‘works’, neither on our feelings. Our salvation is primarily based on what Christ has done for us on the cross of Calvary, the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing conviction of sin and an understanding of God’s grace and our response in repentance and faith. Salvation is the work of God and our response is faith to His working in our lives.

Unanswered prayer is usually either because we ask with the wrong motives or what we have asked for is not good for us. Prayers not answered may only be delayed with the answer coming at a later time. The topic of unanswered prayer is big enough to warrant a full teaching on it. The important point to note for this lesson is that unanswered prayer should not be used to conclude that God does not love us and that we are not saved or that God is not a prayer answering God.

Our assurance of salvation is also because God has given us the Holy Spirit who seals us until the final day of redemption. (Eph. 1: 13-14). Also our position now is that of adopted sons and daughters of God as our heavenly father.

As preparation for the study in lesson 2 read additional passages of Scripture which you will find useful like:

- Rom. 8:28 - 39
- Eph. 4:30
- 1John 1:9
- Phil. 1:3 – 6
- Jas. 1:2 – 4
- Ps. 23, 91, 103

NOTES ON LESSON 3.

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce the new Christian to three important aspects of his Christian life: Love, Faith and Living Righteously.

The context to this lesson is the distinction between the Christian’s ‘position’ in Christ and his ‘walk’ in Christ. When a person is ‘born again’, he becomes a new creation in Christ, we learnt

this in Lesson 2, as the person's sins are forgiven and he becomes an adopted child of God. This is the Christian's 'position' in Christ.

In contrast to this, the Christian's daily life following his salvation is his 'walk' in Christ. This lesson emphasises the importance of growing in love, faith and holiness as the Christian continues in his walk with Christ.

Question 2 brings out the difference between the works of the 'flesh' or the carnal nature, which is the nature that controlled us before we were born again, and the fruit of the 'Spirit'. When we are born again, the Holy Spirit takes residence in our lives and we need to live a Spirit controlled life. A point to note here is the term 'fruit' for the various character traits of the Spirit controlled life. Natural fruits take time to grow and ripen and so to do spiritual fruits. It is important to explain to new believers, that Christian character does not 'appear' in our lives immediately we are born again but that we need to grow in our Christian character even as we submit our wills to the Holy Spirit on a daily basis.

Questions 5,6 and 7 are on our attitude to our bodies with regard to holy living. The key here is the understanding that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and we therefore need to keep our bodies away from sin. Rom. 12:1 exhorts us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. After covering questions 5,6 and 7 it might be appropriate to encourage the student to:

reflect on their lifestyle and if necessary repent of their sin
to recommit their lives and especially their bodies to living under the control of the indwelling Spirit.

Question 8 to 10 which are on love emphasise the importance of loving others. You may wish to also cover I Cor. 13 to bring out the different practical aspects of loving others.

Question 11 to 15 are on faith. As a background to these questions, it is useful to differentiate between saving faith which is the faith we have in the finished work of Christ on Calvary which has bought us our salvation and what we call 'day to day' faith which is the trust we put in Christ in our daily lives for the various situations we come across and need to live through. We are called to grow in our trust and faith in Christ which is one of the important character traits of the mature Christian.

NOTES ON LESSON 4.

The objective of this lesson is to emphasise the importance of prayer, Bible study and witnessing for an individual's spiritual growth.

The lesson is very easy to understand and does not require any explanation in these notes.

However, kindly note the following:

Regular Bible reading/study as well as praying regularly requires discipline and commitment. The church members should be encouraged to make that effort and be committed to this.

From a practical point of view, it is very useful to have a fixed time of Bible study and personal prayer. Encourage the church members to fix a suitable time – when they would normally not be disturbed – and to keep this time every day for their 'quiet time', a time alone with God.

In addition to a personal individual prayer time, members need to be encouraged to participate in group prayer activities and to regularly attend church prayer meetings.

Regarding witnessing, many feel it difficult to witness. If this is on account of the fear of man, there may be a need for repentance from this and prayer that God's anointing will give them the boldness to witness..

As a part of this teaching, it will be useful to also study the importance of attending church service regularly (Heb. 10:25).

Question 1, 9 and 10 highlight:

Satan is the Christian's greatest enemy.

Satan tries to spiritually blind us

Satan deceives us by sometimes appearing as an angel of light. This brings out the fact that Satan not only tempts us openly but uses deception and cunning to try and bring about our fall.

Questions 2 –8 and 11 – 14 are the provision of God and the steps we need to take so that we live victoriously.

The provision of God:

The Lord gives us strength – Phil. 4:13, Luke 10:19

God is faithful to not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear and always provides us with a way out – I Cor. 10:13

The Holy Spirit gives us power – Act 1:8

The sword of the Spirit, the word of God gives us power to fight the attacks of Satan –Eph. 6:17

Our faith – I John 5:4

The steps we need to take:

We must submit to God and resist the devil – James 4:7

We must walk in the Spirit – Gal.5:16

We must put on the armour of God – Eph. 6:13:17

We must use the word of God – Matt. 4:4,7,10; Ps. 119:11

Question 15 and 16 are on the final destruction of Satan that Jesus had come to destroy the works of Satan and that he would finally be thrown into the lake of fire to be tormented for ever.

NOTES ON LESSON 5.

This is a lesson on the basics of Spiritual Warfare. The lesson assumes that the reader knows that Satan is the tempter. However, it may be necessary to also study the reality of the Devil and his efforts to bring into defeat and sin every believer.

The New Testament refers to Satan as the Devil, Beelzebub, the prince of this world – John 14:30, the prince of the power of the air – Eph. 2:2. Satan is hostile to God and works to overthrow the purposes of God.

Jesus was severely tempted at the beginning of his ministry - Matt. 4 and Luke 4. He 'was tempted in all points as we are' – Heb. 4:15. This conflict was significant as Jesus had come into the world with the express purpose of destroying the works of the devil – 1 John 3:8.

Satan is continuously opposed to God's people. Christians are engaged in a conflict that is both on going and cunningly waged. However, when we resist Satan he flees from us – Jas. 4:7.

Satan continues to tempt man. The ways in which he does so are:

by manipulating circumstances with in the limits that God allows him – Job 1:12; 2:6; I Cor. 10:13.

through hardship and pain – Job 1:11 – 2:7; I Pet. 5:9; Rev. 2:10.

by urging them to a wrong fulfillment of natural desires – Matt. 4:3-11; I Cor. 7:5.

by making them complacent, careless and self assertive – Gal. 6:1; Eph. 4:27.

by misrepresenting God to them and engendering false ideas of His truth and His will – Gen. 3:1-5; II Cor. 11:3; Matt. 4:5 –11; II Cor. 11:14; Eph. 6:11.

The desire to yield to sin is our own and it is fatal to yield to it – Jas. 1: 13-15. Jesus taught his disciples to ask God not to expose them to temptation but to watch and pray lest they yield to its pressure – Matt. 6:13; Matt. 26:14. Temptation is not sin for Christ was tempted as we are and yet

remained sinless. Temptation becomes sin only when and as the suggestion of evil is accepted and yielded to.

This lesson identifies some of the activities of Satan as well as the provision that God has made to enable us to overcome Satan and temptation.

NOTES ON LESSON 6.

There are seven questions in this lesson. The answers to the questions are broadly:

Question 1: The church is a 'body' with Christ the head of the body and each believer a part or member of the body.

Question 2: The proof of our love for Christ is our obedience to His commandments.

Question 3: On accepting the message, the early Christians were baptised. The Christians then devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Question 4: Christians should not neglect meeting together in fellowship.

Question 5: Christ is at the right hand of the Father interceding for us.

Question 6: Christ prays that his people be protected from the evil one and that they be sanctified.

Question 7: This question identifies some of the purposes of the church.

In the introduction to his lesson, a distinction is made between the universal church and the local church. This is an important distinction. Some references in the Bible to local churches are: Acts 5:11; 13:1; 18:22; I Cor. 1:2; I Thes. 1:1 and references to the universal church are Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23, 26-28.

Another very basic but important point is that the church is not a building but is the people who belong to God through faith in Christ. All those who know Christ as their personal Lord and Savior belong to His church. Christians some times talk of 'attending church' – we do not attend church; we are the church! However, we do gather together to worship, to break bread, for fellowship and to hear sound biblical teaching. This assembling together comes from the Greek word 'ecclesia' which is often translated as 'church'. Question 3 in the lesson identifies activities that we carry out when we assemble together. Question 4 emphasises the importance of meeting or assembling together.

Question 1 brings out the very important truth that the church is the body of Christ with Jesus the head and each believer a member of that body. The headship of Jesus is then taken up in Question 2 where we, as members of His body, are required to obey His commandments as He is the head. Our obedience of Him is the indicator of our acknowledging His headship over our lives.

The role of believers, as members of His body, is to be emphasised. I Cor. 12 and 14 need to be read to appreciate that each member has to function and contribute to the life of the church. At the same time each member is different with each having a different role to play. It is only when each member functions in the church that the church will be effective and further, the members themselves will grow to fulfill God's purposes for them.

The contribution of each member is often related to their spiritual as well as natural gifts. Try to identify as to what your 'gifts' are and whether or not those abilities and gifts are being put to use for the blessing of the church. Further, each one should be encouraged to participate and contribute at the meeting - I Cor. 14:26.

Another characteristic of the church is the equality of all in the church – Gal. 3:28. All are one in Christ, all are equal in Christ.

Question 5 and 6 highlight that Jesus is interceding for us and is at the right hand of the Father. Also, his prayer for the church was that the church be sanctified and protected from the evil one. (See John 17 in full)

Question 7 brings out the purposes of the church – what the church has to do and what it has to become

NOTES ON LESSON 7.

In this lesson, the two Church ordinances that are covered are BAPTISM and THE LORD'S SUPPER. The notes to this lesson are in two parts: part A covers Baptism and part B covers the Lord's Supper.

PART - A: BAPTISM

In the lesson there are only 4 questions on baptism; the first question is on John's baptism, the second on Jesus' baptism, the third on the command that Jesus gave to his disciples to baptise believers and the fourth on the meaning of baptism.

Further points that need to be considered and studied are:

Christian baptism symbolises union with Christ (Gal. 3: 26-27), remission of sins (Acts 2:38), identification with Christ in His death, to sin and resurrection to new life (Rom. 6:3-5), and becoming a member of the body of Christ (The blessings of baptism are received by faith (Rom. 6:8-11).

Baptism is a public proclamation to oneself, the world, to principalities and powers of darkness and to God that the person is born again, a new creation in Christ and dead to the past and the old way of life.

Baptism is by immersion. This is in line with Biblical practice, also with the Greek word "baptizo" – to immerse, from which the English word baptism symbolises death and burial of the old man and resurrection to life of the new man in Christ.

Baptism is of believers – those who have already given their lives to Christ. Baptism does not make a person a Christian believer – it symbolises the change that has already taken place. Infant baptism is therefore meaningless. The Bible tells us to 'believe and be baptised' which obviously infants cannot do.

There is blessing in baptism because it is an important step of obedience. Many believers have found deliverance and a greater commitment to Christ after their baptism. Because of the spiritual importance of baptism, the Devil usually brings opposition to one's baptism.

Baptism brings about a cutting off of the past. The impact of this in the life of believers especially those coming from non Christian backgrounds is very great. Those who are born again should therefore be encouraged to take baptism as soon as possible. However, if there is opposition to baptism, in the case of minors or married women, the consent of the parents /husband should be obtained by the one who is getting baptised.

PART - B: THE LORD'S SUPPER

Our overall understanding of the Lord's Supper can be strengthened by seeing it in the following structure:

PERTAINING TO THE INDIVIDUAL:

PAST: Remember – a) What Jesus has done for man through his death.

The sufferings that Jesus went through

The way we were saved when we received Christ into our hearts through the grace of God.

PRESENT: - Ask for forgiveness for present sins.

- Acknowledge that we have been saved by grace

Re-commit to obedience to Christ

Appropriate renewal and strengthening through participating in the Lord's Supper by faith.

FUTURE: Look forward with expectancy to His second coming.

PREPARING for the Lord's Supper:

We are called to discern the Body while partaking. Also we partake of the one body symbolised by the bread. In the Corinthian Church, while partaking of the Lord's Supper individuals behaved selfishly without considering others and therefore were judged. All this shows that the Lord's Supper also symbolises the unity of the church in terms of love for one another, good relationships with each other and a common goal and vision.

Therefore, while partaking of the Lord's Supper, it is also important that church members examine themselves in terms of their relationship with each other and with the whole church.

The Lord's Supper could be used not only as a time of self examination and drawing close to God but also as a time of celebration – celebrating His goodness to us and celebrating the love we have for each other because of His working in our lives.

SOME MORE QUESTIONS AND THEIR ANSWERS:

Can children take communion before they are baptised?

Yes, if their parents are believers, they have been brought up in the knowledge of Christ and they are old enough to understand its meaning.

Who should administer communion – priests or the laity?

All believers are 'priests' unto God. The traditional differentiation between priests or those who have been ordained and those who are not is man made. Any one who knows Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior can partake in the Lord's Supper and if required, administer the Lord's Supper.

If you are in sin, can you partake?

No. However, the time of communion could be used as a time for repentance and after repenting, the believer can definitely partake.

Should non-believers be prevented from partaking?

The practice followed is that at the time of serving communion, it is announced that all those who know Jesus as Lord and Savior can partake and that those who have not experienced His Lordship or do not even understand what is being announced are requested not to partake. Further, the request should be made that those who wish to know more about the meaning of communion could meet the leaders after the service for an explanation. After this, it is the responsibility of the individual whether to partake or not.

NOTES ON LESSON 8.

The lesson is well written and covers the main points regarding giving. The answers to the questions are:

Our hearts (ourselves and not just our money)

To God. We are not our own, we have been brought with a price. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

We need to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. Here, the word bodies do not just represent our physical bodies but our very selves which includes our physical bodies.

Our love.

It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Give and it will be given unto you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

No. (However, wisdom should be used in giving and lending as it could lead to unhealthy dependency.)

To the giver.

Give freely. Also give without making a display or public show of it. (Matt. 8:1-4)

A cheerful giver. This brings out the attitude while giving – not under compulsion or grudgingly but with joy.

A few questions on giving that are commonly asked:

Is it necessary to give a tenth?

The old testament law required a tenth. We are now under grace and not under law. However, the standard of godly living that Jesus has set for us in the new covenant is much higher than that of the old. Therefore, the old covenant requirement of giving a tenth should be considered only a minimum and we who belong to Christ should give even more than that.

To whom should we give the tithe?

Tithes should be given to the church where one is having fellowship and is being spiritually blessed. It is recommended that the first tenth is definitely given to the church and if other ministries are to be supported, this is done through offerings which are above the tithe. The practice of spreading the tithe to different ministries and churches needs to be discouraged.

What is the reason for giving tithes and offerings? Is it primarily to receive God's blessings?

Tithes are given to acknowledge the Lordship of God and the fact that all blessings and abilities come from God. All that we have belongs to Him. Therefore the first tenth of all we earn is given to Him as a tithe as an indicator of this. God in turn looking at the attitude of our hearts blesses us and we receive much more than was given. But the motive of giving should never be to get. We give because of our love and gratitude to God and our acknowledgement that we are only giving back a small part of what He Himself has given to us.

NOTES ON LESSON 9.

This lesson which is on living at home covers two important aspects:

Handling opposition to one's faith in the home and

Bringing up children.

Another important aspect of 'living at home' is the husband wife relationship. Though the main lesson does not cover this, these notes include some important truth on the marriage relationship.

Relationships at home:

The Bible teaches the Christian to maintain good relationships with all. However, in the home when one person is a Christian and the others in the home are not, conflicts can quite easily arise. It is necessary for the Christian in those circumstances to stand for his faith and maintain his Christian testimony and not compromise. At the same time, his attitude to the other family members should not be one of superiority or antagonism but of love. Also, endless arguments about the superiority of one's faith do more harm than good. It is better if the Christian's life bears testimony to the greatness of the Christian Faith rather than just the words of the Christian.

Parent – Child relationship:

In the Ephesians 6 passage, children are called to obey their parents 'in the Lord', thus children need to obey and honour their parents. The only exception is if the parents are clearly asking them to do things which are sinful and against the will of the Lord.

Parents in turn need to love and care for their children. Parents need to realise that they are stewards and are accountable to God for their children. They need to love them, care for them,

protect them and develop them so that children receive the right foundations to be effective and mature adults with a clear commitment to Christ when they grow up.

As a part of the parenting process, parents do need to discipline their children but never in anger and frustration. The purpose of discipline is the development of the child. Also, discipline is a part of the overall training that the child receives from the parents.

The husband – wife relationship:

The main Biblical passage which explains this relationship Eph. 5:21 –33. The key learning that we get from this passage is:

Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for the Church.

Husbands are to love their wives even as they love their own bodies as the husband and wife are 'one'.

Wives are to submit to their husbands.

The Bible very clearly teaches that in Christ ALL are equal; male, female, slave, free... Women are not inferior to men. However in the family relationship, it is the husband who holds the 'office' or 'position' of headship. That is why the wife needs to submit to the husband.

Here again, when the husband loves his wife and is willing to sacrifice himself for her, the wife will most willingly submit to her husband knowing that the husband has only her good in his heart. The submission of the wife to the husband is the same as the requirement that the church submits to Christ – willingly and fully confident that Christ will look after his bride, the church.

The other important scripture on marriage relationships is in Gen. 2. The need for open communication, trust, expression of affection and the physical side of the marriage relationship are brought out here.

NOTES ON LESSON 10.

This lesson covers the three topics: saying grace before meals, eating and drinking and fasting. The three topics are covered adequately in the lesson. This note gives some corrections and clarifications. I Cor. 10:23-24.

Regarding section B on eating and drinking, it will be useful to consider that God is the provider and that He will meet our needs. Question 3 brings out the difference between needs and wants and that God meets our needs and not necessarily our wants.

Section C which is on fasting does not bring out the different types of fasts in the Bible – a partial fast, a fast where only solid food is not taken, a fast where one goes without both solids and liquids, a one meal fast, a one day fast, a fast for a few days, an extended fast. The longest duration of a fast recorded in the Bible is the 40 day fast. In fasting, from a practical point of view, it is wise to start with fasts of lesser duration and then build up to longer fasts.

Isaiah 58, which is used extensively in this section, actually highlights that in addition to fasting, it is necessary for our lives to be righteous and for us to live lives which are considerate and caring for others as a prerequisite for our prayers to be heard. Fasting by itself is not adequate.

NOTES ON LESSON 11.

This lesson covers cleanliness, clothing and conversation.

NOTE: 1 Cor. 3:17 provides the answer to this question. However, the interpretation of this verse that God's Temple is our physical body as in 1 Cor. 6:20 is an incorrect interpretation. In 1 Cor. 3:17, God's Temple refers to the local church.

We need to be holy because our God is a holy God. The question however implies that God wants us to be physically clean because He is a Holy God. This is an incorrect interpretation. We are called, to be holy and ‘clean – spiritually through holy living’ because of the Holiness of our God. Extending this to physical cleanliness is not supported by this verse.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON SECTION A:

Physical cleanliness is important. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and we are called to honour God with our bodies. Keeping our bodies physically clean is one of the ways of honouring God with our bodies.

Being physically clean is also good for our health and honouring God with our bodies includes caring for it and looking after its health. The Bible often uses physical cleanliness as symbolic of living a pure and holy life, and thus it would be an appropriate time to remind yourself about the importance of being spiritually clean by being washed with the blood of Christ and also the need to live a clean life which is righteous and pure.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON SECTION B:

The clothes that one wears are important because they present an image about you to others. A dirtily dressed man for instance could be taken for a drunkard – the cause of his clothes getting dirty. A person wearing a policeman’s uniform would immediately be taken for a policeman. In the New Testament, the Bible does not recommend any specific types of dress that Christians need to wear. Some general principles are:

We are Christ’s ambassadors and therefore need to present a neat and clean appearance.

We are not to be bound by the fashions of the world as being fashionable could become a bondage and an idol in our lives.

The money that we spend on clothes should not be wasteful.

Men and women should dress with decency so that their attire does not entice sexually.

God has made men and women to be different. The Bible requires that in their dress this difference needs to be

reflected. A man wanting to be like a woman or a woman wanting to be like a man and dressing to reflect this is not right. However, in today’s world, there is a lot of commonality both in attire and hair styles between men and women. We should not be legalistic in judging this as what the Bible is really against is not so much the external but the heart attitude – the desire for a man to make on the role of a woman and vice versa.

COMMENTS ON SECTION C:

God’s name should not be used casually or flippantly. Phrases like ‘O GOD’, ‘MY GOD’, ‘CHRIST’, should not be used as a part of normal conversation.

NOTES ON LESSON 12.

The practical implication of knowing that our citizenship is in heaven is to move away from the worldly value of living a self-centered life and to live a life pleasing to God and a blessing to others.

For this lesson other references to be studied are: Eph. 6: 5 – 9; Dan. 6: 1 – 5.

NOTES ON LESSON 13.

This lesson brings out the important Biblical truth that we need to earn our livelihood. That God has set down standards regarding the way we need to carry out our employment responsibilities.

That the way we relate to our superiors and our subordinates in our work situation needs to be according to God's Word.

NOTES ON LESSON 15.

In this lesson, the three topics covered are: lawsuits and disputes among Christians, enemies and persecution. Section A which is on lawsuits and disputes actually covers two sub topics: i) lawsuits and ii) dealing with a Christian brother who sins against you. Questions 1 and 2 are specifically on lawsuits while question 3 to 10 are on handling a brother who sins against you. The need to make this distinction arises as in a dispute, each party to the dispute believes he is right and therefore the need for a third party to bring a judgment on the dispute. However, in the case of a brother sinning, the issue is more of bringing the brother in repentance and restoring him both in his walk with Christ as well as in his relationship with the brother against whom he committed the sin.

The three steps for dealing with enemies in I Pet. 2:23 are very practical and at the same time very important for a Christian to follow. Unfortunately, when there is opposition, there is such a strong tendency in us to fight back that we give in to this. By fighting back, we must realise that we are not following in the footsteps of our Master!

NOTES ON LESSON 16.

Comments on idolatry

God, the Creator of heaven and earth, made men to love, worship and enjoy Him forever. As our Maker, He alone is worthy of our devotion and worship. Since God is a spirit, that means a spirit – being (John 4:24), it is foolish to try to make a representation of Him. The Bible teaches us that God does not live in shrines made by man (Act 17:24), nor is the Deity like gold, or silver, or stone, a representation by the art and imagination of man (v. 29).

God alone deserves the first place in our lives. Any thing that takes the place of God is called an idol. As such idols can be objects which people worship (Rom. 1: 18 –32), but it could also be money, sports, prestige, or even one's spouse or child! We have to realise that it is Satan's trick, trying to bring idols into our lives, to take us away from our love for and serving of Jesus Christ our Lord!

Idolatry has its roots in ancient religions where secret rites and the worship of objects were practiced, and in this way the doors to the occult world of Satan's power were opened.

God warns us in His Word not to keep nor to worship idols, because:

- (a) the powers behind the idols are demons (Deut. 32:16-17, Ps. 106: 35 – 38, I Cor. 10:20)
- (b) you dishonour and disobey God Himself, and come under His divine curse and punishment (Ex. 20: 3 – 5)
- (c) you (and your house) become accursed (Deut. 7: 25 – 26)

The foolishness of idolatry is furthermore described in detail in Is. 44: 9 – 20. And therefore one should keep away from it ! (I Cor. 10: 14, I John 5: 21)

Comments on witchcraft

Ever since man's disobedience in paradise, the rebellious person has been trying "to be like God" (Gen. 3: 5). Instead of subjecting himself to God, man has sought other gods he can manipulate and so make himself powerful.

Rebellion against God's authority equals the sin of witchcraft (I Sam. 15:23). One becomes his own authority and assumes the role of God. As such witchcraft is just a part of the whole realm of the occult, in which:

- (a) man seeks to manipulate, dominate and control others through supernatural means
- (b) man tries to obtain power over the gods.

Occult practices are carried out by: those who practice divination, witchcraft, interpret omens, sorcerers, one who casts spells, a medium, a spiritist or one who calls upon the dead (Deut. 18:10-11). The Bible says in Deut. 18:12 “that whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord. “Therefore, let us not be deceived by the supernatural counterfeit of Satan, but as sons of God we should seek the Lord, abide by the Word and be led by His Spirit!

Opening one’s life to the occult brings bondage and ultimate destruction. Popular doors through which Satan tries to bring people in bondage are: palm reading, ouija boards, horoscope, magic, witchcraft, hypnosis, good luck charms, drugs, sexual deviations, heavy – metal hard rock music, etc.,

Praise God, there is deliverance from these bondages through Jesus!

Curses and occult roots can be broken and cut off by (Jas. 4:7):

- (1) Confession of faith in Jesus Christ and acceptance of His authority over you.
- (2) Confession of occult sins and repentance thereof
- (3) Renunciation of Satan and powers of darkness with the command to depart
- (4) Prayer of deliverance and ministry of the Holy Spirit. After this it’s important to walk in obedience to God’s Word, grow strong in knowing His truth and keep resisting the enemy.

NOTES ON LESSON 19.

Death is used in four different ways in the Bible.

Physical death – all bodily functions stop.

Spiritual death – Man is separated from God, is not responsive towards God, is hostile to God. This is caused by sin Gen. 2:17, Rom. 6:23, Eph. 2:1

Second death – the permanent separation from God that is the destiny of the unrighteous. Rev 2:11, 20:6, 14 -15, 21:8.

Death to sin – this is the believer’s being set free from the hold of sin. Rom. 6:4, 6,11.

Physical and spiritual death is the result of sin. As all have sinned, death is the lot of all mankind. Rom. 3:23, 5:12, 6:23, Heb. 9:27

Christ has won the victory over sin and death:

Taken away its power. Rom. 6:9; Col. 1:16; 2 Tim. 1:10

Set free its captives. Rom. 8:2, 38 –39; Heb. 2:14- 15

Will fully destroy it through his second coming. I Cor. 15: 23-26, 54-55; Rev. 20:14; 21:4.

Death for the believer is the departure from this life into the immediate presence of the Lord. Luke 23:43,46; II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23.

Through resurrection, the believer becomes immortal. I Cor. 15: 52 – 54.

PRAYER POWER

Chapter 1 - Seeking God

Those who seek me shall find me if they seek me with all their heart [Jeremiah 29:13]

What does God promise to those who seek Him?

Jeremiah 29:12-14 -----

Isaiah 55:6-7 -----

James 4:8-9 -----

Closer to God

What is one way James gives for us to come close to God (4:8)?

Another way in James 4:10? -----

What do you think James means by “A double minded” man in James 1:8?

What is a wrong motivation to pray according to James 4:3?

What was the wrong motivation of the people who sought Jesus in John 6:26?

What problem is solved by seeking God in Psalm 34:4?

How does God want us to seek Him (Jeremiah 29:13)?

Amos 4:6-12

What events did God use to call the people to return to Him?

To what does the psalmist compare his desire for God (Psalm 42:1)?

What does God promise to His friends in Psalm 73:23-24; Psalm 91:14-16?

What does God offer to those who seek Him in Amos 5:6 and Psalm 69:32?

Daniel sought God at an open window. What penalty was he willing to face rather than stop seeking God (Daniel 6:7-10)? -----

2 Chronicles 15

What problems were the people of Judah facing in this situation?

How did they hear the call to seek God? -----

How did King Asa respond to God's call to seek Him (v. 8-9)?

What actions did the people do as they sought God (v. 10-18)?

b-----

e-----
How did God come to the people and bless them when they sought Him? (v. 15)

What did King Asa do when he stopped seeking the Lord (II Chron.16:2)?

What happened to him as a result of this? (v. 7-9)

What does it mean to pray in the name of Jesus (John 14:13)?

What could you be doing to fulfill the Word of God in Psalm 37:4?

What do you think Jesus meant in His call to pray when He included the command Seek and you shall find (Matthew 7:7)? -----

13 . Give examples of how God “rewards” those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6ff.).

14. How does the Psalmist pray for repentance in Psalm 139:23-24?

15. What four things does God ask His people to do for their country? (2 Chron. 7:14)

a. ----- b. ----- c. ----- d. -----

In response, what three things does God promise to do?

a. ----- b. ----- c. -----

MEMORY VERSES: 1) You seek God a) Heb. 11:6; b) Jer. 29:13
2) Let God search you a) Ps. 139:23-24; b) Ps. 26:2

For Personal Application and Discussion

What can you do to practice the presence of God? How can you seek a higher level of intimacy? Remember men like Abraham, Moses or Elijah who talked with God as a friend.

Do you speak that way with God?

Is it true the more people love each other, the more they share little things? Do you feel that some little things are too small to discuss with God? How often in a day do you talk to God?

Write a Valentine to God telling Him how much and why you love Him, “I love you, Father (or Jesus), because ----- .”

At what points in your life do you argue with God? Are there things that you have not totally surrendered to Him? Is there someone you find hard to forgive?

Do you expect God to answer you by giving you guidance? Do you often change your mind about something after praying?

What changes are you aware of in your life because of the indwelling of Jesus?

Make a specific time or schedule to help you become a praying person. But speak to God at all times, not just at scheduled times.

Here is something that could be a real blessing to you. Use a notebook to make a journal of your prayers. Also write God’s answers, whatever you think He is telling you. Then later read it over and note how God answered your prayers.

Write a prayer thanking God for things you appreciate, like flowers, breeze, ocean, gifts of love, friendship, joy, etc.

Prayer to Seek God

Dear Father in heaven, help us to seek You with our whole and pure hearts. Bring us also to abide in Your Son, Jesus, that we may pray in the center of your will. We would lay aside our sins, placing them on Jesus, knowing that You receive us as your children. Show us our hearts and expose any attitude that is not contrite and humble, and any thought that is not captive to your Word. Let us feel no satisfaction until we experience the tears and Joy of repentance and walk intimately with You.

We know that You’re not hard to find, You’re waiting for us. Share Yourself with us, dear Father, as we enter Your Holy of Holies through the blood of Jesus, where He invites us to sit with Him on the throne. Come Lord Jesus, live and abide in us. We open the door to Your presence. Fill us with

a new dedication and a new commitment of our lives to You. Teach us to pray, that our prayers may not be mechanical rituals of human effort but expression of the desires of Your heart, spirit. Amen.

Chapter 2 - Prayer of agreement

“Again I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.” (Matthew 18:19).

To what blessings does the **Psalm 133** compare unity among brethren?

(See **Joshua 7:1-21**). What sin of Achan broke the unity of Israel?

What happened to the whole nation as a result of this sin?

How did Joshua eradicate the sin and restore unity to the body of Israel?

What sin of Ananias and Sapphira threatened to destroy the unity in the early church in **Acts 5**?

How did God cleanse the church of the possible disunity?

Ephesians 4:1-3 What does the apostle exhort the church to maintain?

- What ways does Paul cite for the church to maintain its unity?

Ephesians 4:25 -----

Ephesians 4:26 -----

V. 28 -----

V. 31 -----

V. 32 -----

- **5.** How does the book of **Acts** describe the prayer of the founding church in chapter **1:14**?

What signs do we see of the unity this body in Acts 2:42-46? (Look for at least four)

What happens in a worship service to build and maintain unity so the body may be praying in full agreement? -----

With whom can you join in a prayer of agreement

In your home? -----

Friend or prayer partner? -----

Study group? -----

Church leaders? -----

Congregation? -----

What attitudes or hindrances might be present in a group that may inhibit the power of prayer?

Joshua 7:11-12 -----

Matthew 17:19-20 -----

(Another) -----

Name several **areas in which we need to agree** to have a genuine unity?

List examples of how experiences, faith, or spiritual gifts present in a group help release the power of God for others.

In Acts 4:24-32 the founding church prayed corporately.

What was the source for most of the words in their prayer?

What two specific things did they ask for?

How did God show His presence and power at once?

What is the importance of verse 32 in connection with corporate prayer?

In Acts 13:1-6 What were things that happened during the corporate worship?

A. Verse 1: The presence of ----- and -----

Verse 2: Their way of prayer -----

Verse 3: Who spoke to them? -----

Verse 4: The results -----

MEMORY VERSES: 1) Agree in Prayer a) Matthew 18:19 b) James 5:16

For Personal Application and Discussion

How can you strengthen your prayer life this week? Do you have a prayer partner? Do you have a schedule for family prayer?
How can you communicate love to others through prayer? How can you use prayer to resolve a difference or argument with another Christian?
In your prayer group have more than one person pray for each important need. Express agreement, and add to prayer of each other to discuss it with God.
Have you ever felt like you should pray for someone at a particular time though you didn't know what was happening then?
Can you share a testimony of an answered prayer? Can you tell others how much their testimonies strengthened and encouraged you?
What are some strategies of Satan to harm the church? How would he use the "divide and conquer" strategy?

Prayer for Power through Unity

Heavenly Father, You proclaimed through the Psalmist how good pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity (Ps. 133). Lord Jesus, You prayed that those who believe in You should be one as You and the Father are one (John 17:21). You have commanded us to seek the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace.....until we all come to the unity of the faith. [Eph. 4:13]. We pray that your word will penetrate our hearts like a laser beams to cut out all division, selfishness, and ego problems that may hinder us from submitting to one another and seeking your blessing for one another in prayer.

As you have promised to hear the prayer of two or three united in agreement we ask that you strengthen our prayers and empower our lives that all the things that are on your heart may also be on our lips. May our prayers release your abundance in every way, in Jesus name, Amen.

Chapter 3 - Praise power

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him (Psalm 33:1).

How does each of the following verses tell of the **purposes of God in creation?**

Psalm 19:1-6

Romans 1:20

Psalm 100:1-3

Psalm 103:22

How does Psalm 104 praise God for his creation?

Psalm 139:14-16

How do we praise God for creating us?

How would such praise help us to appreciate our bodies ?

Give an example of a particular organ or function of your body that you think is wonderfully made. Why?

In Phil 4:4 Paul tells us to rejoice in the Lord ? What is to accompany our prayers (vs.6)?

How was Paul persecuted on his first visit to Philippi? [Acts16:19-40]

How did Paul and Silas respond to the abuse and injuries they received?

c) What happened as a result of their praise?

Where was Paul when he wrote his letter to the Philippians? (Phil. 1:13)

What did he consider may happen to him? [Phil 1:23]

What does this say to us about praising God, rejoicing and giving thanks?

Zeph 3:17

How does God express His delight in us?

What might we do to respond to God's jubilant delight in us?

Psalm 98

What is called to respond to God in praise?

What are the forms of praise mentioned in this Psalm?

To what does this Psalm compare the loudness of our praise? (Vs. 4,7)

a) What is the major role of God's angels? [Psalm 103:20-21; Isaiah 6:1-4; Rev. 5:11-13]

What did the angels sing as a praise song at Jesus' birth ?[Luke 2:14]

How does knowing this about angels help motivate you to praise God?

a) For what things does Apostle Paul tell us to give thanks in **Eph 5:20**?

When should we give thanks according to the same verse?

How would our faith in the promise of Rom 8:18, 28 help enable us to obey the commandment about giving thanks for everything?

2 Chronicles 20:15-17

What was the promise of God given to the people who sought Him in prayer?

How did people respond to the promises of God to receive the promise?

What is the connection between **praise and healing in Psalm 103:1-3**?

MEMORY VERSES: 1) Praise God Joyfully a) Ps. 33:1 b) Ps. 103:1-3
2) Give thanks to God always & in all things a) Eph. 5:20-21 b) Rom. 8:28

For Personal Application and Discussion

List things from the Psalms for which we are to praise God.

Write some prayers of praise beginning with the following introductions:

Lord You are **worthy** to receive (See Rev. 5:12-13)

I **magnify** you, O Lord, for You are

I will **bless** you, O Lord, for You have given me

Lord, I **confess** that you

I **praise** the names of Jesus for He is

Lord, You are especially **wonderful** and I **love** you because

I will always **rejoice** in You, Jesus, for

List things that God gave you that you can use as instruments to praise Him?
 What is your favorite praise Psalm? Why?
 How are the first three petitions of the Lord's Prayer a form of blessing God?
 Name a problem that you see at present. How is this problem an opportunity for God to show his love, power, and glory?
 You may wish to memorize Rev. 5:12 as a praise prayer. Say or shout it as a cheer or make up a tune and sing it.

Prayer to Make Me a Praiser

Heavenly Father, You overwhelm me with Your love, and with all that You do for me. I wish to offer myself to You in service. I would begin by exalting You with my voice, my hands, my mind, and all that I have. I would praise Your Name. Increase my praise vocabulary, and when that fails, I ask You to give me Your Spirit to enable me to praise You more. Then, in the joy of praising You, I ask You to help me praise You even better and more. I want to flow into harmony with Your greatness, Your love, and Your power. I would roar like the ocean to praise You (Psalm 98:7). I would leap like the lambs to honor You (Psalm 114:4). I would sing with the angels to glorify Your name. Use me, Lord, to become a greater blessing to You. Amen.

Chapter 4 - Prayer practice

Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith (1 Thessalonians 3:10).

What example did Jesus set for our prayer practice in

Luke 3:21-22 -----

Luke 5:16 -----

Luke 6:12 -----

Luke 9:18 -----

Luke 18:1-8 -----

What do we learn from the prayers of the church in

Acts 4:24-31 -----

Acts 12:5,12 -----

Acts 13:2-3 a. ----- b. -----

c. ----- d. -----

What accompanied the prayers of Cornelius and brought God's response?

Acts 10:4,30-31 -----

How did the people in Judges 20:26 express themselves to the Lord?

What was the purpose of the fasting in the following Scriptures?

- Samuel 12:16 -----
- Psalm 35:13 -----
- Esther 4:16 -----
- Daniel 9:3 -----
- Joel 2:12 -----
- Acts 14:23 -----

What may be good reasons for praying out loud?

- Psalm 98:4-7 -----
- Kings 8:52 -----

What may be good reasons to pray silently at times?

- Psalm 19:14 -----
- Samuel 1:13 -----
- Psalm 4:4 -----

What position is suggested for prayer according to

- Psalms 95:6 -----
- 1 Tim. 2:8 -----
- Eph. 3:14 -----

What is the significance of Solomon's posture in prayer in 1Kings 8:54?

How about Psalms 28:2?

For what purposes do we use our hands in worship in Psalm 47:1?

For what purposes do we lift our hands in Psalm 134:2?

What words from Psalms 50:15 express our four reasons to pray

- God's command -----
- Our need -----
- God's promise -----

Our thanksgiving -----

What are three alternatives to anxiety according to Philippians 4:4-6?

How can God answer our prayer before we ask them?

Is. 65:24 -----

What is the condition for answered prayer according to John 15:7

MEMORY VERSES:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1)Condition for answered prayer | a) John 15:7; | b) Phil. 4:6-7 |
| 2)Attitude in prayer | a) Joel 2:12-13; | b) Psalm 28:2 |

For Personal Meditation and Discussion

What problems do you have in setting and keeping a special prayer time each day? What times do you think might work better? What are some things you do (like driving) that you could do while praying?

Renounce the sin of prayerlessness and take authority over a spirit of prayerlessness

When someone asks you to pray for them or some problem, do you do it right then or later in private? Which is better?

What are some things you can do to improve your spiritual conditioning with a goal of always being in a state of prayer?

In prayer, do you take time to praise, to listen, to meditate?

Share with others some experiences with fasting or questions about it.

Praying Against Prayerlessness

Dear Father in Heaven, I confess the sin of prayerlessness in, my life and in the church. I pray that you would preserve and protect us from any spirit that hinders prayer in your church. I pray that you would fill me and your church with your Holy Spirit. Help me plan special times when I will talk to you and listen to you. I want to set that time aside and dedicate it to you as a time to pray and commune with You . Lord enable me by your Holy Spirit to have an effective prayer life. Guide me so that I may bring all my needs and that of others before you to release your power, through Jesus, my Lord, Amen

Chapter 5 - The Holy Spirit and prayer

And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication (Zechariah 12:10).

What is the name given to the Holy Spirit in Zechariah 12:10?

What does this name say about the work of the Spirit in our lives?

What gifts of the Spirit were sought and received through prayer in

- A. Acts 4:29-30 1. ----- 2. -----
B. Acts 19:6 1. ----- 2. -----
1 Cor. 14:13 -----
Ephesians 3:16-17 1. -----
2. -----
3. -----

Ephesians 5:18-19 in what setting is the Spirit received, or what happens when people receive
The Spirit? -----

Acts 13:1-6 What was the church in Antioch doing when the Spirit gave guidance to send out
missionaries? -----

1 Corinthian 14 When one speak by the spirit in another language, to whom is he speaking,
according to 14:2? ----- What does this fact make the nature of the gift of
tongues? -----
Does the speaker's mind (or anyone else's) naturally understand the message that he speaks? ---

What is the definition of praying in tongues (with the spirit) in 1 Corinthians 4:14?

What other things may one do *with the spirit* mentioned in verses 15-16?

- A. ----- B. ----- C. -----

When the gift of tongues is used to address a gathering of believers,
what other gift needs to accompany it to edify the church (v. 5)?

What is the purpose of this kind of praying according to 14:4?

What does Jude verse 20 command believers to do? -----

What are we trusting God to do as we speak each syllable that our mind does not
understand?

D. When are we to pray in the spirit according to Ephesians 6:10-18?

What other types of prayer are connected with praying in the spirit in the second half of this verse (mentioned in this Bible Study, chapters 4, and 6)?

Galatians 5:22-23 How would having the fruit of the Spirit motivate us to pray and praise God?

Romans 8:26 What is our weakness that hinders prayer according to this verse?

What limitations may hinder your prayer at times?

How may God's Holy Spirit help overcome these weaknesses?

- D. What kind of faith and certainty may we have when praying with the Spirit?

E. What special assurance does the Spirit give when He is in contact with our Spirit and we pray the word "Abba." -----

What special promise does Jesus make about our prayer for the Father to give us the Spirit
(Luke 11:13)? -----

The special outpouring of the Spirit was called "Baptized with the Spirit".
For whom was the Spirit poured out **(Acts 2:17)?**

What promise given to those who repent and receive the Spirit **(Acts 2:38)?**

What did the apostles do so believers would be filled with the Spirit and His power in Acts 8:15?

What gifts does God promise for *each* Christian in **1 Corinthians 12:4-7?**

For Personal Meditation and Discussion

Share your testimony of

Prayers that God answered since studying this course.

Your personal growth in your prayer life.

Things that you find helpful in your spiritual growth.

If you have not received the gift of other tongues, or praying in the Spirit, ask God to enable you to receive that gift now. He has already given the Baptism in the Holy Spirit when he gave it for all flesh at Pentecost. Then begin to offer God whatever sounds or syllables that come to your mind or tongue. If your mind objects, ask God to make it a language from Him, and continue. Soon you will find the joy of the Lord filling your heart.

You may use this entire chapter as a prayer list, asking God to work all its Scripture promises in your life -----

Confession of Sins against the Spirit of Supplication

We confess that we have quenched the Spirit as we despised prophecy, not only by the neglect in reading and hearing the Word of God, but in our failure to earnestly desire, and boldly seek and use the gifts of the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19). We confess that we have grieved the Spirit of God as we have not loved our brethren. We have not put away all bitterness and malice and wrath and evil speaking. We have not been kind to one another, tenderhearted and forgiving (Eph. 4:30-32).

We confess that we vex your Spirit when we resist the commands You give us, and especially when we resist the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ our Savior (Isaiah 63:10). We repent, are baptized into the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sin, and earnestly seek to receive all the Spirit of God has to give us and work within us.

We ask You, Dear Father, to forgive us any neglect or resistance to Your Holy Spirit and pray that the Spirit will fill us fully and completely. We pray to receive each and every gift that You want us to have, especially that we may pray more effectively and minister to one another, and share Your love and power with others who do not yet know You. Amen.

Chapter 6 - Prayer of intercession

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayer, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone (1 Timothy 2:1).

How does Ezekiel 22:30 describe the work of an intercessor?

What do we learn from Abraham's intercession for Lot in **Genesis 18:23**?

What blessing did **Job (42:10)** receive when he interceded for his friends?

How did Moses serve as an intermediary between God and the people (**Exodus 20:19**)?

For what did he intercede in **Numbers 14:13**?

What form did his action take in **Numbers 16:46**?

What was the result of the intercessions of Samuel (**1 Samuel 7:8**)?

How does Samuel show how seriously he took his role as Intercessor for Israel (**12:23**)?

What did David pray for as he interceded for the people (**1 Chronicles 21:17**)?

What similar thing was Paul willing to do as he prayed for the Jews who did not receive Christ

(Romans 9:3)? -----
Why did God tell Jeremiah to stop interceding for the rebellious people (**Jeremiah**

7:16; 11:14; 14:11)? -----

What kind of prayer did Daniel include in his intercession (**Daniel 9:3**)?

How is Jesus our great intercessor?

Isaiah 53:12 -----

John 17 -----

Heb. 7:25 -----

Romans 8:34 -----

1 John 2:1 -----

For whom and for what are we to make intercession according to

James 5:13 -----

Matthew 5: 44 -----

2 Thess. 3:1 -----

1 Tim. 2:1-2 -----

What are some things that Paul asked in behalf of believers (**2 Thessalonians 1:11**)?

Who intercedes for us and helps us intercede for others (**Romans 8:26**)?

Why did Moses have to pray for Pharaoh and Egypt instead of having Pharaoh do it (**Ex.**

8:8-9)? -----

Jesus great intercessory prayer is the entire chapter of John 17. List the three prayers and what Jesus asks for each. He prayed this prayer before His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

For whom does He pray?

For what does He ask?

A. Verses 1-5 -----

B. Verses 6-19 -----

C. Verses 20-26 -----

Personal Reflection and Discussion

Have you ever felt a pain or burden you did not understand, then learned later that someone else was suffering from that same thing? What would that mean you should do?

Did you ever feel a burden for the sins of our nation? How do Christians bear responsibility for the nation according to 2Chron 7:14?

What things did Jesus do as our intercessor? In what things can we be like Jesus as intercessors?

How can we pray in the spirit according to the will of God? Discuss several ways in which the Spirit helps with intercession?

Why do Prophets and intercessors speak of bearing a “burden”? [e.g. Nahum1:4; Numb.11:17; Ex.18:32, Zech 9:1, 12:1]. Do you ever feel that God places a burden on you to carry for others?

(Think of a burden ,not as something you can complain about, but something you can carry for another).

Prayer of intercession

Almighty God, You sent your Son to be an intercessor for us for there was no one else who could carry the burden of our sins. We thank you Jesus, for being wounded for our transgressions and bringing healing by your stripes. We thank you Jesus for your intercession at the throne of your Father whenever we sin and for giving us your favor. We receive now the burden you have asked us to carry for others.

We pray for our nation seeking forgiveness for the sins of murder, blasphemy, independence of you and doing our own thing. Turn our hearts to you, dear Lord. Turn the hearts of the politicians and the leaders to righteousness. Put down those who oppose You.

We intercede for those who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior. We pray for the church to be filled with boldness and power of the Holy Spirit that all may be witnesses to the nations and people around us. Whatever other burdens you have Lord, things you want to do, people you want to heal, bless, protect, give us the call to pray and we will be willing to be your channels for power and blessing, Amen

Chapter 7 - Prayer of authority

I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, “Go throw yourself into the sea,” and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him (Mark 11:23).

What words from the Apostles released God’s healing power?

Acts 3:6

Acts 9:34

Acts 9:40

Acts 14:10

Acts 16:18

What similar actions did Jesus do?

Matt 9:5

John 5:8

John 11:43

Mark 1:25

Matt 8:26

What authority did Jesus give to His church?

Luke 9:1;10:19

Matt 28:19ff.

Mark 11:24

John 20:21-23

What do we learn about this authority?

Matt 7:21

Acts 19:15f

Matt 8:9 We understand authority when

How was that authority used in the church to win victories over the devil and spread the kingdom of God?

Acts 8:5-13

Acts 13:6,11

In Ephesians 1:18-22 Paul tells us about the power and authority that God shares with us
What does Paul pray that the church may know(19)?

When was the power demonstrated(20)?

What is a believer's position in relation to Christ (2:6)?

What is our position in relation to demons (1:21-22)?

What does Paul call the Holy Spirit with His gifts and power for us in Eph. 1:13?

What do the promises of God share with believers according to **2 Peter 1:4**?

How did God confirm the authority of His Prophets?

1 Sam 7:10; 12:17

Elijah (1 Kings 17:1)

Elisha (2 Kings 2:14)

For Personal Application And Discussion

What are the sources or channels of the power Christians use to do God's work?

How may we affirm the power of the word using Isaiah 55:10-11 and Heb. 4:12?

How may we affirm the blood of Jesus using Rev. 12:11 and Eph. 1:7?

How may we affirm the power of the Spirit in us with Rom. 8:11 and Acts 1:8?

Would God command us to do the things that He does not give us the power or authority to do?

How does Matt. 28:1ff. and Mark 16:17-18 relate to this?

What action has Jesus Already done to bind Satan and cast him out? (see Matt. 12:28 ff., John 12:31). Since Jesus already did this work, How are we to affirm and apply it in our lives and ministry?

Write a prayer affirming one or more of these promises of God: Acts 1:8; John 14:16-17; Ephesians 6:10-17; Psalms 91:10-11.

Prayer to Affirm the Authority of Jesus in Us

Almighty God, Creator and upholder of the universe by the word of your power, your Word does not return to you empty but does the thing for which you have sent it. Therefore we take hold of your Word and promise like a two-edged sword to divide between the joints and marrow and soul and spirit. Enable us to use it in the power of the Spirit to do battle against all enemies of sin, disease and spiritual powers.

Since you have commanded us to use your authority to make disciples, heal the sick, forgive sins and release Your power, give us the faith to obey You and trust your will to do Your works before Your eyes. Whatever the nature of the mountainous problems that rise against us, we order them away by the name, the Word and authority of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Chapter 8 - Listening prayer

OLD TESTAMENT

Job's problem

Job complained that God did not speak to him. Why do people often think that God does not speak to them (Job 33:14)? -----

How may God talk to us when we do not hear Him otherwise (Job 33:14-16)?

Prophets and Judges

What kind of sign did God give Moses (Exodus 3:14) to confirm the message that He was to lead Israel out of Egypt? -----

In Numbers 22:12 God told Balaam not to go to Balak. Later He told him to go, but the angel stood in the way to kill him (Verse 20,22). What was Balaam's motivation for asking

a second time? -----

What does this story teach us about how our own emotions must be controlled as we listen for God to speak? -----

Gideon used a fleece to ask for confirmation that it was really God talking (Judges 6:37). How did God confirm His message for Gideon two times?

What are situations in which it may be appropriate to ask God for a sign that it is really Him talking to us? -----

How did the boy Samuel respond when he first heard God call him at night (1 Sam. 3: 4-5)?

How did Elijah hear God talk to him in 1 Kings 19:8-14?

Psalms /Proverbs

What will God's Word do for us according to Psalm 119:105,133?

What will God do for those who fear him according to Psalm 25:12-14?

Why do people not receive guidance from God according to Proverbs 1:28-31?

NEW TESTAMENT

The Apostle Paul

What were the believers of Antioch doing when God spoke (Acts 13:1-6)?

Why did Paul have a problem to hear God speak in Acts 16:6-7?

To what does Paul compare the way we see and hear God in this life (Corinthians 13:9-12)?

What does Paul tell us to do about prophecy in 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21?

To whom should a Christian submit words he believes are from the Lord (Corinthians 14:32)?

In Acts 21:11-14 Agabus prophesies that harm will come to Paul if he goes to Jerusalem. Why did Paul go anyway (See Acts 20:22)? -----

Do you think the Spirit is giving contradictory guidance here? -----

I Corinthians 12

Which of the supernatural spiritual gifts in verses 8-10 could be called “revelatory gifts” through which God gives verbal messages?

What term does Paul use to denote the false gods who cannot speak (v. 2)?

How does Paul encourage the gift of prophecy in 1Corinthians 13:1?

James

What are sources of wisdom other than from God (James 3:15)?

What human problems corrupt our discernment of God’s message (James 3:16)?

C. What does God’s wisdom bring? (V. 17) -----

In contrast what does human nature bring (4:1-4)?

- For Personal Application and Discussion

Tell of some times when God spoke to you. Can you think of times when He may have spoken but you aren’t sure?

After asking God a question or to give you word of guidance of encouragement, take time to listen. Share what thoughts came to your mind. Does it seem like it is God speaking?

In your group or alone, pray for God to guide you through His Word. Then each person open a Bible and read whatever verse is there. Do your verses have a message in common? Seek the theme of the message He is speaking.

What does God say to you through nature, through the miracle of your body or through events in your life?

Listen through the week, whether you are awake or asleep, for words that may be guidance or encouragement from God.

What are some symbols that God may use to talk to you in dreams or visions?

Prayer for Guidance

Heavenly Father I pray that You will awaken my spirit to Your Spirit. May I hear Your voice, receive Your guidance, and know how You want me to serve You. You have said You will guide me with Your counsel and afterward receive me to glory (Psalm 73:24).

Give me Your Spirit's gifts of wisdom, knowledge, prophetic words and faith to use them and know Your will, until I see You face to face. Give me Your discernment so I am not missed by the world, the devil or my human desires. Help me to memorize Your Word and keep it in my heart that You may speak to me through it whenever You wish. Like Abraham and Moses, I want to talk with You as a friend.

I pray that You would fill my mind with thoughts You want me to think, prayers You want me to pray, and understanding of Your Word and Your wisdom. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Chapter 9 - Praying God's Word

If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you (John 15:7).

What is the relationship between faith and confession in **Romans 10:9-10**?

What will Jesus do for those who confess Him (**Matthew 10:32**)?

What promises may we affirm for those who confess their sin?

Psalm 32:5 -----

Psalm 103:3 -----

Ephesians 1:7 -----

Jeremiah 31:34 -----

Why may we trust in the certainty of God's Word (**Numbers 21:9**)?

What are people doing when they refuse to confess and submit to God's word (**Psalm 107:11**)?

By what power does God heal us when we repent (v. 20)?

What other power do we receive through the Word of the Gospel?

Romans 1:16 -----

James 1:18 -----

What promises of answered prayer may we remind God of when we pray?

John 14:13 -----

Psalm 37:4 -----

What may we confess when seeking spiritual power and victory?

Luke 11:13 -----

Revelation 12:11 -----

In what situations may the following promises help us fear and face difficult times courageously?

Isaiah 43:1 -----

Psalms 27:1-5 -----

Psalms 46 -----

Joshua 1:9 -----

Philippians 4:19 -----

Isaiah 46:4 -----

What are the conditions to be met to receive the following promises of prosperity?

Psalms 1 -----

Deut. 28:9 -----

2 Chronicles 26:5 -----

Say Proverbs 17:22 as a personal confession.

“ A cheerful heart ----- .

Therefore I will ----- and rejoice in God’s healing strength.”

For personal Application and Discussion

After praying the prayer, below practice this principle of praying the Scripture. Begin with verses cited in this lesson and form them into prayers. Ask yourself, “Do I really believe this word?” Then ask, “ How shall I pray for God’s help to meet the conditions of His promise?”

Open your Bible to any place and ask, “What does this Word of God say to me today?” Take a word of Scripture and write it as a prayer to bring your life into harmony with this word of God.

Take this word from Romans 8:11 and make a healing prayer of it. If the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He Who raised Christ from the dead also will give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, Who lives in you.

What words of Scripture might you use to set someone free from fear?

Prayer to Affirm and Strengthen Word Power in Us

Lord God, You promised that You watch over Your Word to do it (Jeremiah 1:12). Your word does not miss its mark or fail in its purpose. So we receive Your Word also that when we ask it shall be given, good measure, pressed down, shaken together. We trust Your provision for all our needs and the needs of Your people for You will provide for our needs according to Your riches of glory. Bless us and enrich us by the power of Your Word, that we might receive all the blessings You

have for us. I pray that your words will abide in me. Increase my memory and recall. Bring to my mind those words from your mouth to share Your power with me. Give me the faith to believe the words you speak to me, and the discernment to know when You are quickening a word for my life. Amen.

Chapter 10 - The prayer of faith

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours [Mark 11:24].

How did the following persons show their faith and what did they receive through it?

	FAITH SHOWN	GIFT RECEIVED
➤ The bleeding woman (Luke 8:43-48)	_____	_____
➤ Bartimaeus of Jericho (Mark 10:46-52)	_____	_____
➤ The Samaritan Leper(Luke 17:12-19)	_____	_____

Hindrances of Faith

What blocks the promises of the word from releasing their power [Heb. 4:2]?

Why were the disciples not able to do what Jesus had commanded them to do [Matt.17:14-20]?

What prevented Jesus from doing the miracles in his own home town [Matt.13:58]?

For what did Jesus rebuke his disciples during the storm [Matt. 8:26]?

What does James 1:6,7 say will prevent us from receiving any thing from the Lord?

What does faith do according to the following verses?

John 1:12

Ephesians 2:8

John 14:12

Luke 17:6

Matt 9:29

James 5:15

The evidence of faith



What action accompanies faith according to Luke 11:28 and John 3:36?

How does James show that faith is more than mere intellectual agreement (2:17-19)

- He shows that faith must be accompanied by
-

- He points out that even _____ have an intellectual faith.

What is the alternative to faith in Proverbs 3:5?

What action shows and increases faith(v.9)_____

What is a blessing of faith (v 8)?

A Wavering Faith

What does James call a person who wavers in his faith (1:6-8)

How did Peter show double mindedness in Matt.14:30-31

A Receiving Faith

How does faith come to us according to Romans10:17?

What phrase, spoken by the boy's father showed why the boy was not helped (Mark 9:22)

What did Jesus say that called for faith?_____

How did the father pray for faith? _____

For Personal Application And Discussion

Pray the prayer of faith. Read the promises of the word. Say it aloud, "This is the word of the Lord. It is true, God said it. I believe it. That settles it."

Share with others in your group some experiences of answered prayers. How does the testimony of others strengthen your faith? Can you think of an example when you prayed for a lighter load, but God really answered by making you stronger through trial?

When discussing a problem or a need, ask, "What would Jesus do if He were here right now?" then confess that He is present.

Sing songs such as "God answers prayers" "sweet hour of prayer" "What a friend we have in Jesus", or other that praise God.

What would you say to one who asks if he should continue to take medicines to show his faith after you have prayed for him?

Some says that praying for something more than once shows a lack of faith. We should just thank him. What does Jesus say to that situation in Luke 18:1-8? How did Paul handle his unanswered prayer in 2 Cor. 12:8-11? Why may God want us to keep on praying about the same thing?

Prayer Of Faith

Heavenly Father, we know that faith is a gift from you. As hard as we try, we cannot believe unless you give it to us. So we pray as your disciples did that you will increase our faith. But we also know that you give faith by hearing the promises of your Word. So we pray that we may search, read, understand and obey your Word so that our faith may become strong like the mustard seed that does great things.

We believe your Word that you, who give life to the dead, call things that are not as though they were (Rom. 4:17). So may we, like Abraham, the father of believers, trust in your promises, and take hold of the power of that word, without weakening or wavering. We are fully persuaded that you meant what you said in Your Word, that You cannot lie.

We want to trust in You Lord, with all our heart and lean not on our own understanding (Prov. 3:5). So we will obey Your Word in giving of our substance to honor you. We will obey in doing whatever You tell us to do, that unbelief may not block the abundance of your life and power in us. Let it flow through faith. In Jesus name. Amen.

ANOTHER SHORT SYSTEMATIC STUDY ON PRAYER

Why to pray?

Why do we need to pray? God knows already everything! He knows that what His children need! Is God only prepared to move after He first has heard from us what He already knows? We need to pray because we need to become aware of God! Prayer is necessary to bring us into contact with God. It is a must, because only through prayer we see the things like God sees them. One needs to pray because only then you become aware of what you really need and what you've done wrong through prayer you see like God sees. You begin to experience the spiritual reality and the presence of the Lord.

What is prayer?

Some phrases to get an idea: Prayer is talking with Jesus it's the breach of the soul. Prayer is fellowship or communion with God through Christ. Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God for all things lawful and needful, with humble confidence that we shall obtain them through the meditation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Prayer is seeking the Lord's face. Prayer is forgetting every other thing and focusing with your whole heart on the Lord. Prayer is acknowledging God as your source for everything.

Example – I Sam. 1: 10, 15 - 16, Hannah poured out her soul before the Lord.

Where to pray?

Everywhere (I Tim. 2: 8)

In the closet. In a quiet place where you can be alone with God. Pray in your room and shut the door (Matt. 6: 6) See Jesus, He often withdrew and prayed (Mark 1: 35, Luke 5: 16, Matt. 14: 23).

In the church or in public (Ps. 26: 12).

To the temple to pray (Luke 18: 10). Solomon (I Kings 8: 22 – 53). So, private prayer in secret place; family prayer with small group; public prayer before the congregation.

When to pray?

Always (Luke 18: 1 – Parable of old lady – perseverance). (I
Thess. 5: 17 – Pray without ceasing).

In the morning (Ps. 5: 3).

And at moon & in the evening (Ps. 55: 17 – Constant fellowship/ communion with God). Also Daniel prayed 3 times a day (Dan. 6: 10).

Daily (Ps. 86: 3).

Day and night (Ps. 86 : 3); e.g. Jesus before He chose His disciples prayed all night (Luke 6: 12).

When suffering (James 5: 13).

Whom to pray to?

We need to pray to God the Father (Acts 12: 5), in the name of Jesus Christ [difference with the O.T.] (John 14: 13), Read John 16: 23 – 27, through the power and with the help of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2: 18).

Prepare for prayer!

Don't just rush into the presence of God. Focus on God, be still, know that He is God, be aware of Him! Ask the Holy Spirit to convict us of any sin (John 16: 8), and to search our heart (Ps. 139: 23 – 24), repent of your sins, ask and receive forgiveness, because it is our sin and iniquity that separates us from God (Is. 59: 2; I John 1 : 9; 2 : 1 – 2; Ps. 66: 18 –19; Ps. 32: 5). Remember, never the less how much sin, you remain His child and every time

you sincerely repent, He is faithful and just and forgives you and remembers your sins no more. And there is no condemnation (Rom. 8: 1).

How to pray.

Pray in faith and led by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, prayer and faith is like a threefold cord which cannot be broken. Every prayer should and must be inspired by the Holy Spirit, because only the Spirit brings life!

(II Cor. 3: 6). Furthermore you must pray in faith and with faith in the existence of God (Heb. 11: 6 – Without faith it is impossible to please God. Definition of faith – Heb. 11: 1. Faith speaks of substance, knowing for sure you've received what you asked for. Believing and trusting God! Exercise your faith! Needed is faith like a mustard seed (Matt. 17: 20; 21: 21 – 22), and whatever you ask, you will receive! So, pray in faith by the Holy Spirit. Jude 20 speaks also about both of them. And thank God for his Holy Spirit, because although we don't know to pray, He intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words (Rom. 8: 26 – 27). The Greek word for groaning means: unutterable gushings of the heart. Once again I feel / see a deeper meaning in this verse; it's not just speaking about praying inspired by the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues (I Cor. 14: 14).

The enemy of faith is unbelief or being double-minded. It comes down to not believing God for His Word. Unbelief is from the devil, and is first found in Gen. 3: 3 -6. God said don't eat, the devil told something different, unbelief sneaked in, and with that sin. Now Rom. 14: 23 states that sin is everything which doesn't proceed from faith! Faith is believing the Word of God! Taking God at His Word!

Pray with humility. Acknowledge that God is sovereign and that you need Him. God is not a "press-the-button" God, He is the Lord God Almighty; Sovereign and high above all else! You just cannot command God to do something for you, He is not there to fulfill your wishes, God is not an automatic, you just don't press the button (send a little prayer) and get your choice (get your answer). The Lord asks us to be totally dependent upon Him. Without Him we can do nothing (John 15: 5). In humility we approach the throne of grace, reveal our heart before Him, and He will demonstrate His power, so that He receives the glory!

Pray with perseverance (Luke 18: 1 –8). Persevere in prayer till you've received that which you asked for. Because sometimes the devil (prayer preventer) tries to withhold or hinder God's answer to prayer (Dan.10: 12 –14).

Conditions of prayer.

Again, pray in faith, believing you've received already. Faith is substance (Mark 11: 24). Be determined, receive by faith in your spirit, don't doubt, but be single minded. (James 1: 6 – 8 ; double-minded).

Pray in line with God's will. Like Jesus prayed in Matt. 25 : 39 – not as I will, but as Thou will. We find the will of God clearly revealed in His Word, so praying according to His will means pray to His Word, because God cannot deny Himself or His Word; this will always be answered (I John 5 : 14 – 15). So, if something is clearly promised in the Word, never say "Thou will", but ask, believe and receive (II Cor. 1 : 20). Constant questioning of God's will every time one prays is the greatest hindrance to answer prayer. All men who believe in God, believe He can do all things, but few believe He can do all things, but few believe He wills! It is always God's will for every child of His to get what he wills! Prayer will be answered providing there is unwavering faith! All

things will be given that are promised and provided by God in the gospel – and well “that pertain to life and godliness” (II Pet. 1 : 3 – 4, Ps. 84 : 11, II Cor. 1 : 20).
You have to keep His commandments – so obedience (I John 3 : 22).
You need to abide in Christ; consistent, steady fellowship and communion with the Lord; develop a steady relationship (John 15 : 7).
Pray in the Holy Spirit [see 7] (Jude 20).
Pray and ask in Jesus’ name [see 5] (Jude 16 : 24).
Forgive others before God will hear and answer your prayers (Mark 11 : 25).
Pray with the right heart – motives & attitudes! Is it going to glorify Christ?

Hindrances to prayer.

- Unbelief (James 1: 6 – 7) [Explained earlier ‘How to pray’ Par. 2].
- b) An unforgiving spirit (Mark 11 : 25) [See above].
 - Iniquity (Ps. 66: 18).
 - Asking amiss, so asking with the wrong motives or out of the will of God James 4 : 2 – 3).
 - Sin (John 9: 31; Is. 59 : 2).
 - Vain repetitions (Matt. 6: 7).

Progression in prayer.

Ask, seek and knock (Matt. 7: 7 –8). The Greek word for ask implies that you demand something that is due to you because of family and redemptive rights. We can ask in the Name of Jesus that which is due to us, because through Christ we’ve become part of God’s family, we’re His sons & daughters; we’re redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, and it is God’s will that we ask, and get what we want (Ps. 84: 11).

Now to ask, implies a want; seeking implies loss; and knocking implies need. Therefore, ask with confidence and humility, seek with care and application, and knock with earnestness and perseverance. And see here, God’s promises, a threefold assurance of an answer: receives, finds and shall be opened; for everyone, that includes you too!

Sorts of prayer. (I
Tim. 2: 1)

Thanksgiving: Learn to be thankful. Every day of your life you can thank the Lord for something. Thank Him for your health, providing your needs, safety, joyful times, friends, church, and of course salvation, knowing the truth. Learn to thank God for trials and difficult times as well (I Thess. 5: 18).

Supplications [or petitions], entreaty: Means continuous and strong pleadings till the prayer is answered, like in Luke 18 : 1 – 8, The widow and the judge. As just explained, ask, seek and knock and you’ll receive!

Prayer: Asking your Heavenly Father to meet your needs! And by faith pray the answer yourself. (see Phil. 4 : 6 – 7, By faith you pray the answer and receive in your spirit). Just give thanks and wait for God’s time to bring it about. Victory in the Spirit!

Intercessions: Means to act on behalf of someone else; In simple words – to pray for others or plead – in relationship to God. Or intercession is praying as directed and energised by the Holy Spirit, for others! See Ezek. 22: 30 – someone to stand in the gap; or like Abraham, interceding for Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen. 18: 20 – 33); or Moses, interceding for Israel (Ex. 32 : 7 – 14, Ps. 106: 23).

True intercession is prayer that has come from the heart of God by the Holy Spirit to our mind and has touched our heart and goes back to God in prayer. It is prayer that has been prayed in faith, given by the Holy Spirit. Perseverance in intercession required to break Satan’s strongholds over the minds and wills of unbelievers in Jesus’ Name.

Subjects for prayer.

Learn to pray and ask for specific and definite things or persons instead of just some general phrase, like : ‘Lord bless everyone. Amen!’ And don’t give up or be satisfied with any substitute for what you’ve prayed about! (James 4 : 2 says “you have not because you do not ask !”) Pray always that God’s will as revealed in His Word, will be done! So, pray for:

- The salvation of all men (I Tim. 2: 4, and all men v.1).
- Labourers in the harvest, to be released (Matt. 9 : 37 – 38).
- The advancing of the gospel (Col. 4 : 3, II Thess. 3: 1 – 2).
- Every believer to be made perfect in Christ Jesus (Col. 1 : 28).
- Leaders in the church (1 Tim. 5 : 17).
- Those persecuted for the gospel (Heb. 13 : 3).
- Those who persecute you and your enemies (Matt. 5 : 44 – 45).
- The president, government, for all in authority (I Tim. 2 : 2).
- Daily bread (Matt. 6 : 11).
- Those who are sick (James 5 : 14 – 15).
- Victory over temptation and sin (Matt. 6 : 13).
- Forgiveness of sins (I John 1 : 9).
- Wisdom (James 1 : 5).
- The second coming of Christ (Rev. 22 : 7).

Groups-prayer

According to the Bible there is power in agreement (Matt. 18: 19). Also here a full blank promise: “Anything” they ask - “it will be done”. Therefore it is good to regularly pray together with other believers or in groups. There is power in unity. We see this principle already in Gen. 11: 6 , Tower of Babel. So, when you come together as a group to pray, it’s good to share beforehand the needs that are there, and after that, according to the unction of the Holy Spirit, to bring these requests before our Heavenly Father in prayer.

Some Practical points here:

- When you pray in a group, don’t pray alone for over 20 minutes, but short and compact – it’s powerful, because we all agree, thus leaving opportunity for others to pray also!
- When you enter into the prayer, set your will to become part of it, and don’t let your mind or attention wander away.
- Listen to what others pray and agree on that, even agree with them by softly praying in tongues.
- Flow with the Spirit; stick to the subject; don’t jump here and there, but really pray things through in depth.
- Be relaxed when you pray – just speak out what the Holy Spirit puts on your heart.
- Be disciplined; don’t think others will do the praying; therefore open your mouth and cry out to God!

Some prayer promises.

JOHN 15 : 7, MARK 11 : 24, PS. 50 : 15, PS. 55 : 17 – 18, PS. 86 : 7, MATT. 7 : 7 –8, IS. 65 : 24, JOHN 14 : 14, PS. 91 : 15, I JOHN 3 : 21 – 22, I JOHN 5 : 14 –15, MATT. 21 : 22, LUKE 11 : 9 – 13, ROM. 8 : 32, EPH. 3 : 20, HEB. 4 : 16, PHIL. 4 : 6 – 7.

Prayer and Fasting. [Just a few highlights]

- Fasting and praying is the cure for unbelief ! (Matt. 17 : 20 – 21).
- Fasting means to abstain from food (hard/ soft fast), that which caused the fall of man; maybe also from water, rest, sleep, fellowship as it is a sacrifice.
- Wrong fasting : a mere form of outward fasting, without a sincere heart (Is. 58 : 3 - 5).
- Correct fasting : (Is. 58 : 6 – 9); see what the Lord said in Matt. 6 : 16 –18.

Fasting always goes together with prayer and reading the Word of God – spiritually good (Matt. 4 : 4); it's a humbling of the soul (Ps. 35 : 13).

Fasting is something you should do in order to reach a higher spiritual realm in prayer, meditation or finding the will of God – (Is.58 : 11). [Overcoming temptation/ the flesh.]

Fasting is very good for your physical body : your digestive system is being cleaned out from all toxic poisons and takes rest, through fasting the blood in your brain area is increased and gives more clarity of thought (good for exams); with a clear mind you'll be able to think more logically and evaluate better!

Many people eat too much – their organs sleepy and they quench the Spirit. (See Phil. 3 : 18 – 19, Their god is their belly!).

Moses, Joshua, Elijah and Jesus, all fasted for 40 days.

Practical notes : When you start with fasting, don't fast too long; don't work too hard [pray and fast, not work and fast]

For long fast : Some more sleep and drink enough water; don't go to others where you have to eat.

[During long fast : First two or three days a little hard – feeling hungry, weak, a little headache; normal phenomena; after that sense of hunger and food has left.] Be careful in breaking a fast, take as much time to break as you fasted – break through fruit juices, soup, vegetables and other light food (not with milk).

When to fast:

When you feel dry in your walk with the Lord – brings refreshment.

To bring too strong physical desires back to normal/control break habits/routines.

To break the yolk (Is. 58 : 4 – 6).

To show repentance (I Kings 21 : 19 – 27).

In need (Ezra 8 : 21 – 23).

In danger (Esther 4 : 3, 16).

In spiritual conflicts – like Jesus (Matt. 4 : 1 – 11).

When to take important decisions/seeking the Lord's will (Acts 13 : 3, Judges 20 : 26).

Before appointing elders (Acts 14 : 23).

To receive understanding and revelation (Dan. 9 : 3 – 6; 20 – 23).

According to Matt. 9 : 15, every believer supposed to fast, but it should never be routine or mechanical; it should be prompted by the Holy Spirit and engaged at His command for the duration that He dictates.

Prayer and Spiritual Warfare.

Praise God for the gift of discernment He has given to us! And do pray for discernment, because it's one of the things you need most. Also in prayer you need to discern whether you're seeking no response to your prayer because you prayed outside God's will or whether the devil is blocking the answer.

Now to do battle with the devil in prayer is called spiritual warfare (Eph. 6 : 12). We have the responsibility in keeping Satan from gaining advantage over us. The only purpose of the devil is to steal/kill and destroy (John 10 : 10, I Pet. 5 : 8). And one of the ways is to hinder answers to prayer (Dan. 10 : 12 –21). In Christ we have all authority, to loose and to bind, and to see your answer to prayer released! (Matt. 18 : 18; 16 : 19; 18 : 19).

A BASIC SYNOPTIC INTRODUCTION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Topic I: Assurance of salvation

Training objective: He will be able to confidently express to another person his own assurance of salvation based on his personal faith in Christ and one or more promises from the Word Scriptures:

I John 5:13 We can know we're Christians
John 1:12-13 Based on the work of Christ
John 5:11-12 The promise of the Word
Romans 8:16 The witness of the Spirit

Topic 2: The quiet time

Objective: He will have a daily quiet time, consisting of reading the Word and praying
Scriptures:

Mark 1:35 The example of Jesus
Genesis 19:27 The example of Abraham
Exodus 34:2-3 The example of Moses
Psalm 5:3 The example of David
Daniel 6:10 The example of Daniel
I Cor. 1:9 Called to fellowship with Jesus

Topic 3: Victory over sin

Objective: He knows how to experience victory over temptation through reliance on the Holy Spirit and trusting promises from the Word of God. This is evidenced by his clear testimony of a recent triumph over a specific temptation.

Scriptures:

I Cor. 10:13 A way of relief promised
I Cor. 15:57 Victory through Jesus
Isaiah 41:13 God's help promised

Topic 4: Separation from sin

Objective: He is taking steps to separate from sin by avoiding it, by memorizing passages such as II Cor. 6:17-18, praying about it and soliciting the prayers of others. See also: II Cor. 6:14-16

Scriptures:

I John 1: 5 - Walking in the light
2:2 James 1:12 Persevering in trials
Tim 2: 19-20 Departing from iniquity
Romans 6:12-14 Sin should not dominate us
I John 2: 15-16 We should not love the world
Romans 12:2 Don't be conformed to the world

Topic 5: Christian fellowship

Objective: He attends and is part of a church, a Bible study group, and a prayer group

Scriptures:

Acts 2:42 Example of the early church
I John 1:3 Fellowship together
Heb. 10:24-25 Not to forsake fellowship
Ps. 122:1 Go to church with gladness

Topic 6: The Bible: To hear: Rom. 5:6
To read: Rev. 1:3
To study: Acts 17:11
To memorize: Ps. 119:11
To mediate: Ps 1: 12

Objective : He is learning the books of the Bible and shares his beliefs in its inspiration openly.

Scriptures:

II Tim. 3: 16-17 Inspiration of the Bible
II Peter 1: 21 The Bible came by God's will
Mark 22: 29 Danger of not knowing the Scriptures
Ps. 19: 7-11 Descriptions of God's Word
Ps. 119: 160 The Word is true and eternal
Ps. 119:105 It is a lamp and light

Topic 8: Reading the Word

Objective : He will systematically read his Bible

Scriptures:

Proverbs 28: 9 Read carefully
Jeremiah 22:29 The call to hear the Word
Luke 19: 48 The need for daily reading

Topic 9: Bible study

Objective : He will regularly complete his personal Bible study on time.

Scriptures:

Acts 17: 11 Commendation for Bible study
Proverbs 2: 1-5 Study is like searching for treasure
Ezra 7:10 The example of Ezra

Topic 10 : Scripture memory

Objective: He is regularly memorizing Scriptures and main training adequate review.

Scriptures:

Col. 3:16 Memory enriches us
Deut. 6:6-7 Moses urges scriptures memory
Matt. 4:4 The example of Christ
Ps. 37:31 It gives stature
Proverbs 7:1-3 Should be written on the heart

Topic 11: Meditation on the Word

Objective: He will be able to explain the meaning of mediation and a personal blessing from mediating on a recent memory verse.

Scriptures:

Psalms 1 Results of mediation
Joshua 1:8 Promises to the one meditating
Jeremiah 15: 16 Mental discipline of mediation

Topic 12: Application of the Word

Objective : He demonstrates a desire to apply the Word of God by writing and completing one or more specific applications.

Scriptures:

James 1:22-25 We must do what the Word says

Ps. 119:56,60 Meditation leads to application
Tim. 3:16-17 God's Word is profitable for life
Luke 6: 46-49 Obedience is a sure foundation

Topic 13: Prayer

Objective : He demonstrates a consistent prayer life by praying daily for a minimum of ten minutes and confidently participates in group prayer

Scriptures:

I Thess. 5:17 Pray without ceasing
Matt 6:6 Pray privately
John 17 The example of Christ
James 5:17 Prayer brings result
Phil. 4:6-7 Prayer for personal concern
Matt. 21:2 Prayer in faith
I John 3:22 Obedience is the condition for answered prayers
Matt 7:7 Keep asking, seeking, knocking
Eph.6:18 Pray at all times for the saints

Topic 14: Personal testimony

Objective : He has prepared a three minute written testimony including at least one Scriptures, and has shared it with at least two non-Christians within one month Scriptures:

Luke 8:38-39 Illustrating a changed life
Acts 26:1-23 Paul's testimony
John 9:25 The former blind man's testimony
I John 1:3 Declare what you've experienced

Topic 15: Lordship of Christ

Objective : He evidences a lordship commitment by having allowed Christ to control at least one un-committed area of his life

Scriptures:

Luke 6:46 Obedience to Christ a necessity
Romans 12:12 Decisive commitment needed
Col. 1:10 Christ must be preeminent
Heb. 1:2 Christ is heir of all things we are stewards

Topic 16: Faith

Objective: He evidences the fruit of trusting God for specific needs

Scriptures:

Heb. 11:6 Impossible to please God without faith
Eph. 6:16 Faith gives victory over satan
I John 5:4 Faith overcomes the world
Rom. 4:20-21 Faith glorifies God

Topic 17: Love- "Agape" (sacrificial love)

Objective : He shows love for others by having concern for them acting in a loving way and doing something for a needy person (at least one during a week) Scriptures:

John 13:34-35 The command to love
I John 3:17-18 Love meets others needs

John 15:13 Love means total sacrifice
I Cor. 13:4-8a How to love others
I John 4:7-21 We are to love one another

Topic 18: The tongue

Objective: He demonstrates control over his tongue

Scriptures:

Eph.4:29 Speak only edifying words
Prov. 26:20 Don't be a talebearer
Prov. 18:6-7 A fool's mouth is his win
Ps. 71:15 The mouth is to praise God
Col. 4:6 Speak gracious words
James 1:26 Control negative speech
James 3:1-12 Danger of an uncontrolled tongue

Topic 19: The use of time

Objective : He shows and demonstrates growth in the effective use of his time by forming and following a schedule

Scriptures:

Eph. 5:15-17 Redeeming the time
Ps. 90:10-12 Planning a time
Eccl. 3:1 Priority of time
James 4:14 Brevity of life
Rom. 13:11 Urgency of time
Prov. 31:27 Not wasting time

Topic 20: The will of God

Objective: He shares how he made one major decision utilising Biblical principles on knowing the will of God

Scriptures:

Ps. 119:105 Direction through God's word
Prov. 15: 22 Obtaining Godly counsel
John 16:13 The Holy Spirit's ministry in our lives
Rom. 12:12 God's will is good, pleasing, perfect
Col. 3:15a The Lord peace about it in our hearts

Topic 21: Obedience

Objective: He is learning to be an obedient Christian / Believer as evidenced by his carrying out specific Bible study applications

Scriptures:

John 14:21 Love is proved by obedience
Job 17:9 Strengths results from continued obedience
John 15:10,14 Obedience brings fruitfulness and pleases God I
Sam. 15:22 Obedience is better than sacrifice
Ps. 119:59-60 God wants instant obedience
James 4:17 Disobedience is sin
John 14:23 Incentive for obedience

Topic 22: The Holy Spirit

Objective : He is able to express through scriptures who the Holy Spirit is and how He helps us in our daily walk. He can explain to an another person how to walk in the Spirit

Scriptures:

John 14:16-17	He is the comforter
Rom. 8:26	He helps us pray
John 16:7-8	The ministry of the Holy Spirit
Gal 5:22,23	The fruits of the Spirit
Eph. 5:18	Be filled with the Spirit
Rom. 8:5-6	Spirit and flesh conflict
Rom. 12:3-8	Gifts of the Holy Spirit
I Cor. 12:13-14	Ministry of the Spirit
Zech. 4:6	The power of the Holy Spirit
Romans 8:16-17	Spirit bears us witness
John 16:13-15	Spirit glorifies Christ
John 15:26-27	The witness of the Spirit

Topic 23: Satan know your enemy

Objective: He expresses instances of personal victory over satan by use of prayer and scriptures. He has shared how he has overcome an attack of satan in his life by using the Word. He prays against satan as a personal spiritual enemy

Scriptures:

Eph. 6:10-18	Spiritual weapons for warfare
Cor. 10:3-5	Our's are not fleshly weapons
I John 4:4	Satan's power is limited
I Peter 5:8-9	Satan's action as the enemy
John 8:44	Satan is a liar
Is. 14:12-15	The fall of satan
I John 3:8	Satan's work destroyed
II Cor. 4:3-4	Satan's wiles
II Cor. 2:11	We can know the enemy
Matt. 4:4	Use of the Word to overcome the enemy

Topic 24: Dealing with sin

Objective: He has identified a major area of sin in His life, having shared a plan for obtaining victory and doesn't want to continue in sinning

Scriptures:

Col. 3:9-10	Live a new life
I Peter 1:14-16	Holy behaviour is a must
Eph. 6:10-20	The whole armour of God
Rom. 13:14	Trusting Christ
Mark 14:38	Watch and pray
I John 1:9	Confession

Topic 25: Assurance of forgiveness

Objective: He will be able confidently to express to another person his own assurance of forgiveness based on one or more promises from the Word Scriptures:

I John 1:9 Ps.	Forgiveness through confession
32:1 Matt.	Blessing of forgiveness
5:23-24 Matt.	Necessity of restitution
18:15	Necessity of restitution

Topic 26: Second coming of Christ

Objective: He has expressed a new awareness of Christ's return and can share Scriptures passages relating to it

Scriptures:

I Thess. 4:16-17 Christ's promise to return

John 14:2-3 He will receive us

I John 3:2-3 Challenge to our lives

Titus 2:11-14 Live godly lives

Rev. 19:11-16 His coming in Glory

Topic 27: Witnessing

Objective: He takes initiatives to share the gospel clearly using the Word

Scriptures:

Col. 1:28-29 Proclaim Christ naturally

Rom. 1:16 Not ashamed of the gospel

Tim. 4:1-2 Proclaim Christ at all times

Prov. 11:30 The wise win souls

Acts 8:35 Use the Bible to present the gospel

Prov. 28:1 Boldness is necessary I

Cor. 15:3-4 The gospel described

John 4 The example of Jesus and the woman of Samaria

Luke 19:10 Seek after sinners

Topic 28: Follow-up

Objective: He has started praying that God would give him a person to follow –up and disciple

Scriptures:

Col. 1:28 Present every man perfect in Christ

John 4 The joy of seeing people walking with God II

Tim. 2:2 Teaching a faithful man to reproduce

II Tim. 1:3 Prayer in follow-up

Topic 29: Giving

Objective: He is giving regularly to the Lord's work

Scriptures:

Prov. 3:9-10 Give to God first

II Cor. 9:6-8 Give joyfully

Luke 6:38 The blessings of giving

Prov. 3:27 Give when you can

Gal. 6:6 Share resources with spiritual teachers

Mal. 3:10 Give and receive God's blessings

Prov. 11:24-25 The generous man is blessed

II Cor. 8:9 Though He was rich, Christ became poor for us

Topic 30 : World vision

Objective: He demonstrates an interest and concern in world vision through weekly prayer for missionaries and people / people groups of foreign countries. He gives to the monthly support of an overseas missionary (Ps.2:8)

Scriptures:

Matt. 9:35-38 Pray for labourers in the fields of the world

Matt. 28:19-20 Make disciples everywhere

Acts 1:8	Go to the ends of the earth
Mark 16:15	Preach the gospel to all
Luke 24:47	Go to all nations
John 20:21	Jesus commission to us based on His successful mission
Is. 6:8	Willingness to go

CULTIVATING GOOD MANNERS

A person without good manners is like a handsome gentleman without teeth or a beautiful bald woman. You get grilled by a nonstop talker in a party and wish you hadn't come at all. You forget all the niceties and remember only the ill-manners which leave us feeling rotten in the aftermath. One cannot grow "in favour with men" as Jesus, without pleasing manners. So it is good to be aware of some basic manners. The one thing to remember will be winked at. But our popularity graph will rise as we learn good manners and shed bad ones.

Personal habits

A very shy person lacks self-confidence and cannot relate to others freely. Learn to look into the person's eyes and talk boldly. Have a daily bath and change into fresh clothes. Anybody is half ready to like a well-dressed person. A close shave is a daily must for men. Scratching of scalp and hair dotted with nits are unseemly sights. Dirty long finger nails and fingers stained with ink are eyesores. What opinion do you develop about a person who uses his fingers to blow his nose and wipe it on posts and pillars? Use a hanky. Avoid picking your nose, teeth or ear in company. Cover your mouth with the hanky if you can't stifle a yawn, sneeze or cough. Especially now-a-days you never know who's turning the video camera at you!

Mind your posture when you walk, sit or stand. Let your backbone be straight. It is not nice to see someone sit with knees spread far apart or stand like a rag-doll. But be relaxed. Do not be self-conscious wearing an artificial smile or accent. Be natural. Overdoing one's make-up gives a distorted appearance. When you go out of the house you must be fresh as a bride or a groom. Practice politeness everyday until it becomes your second nature.

Home

Sometimes the most good-mannered people outside the home are most ill-mannered inside. A true gentleman or lady ought to be good-mannered at home whether guests are present or not. Making up the bed as the first thing in the morning makes you feel good the whole day. Try it tomorrow. After morning ablutions, comb you hair instead of going about like a witch. Remove the hairs from the comb, wind them around a finger and throw it in the waste basket. Then go about your other duties. The toilet should be flushed clean and any stain removed. Never, never send your children out to the street to pass urine or motion!

The wet towel should not be left in a lump on the bathroom floor but spread neatly on the string to dry. Dirty clothes should find their right place. If you clear your nose or throat on the bathroom floor or sink, see that it is washed off before you leave the bathroom. If there is only one bathroom, be considerate to others.

A good principle to remember is to treat family members like guests. Arguments are unavoidable. But they should not cross the limits of decency. Treating the wife and children as property rather than human beings with feelings is cruel. Similarly the wife and children who are non-submissive and disrespectful to the head of the home are repulsive. Learn to use 'sorry,' 'please' and 'thank you' liberally and unashamedly.

Every person's privacy must be respected. Knock before you enter somebody's room and wait till you are invited to go in. It is not right to peep through open doors and windows or overhear conversations. Opening another person's mail or reading a diary is an unconscionable violation of trust and privacy. Keep your curiosity under check. Without permission do not use another's personal items. Children should be trained to respond. 'Yes dad' or 'Yes mom' instead of shouting 'ah' when a parent calls. They should also be taught to adjust instead of whining and complaining.

It is not proper to crack rude jokes at one another. It is unfair for children to throw things around the house as they please and expect mother to clean up the mess. They should learn to take care of

themselves as they grow up including washing their clothes, cleaning the house and even some cooking; or else become a nuisance.

Meeting People

When you are introduced to someone, say "Hello how do you do?" Or in countries like India you can greet by a "namaskar", in Thailand: "sauerdikap", which is understood and appreciated in most parts of these nations. If you are sitting you are supposed to get up and greet someone while being introduced. When you meet someone, it is polite to introduce the one who is with you.

Conversation

Be at ease. Modulate your voice. Avoid being snobbish domineering. Let others talk too. If the other is a shy person, encourage his participation by asking a question or asking for his opinion. Listen with expression and respond. It is ungracious to snub anyone or brag. If you have offended someone by your thoughtless words, don't hesitate to apologise sincerely. Even disagreement can be done without offence. The "I-know-it-already attitude" is like a dash of cold water on the face of a friend. Avoid a drawing 'uhhh' between sentences.

Criticism dampens conversation. "Sandwich every bit of criticism between two layers of praise". Foul words should be erased out of our dictionary. Fights and violent exchange of words are uncouth and it is said to find even Christians irate. Learn self-control. Lifting up a hand in a gesture to beat and spiting when emotions run high are signs of uncultured behaviour. Children must be trained not to scream but to talk politely to anyone, rich or poor. Boys and girls should learn friendly conversation.

When there is someone who does not understand the language, switch over to a common language; or when that is not possible, his neighbour must brief him what's going on. Whispering in company is annoying. If you have to get up and go from a group or interrupt a conversation, excuse yourself. You are not supposed to join a conversation unless invited. But use your commonsense. Getting upset for silly reasons is silly. It upsets everyone. Overcome it with the grace of God. But do not bring up touchy subjects, and avoid embarrassing anyone, children or adults. Make others feel good about themselves.

Meals

It is important to learn table manners. Wait till the table is set. Instead of idly waiting you can give a helping hand. It is time we change the age-old custom of the wife waiting on the husband and then eating the leftovers. Meal time should be considered as family time. In this business-like world, at least supper should be a time of all the family members coming together. Wait for grace to be said. Only then start eating. Keep the conversation pleasant and light. Do not criticise the food while eating. Look for what others may need and pass on the dishes. Only after food is served for everyone do we start eating. You will discredit your manners by talking with food in the mouth, munching loudly and eating too fast in large mouthfuls. Some have the habit of leaving the curry-leaves, bones, etc., on the table or floor. It is better to ask for a small dish or leave them in the corner of the plate. Washing the hand in the plate is a lazy habit.

Visiting

Meal-time visitors are the most unwanted. It is best to visit people by prior appointment. If you casually go visiting and find the family watching an important TV program or entertaining other guests or the children studying, then leave with an apology. Do not linger on in spite of their hunts. If you go with a specific mission, don't beat about the bush. Finishing your mission and leaving immediately leaves the host grateful and relieved. When someone visits you put off the TV. People are more important than programs.

When you are invited for a tea or meal, go in time. When a drink is offered, it is better to be frank than to say, 'No' and then keep cursing your host for talking you at your word! When you have

guests, don't force drinks or food on them. It is a mistaken idea of hospitality. Don't lose all self-control on seeing a mouth-watering dish. Appreciate the host.

Avoid criticising their children and keep your children under control. It is appropriate to take a gift, but it is not a must. An offer to help the hostess to wash the dishes and clean up the kitchen is good. But all do not like others meddling in their kitchen. So decide intelligently.

Adjustability and adaptability are two great virtues when you stay with someone. Be pliable to their timings and customs. All may not like their soaps and towels being used. Carry all personal items. Get the host's permission before you use their telephone. Help around the house in whatever way you can.

Telephone Conversation

When you give a call, say, "Hello, is it 42943?" (or whatever), in a polite and pleasant voice. Then ask for whoever you want. When you receive a call, say, "Hello this is ABC office" (or whatever) with a smile in your voice and wait. When you hear from the caller, don't ask, "Who are you?" "May I know who's speaking?" Or "May I help you?" is more polite. Hanging on the telephone endlessly is a headache to those who have to listen to the chatter and giggles. Speak softly. End with goodbye.

Social Life

Littering the streets and public places is a crime. Just because the surroundings are dirty we don't need to add to the faith. We are already paying a heavy price. Dirt is not dirt cheap. The courtesy of men offering their seats to women or the younger to the elderly in public transports is dying or dead. Let us revive those good old manners. Do not occupy more space than you really need. Make room for others to sit. Mocking the appearance of people or the defective is cruel and rude. Avoid pointing your finger or calling someone's name on the street.

Spitting is a terrible habit. Stop it and teach others to stop. Where required, queue up; don't step in ahead of someone in the queue. Borrowed items should be returned promptly in good shape. Money is a sensitive area for anyone. Prompt payments preserve relationship. Licking the fingers to turn pages or count currency is a disgusting sight.

Church

Church is where we worship a great God. So dress sensibly. Once the service starts, be with all reverence. Talking or greeting late comers must be avoided. In a free worship church, it is not nice if one lifts up his voice above the rest and rattles of his Bible knowledge.

After the service, meet those who are friendless and aloof. When your senior in office attends the service, be friendly but not familiar. Be as respectful and reserved as in the office unless he himself treats you more graciously.

Ducklings or Swans?

Don't be bogged down by the impossible looking good manners. You don't have to be a saint to be good-mannered. A few simple decisions can turn around your life. I have already decided (to try) not to lick my fingers or teaspoons after a meal and to remind my husband not to chew as audibly as to be heard in the next room. We will do well with a bit of sense. Our self-discipline will pay off by transforming us, ugly ducklings into graceful swans!

THE INFLUENCE OF MUSIC ON OUR LIVES

After being touched by the love of Christ and surrendering our lives to Him, there arises within us a great desire to change our lifestyle, but sometimes we don't know how. One of the areas where change should come is the area and influence of secular music upon our lives. For many, secular music is a major pursuit and we must know how to respond now we are believers in Jesus.

God created music but Satan distorted it. He used it to deceive many and steal the worship and praise that belongs to God alone. We can't ignore the fact that in each part of our body we have music. It is in our breathing, our heartbeat and in each atom of our entire being. Having music within us is what makes us sensitive to different rhythms or melodies. It is natural – God made us that way.

We should not deprive ourselves of music, but choose music that does not produce a negative effect within us. Music greatly influences our behaviour. When we are stressed we can play soft and calm music that soothes the nerves and reduces anxiety. Often we move our feet, fingers or head to the basic beat of rhythm. When we do this, we are listening to or unconsciously singing that song, even if it is a song that we don't like. We do it because the melody or the rhythm has got stuck in our mind.

- THE ENEMY'S PLAN THROUGH MUSIC

Satan has a plan to get into the minds and the hearts of humanity through music. He aims to control people's behaviour and govern their lives to the point of physical and spiritual destruction and death. He wants to steal all that they love, their family, their feelings, and their friends. John 10:10 says: "The thief does not come except to steal and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

II - SATAN'S PURPOSE THROUGH MUSIC

A. To steal God's praise and the abundant life of the new believer

Satan seeks to steal for himself the honour and worship due to God. He influences people to sing and dance in a manner that glorifies his evil plans and his work. With overt lyrics (clear words of the songs) his music exalts the sins that God hates, like fornication, adultery, sexual pleasures and revenge. In this way Satan steals the souls of those that follow his music. He takes away the abundant life that Christ won for us on the cross. When we sing songs like, "Take me one more time" we place words in our mind, words that awaken the flesh with its passions and sexual desires. These songs bring us to the point of yielding once more to the enslavement of sin. From my experience, I would say that those who can't renounce secular music still have the world in their heart. Their Lord is not God, but secular music.

It is our responsibility to understand who we really belong to. We must evaluate whether the songs that we sing, and the music we fill our minds with, is acceptable to Jesus. Would He enjoy it? "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters." Luke 11:23. One young lady went on a retreat shortly after becoming a believer. There she met with the power of God. She turned away from all her sin - like evil music and her unsaved boyfriend who would always ring her while he was drunk. Sometime later she began to flirt with secular music again, especially with dance music. Soon she began to backslide. It had revived her desires to go to parties as before. She got back with her old boyfriend and soon she was locked into her old lifestyle of sin. Sadly she turned her back totally on the Lord, and the boyfriend left her with a fatherless child. This woman wasted her life and ruined the plan that God had for her. Her highest priorities were music and sex, whereas these should have been God and how to know and please Him!

B. To destroy the lives of its followers

Music has the power to destroy its listeners. One pop singer, also known as the "Lucifer of rock" said, "We always work towards directing the will and thoughts of the people, and the majority of other groups do the same". Through the music at the concerts, people are encouraged to do things

that they would never do in other circumstances. Under the influence of this music, some people strip off their clothes, revealing intimate parts of their body. They become involved in promiscuous sexual relationships. Their minds go crazy under the influence of drugs, and riots and violence take place. This is often reported in the media after such bands have had concerts. There is a famous saying: "The devil pays well those who serve him." The vandalism and evil doing that is encouraged by such music degrades the participants. They do evil, and it depresses them, releasing feelings of loneliness and defeat. This has led many to the point of suicide. We should not allow ourselves to get involved in this type of satanic music.

C. It spiritually and physically kills its followers

If you spend your time listening to music you will feel the desire to obey its message. Don't spend your time listening to sad, forlorn music - that only speaks about what could have been. If you listen to songs of disillusionment or pain, you will end up depressed and deflated. Maybe you will drink to drown your sorrows, or maybe you'll think of suicide.

I heard of a young 17-year old high school student who lived with his brothers and sisters. One day he began suffering from deep loneliness and his choice of friends was not good. He began to attend rock concerts where the youth would get high on drugs and fight each other. He became like them, and after a while this lifestyle became too much for him. One day he took a walk and shot himself. The enemy's plan is to kill those that fall into his trap. He takes them to a place of torment where they think they can't get out. Many believers fall into this trap. They believe they are strong enough to resist temptation and govern their own lives. They end up becoming slaves to their past, to liquor, to illicit sex, to violence and evil. They become sons of the devil, and lose the life that Christ won for them on the cross.

God wants to give us life and life in abundance. You will experience it in the measure that you set your mind on edifying things. Seek music that comforts and brings you peace. Listen to music that brings you close to God, like praise and worship songs, and makes you a better person.

III. - CHRISTIAN MUSIC - TRANSMITTING LIFE

A. It transmits peace and calms the spirit

Music touches our emotions and our will. What we listen to rules our thoughts, actions and attitudes. King Saul, while in rebellion against God lost His protection, and an evil spirit came and tormented him. Only when David played the harp did he feel peace, then the evil spirit would depart from him. "And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him." 1Samuel 16:23.

Music exercises power over the people that listen to it. That power can be good or bad, depending on the type of music. When we listen to Christian music we release the presence of God in our lives and in our homes. We cast out all spirits that seek to oppress. The people who visit us will feel the peace and the presence of the Lord. Like Saul we will feel free and peaceful through anointed music (1 Samuel 16:23).

B. It's a useful tool for winning souls

Christians make excellent music. It is pleasant to the ear and has a positive influence. To share our music with non-Christians is a great testimony if it is of a high standard. Our music is an alternative for those who don't know Jesus. It breaks down the mind set that church is nothing more than boring or mediocre. Music is one of the best instruments for soul winning. In various Christian music concerts the gospel is preached to youngsters, and an altar call given for them to accepted the Lord.

C. It leaves messages that edify

All Christian music has a positive and encouraging message, no matter what style it is. What is more, the melodies it contains bring one closer to God. It creates an appropriate environment for prayer.

You are allowed to enjoy a wide range of Christian music if you want too, but ultimately the most edifying still is live praise and worship songs that glorify Jesus! The Apostle Paul affirms in 1 Corinthians 6:12: "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."

It's not about rules and regulations, but knowing how to select music which is edifying. Christian music makes you feel better as a person. It brings confidence and strengthens you in times of anguish, and it brings you closer to God with its melodies and lyrics.

IV. - HOW TO RELATE TO MUSIC AS A CHRISTIAN

Don't allow small compromises where secular music is concerned. You could easily be trapped by your old habits.

Be determined not to be influenced when you have to listen to secular music in a public place.

Don't listen to music that revives memories or past negative experiences as this could take you back to old ways and practices.

Maintain transparency in everything. Be conscious that the Holy Spirit sees everything and is there to help you.

When you don't want to contaminate your heart, speak and pray in tongues, memorise Bible verses and think about the good things that God has given you.

Destroy the music that enslaved you in the past. Believe that God is able to give us much more than we can ask or understand. (Deuteronomy 7:26 and Acts 19:19).

Acquire good Christian music according to your personal taste and listen to Christian radio stations if available.

SEXUALITY AND THE BIBLE - an introduction

God wants everyone to be happy. He gave us the capacity to love and be loved. He established certain principles so that this can become a reality. In their rush to find so-called "love", many people fall into illicit sexual relationships. Instead of being a blessing, as God wills, these bring suffering that steal their peace and dreams, leaving most people with a broken heart. God knows the consequences of sexual relationships outside marriage. He intends you to understand His purposes so that you wait for His timing. He will bring you the ideal person, to whom you can be a blessing and who will make you happy and together you will fulfill His purpose.

SEX, A CREATION OF GOD

God created man and placed him over all creation. Nevertheless, out of all creation there was found no helper for Adam. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him" (Genesis 2:20). So God took a rib out of Man and created Woman. "And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she as taken out of man."

Studying the Hebrew text reveals that these words imply great emotion, joy and surprise. It is most probable that Adam did feel these considering that up until then all he had seen were animals. When he saw the woman, so similar but yet so distinct, he said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh". He expressed the satisfaction he felt in knowing that she was the perfect complement to himself and exactly what he needed. In Gen. 2: 24, God celebrates the first wedding and unites them as a couple: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." The last part of the verse "they shall become one flesh" refers to a couple's intimate physical union, the sexual aspect. This is not shameful. On the contrary it reflects the freedom of knowing each other without inhibitions. "And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." God looks at sex as something natural. It pleases Him when it is experienced within His set parameters. He delights in love when it is honest and complete. The Song of Solomon is an expression of the physical love between a man and wife, and a reflection of how intimate God wants marriage to be.

From the beginning there has existed an affinity and mutual attraction between the two sexes. Relations among those of the same sex were not within God's plan. Otherwise, God would have given Adam another Adam instead of Eve. This wrong type of relationship is the fruit of forgetting God, and becoming wise in your own mind, giving yourself over to something that does not please the Lord. "Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due." Roman 1:27. These and other practices have emerged as a result of the fall of man. They have changed the parameters set down by God. They see sex as something purely for pleasure that should be experienced whenever you desire it, and with whoever you desire. Some young people use sex to ensure that their partner will not leave them. In the end, these deceptions leave a profound feeling of loneliness, an inner emptiness, emotional conflicts, sexually transmitted diseases (including AIDS), unexpected pregnancies and forced marriages among other things.

WHY WAIT AND HAVE SEX ONLY IN MARRIAGE?

Though God Himself created sex for a good purpose, society has turned it into something degenerate, dirty and distorted. Besides creating pressure through the means of communication (television, magazines, radio, telephone and the internet, etc.) society aims to trap people in illicit sex. The strategies vary from nudity (programs containing sex scenes that excite the imagination) to suggestive and explicit advertising promoting premarital sex. Premarital sex is portrayed as normal and adultery is justified when the partner is no longer satisfying or attractive. Many people let themselves become entangled in illicit sexual relationships without thinking of the following consequences: We sin against God, We develop a guilt complex, Negative consequences arise in your life, and Your testimony is ruined.

A. We sin before God

When we give in to sexual relations outside of marriage we are sinning before God. The Word says in 1 Corinthians 6: 13, “Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.” Every sin committed with the body is done against the Lord. This includes fornication, adultery and homosexuality. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 tells us that no one who practices these sins will inherit eternal life. From the instant we open our heart to the Lord, the Holy Spirit comes and abides in our lives. John 14:17 teaches us: “The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” The fact that God is in us makes our body His temple, and if we practice sexual sins we insult the temple of the Holy Spirit. When you fall into these shameful sins, Solomon's saying is fulfilled: “Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. But he does not know that the dead are there that her guests are in the depths of hell.” Proverbs 9:17-18.

We sin against God and give in, when we believe what others say. "You don't know what you are missing!" or, "You're not into anything! " Many have fallen trying to be in line with their friends, trying to do whatever they say. An active sexual life, outside of God's will, takes away your peace and creates a feeling of insecurity concerning God. It is accompanied by a terrible fear about what could happen as a result.

B. Guilt complex

Sin always appears to be pleasant and agreeable at first sight. What's more, many are trapped into believing nothing serious will happen as long as they know when to stop in time. That is how many get caught in the world of pornography and end up with serious guilt problems, slavery, and addictions. Their self-esteem is very low and they are incapable of sustaining a healthy emotional relationship with someone of the opposite sex.

I once read about the case of a man who found a pornographic magazine in the garbage. He picked it up, read it, and from that time on became addicted to pornography. Since he was timid it was easier for him to practice masturbation than to win a young lady and start a relationship with her. But as our sin nature can never be quenched, but always wants more, he started raping and murdering young ladies. He was finally caught, after killing 17 of them! This incident reflects how sin can enter our lives subtly, and if we allow its free reign it can enslave us and lead us into terrible actions. Maybe you think, “I will never fall into such extremes!" or, "My heart will never allow me to become so evil!" But nevertheless, directly or indirectly, many have practiced murder through abortion.

Abortion is as much murder as mass murder. Many justify their crime saying that the fetus is only a mass of cells, but the Psalmist reminds us that: “Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.” Psalm 139:16. From the very moment of conception we become a human being created by God and have contact with the Creator who give us life. You should neither practice nor become an accomplice to abortion, you do not have the right to decide over the life of a defenseless person. If you do, you will bring a curse over your life and Proverbs 14:12 will be fulfilled: “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”

You will be filled by a deep agony when you realise that it was a life and there is now nothing you can do to change things. You will feel pain when you see a child and think how old yours would be, and what he would be like if he was alive. Those who promote abortion will never tell you the consequences, but those who have experienced one know that they are real and painful.

Naturally, every sexual sin leaves a guilt complex, shame, and a web of deceit. Many think they are no longer worthy of being loved. They become possessive in their relationships and end up begging for love, accepting physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Some conform to being "someone else" in a relationship in order to keep it alive.

C. It brings negative consequences to your life

The painful, personal consequences of sexual sin can remain in effect for the rest of someone's life. Many have fallen at a time when they least expected to. David, the king of Israel, is a clear example. One day, he was walking out on his palace terrace when he saw a very beautiful woman bathing. Not caring if she was married or not, he took her for himself and slept with her and she became pregnant. Some might say that David simply obeyed his masculine impulses. But I think he fell because he gave his mind the freedom to wander and imagine whatever it pleased. What is more, his idleness also contributed to the sin. Instead of going to battle with his people, he was wasting his time at home. Laziness is not a good influence as it opens doors into our minds to things we should not think about. Once conceived in our mind these thoughts lead to sin and spiritual death. This is what James teaches when he says: "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death." James 1:14-15.

David's adventure with Bathsheba, wife of Uriah, did not end there. When David found out about her pregnancy, he sent for her husband and tried everything to make him sleep with her and cover up his sin. Uriah did not go to his house because his companions and nation were at war. Uriah's faithfulness caused David problems. He saw that the easiest way out would be to send a letter with Uriah to Joab, the general of his army. He ordered Uriah to be left alone in heavy battle so that he would be killed. David's orders were carried out and Uriah died on the frontline. Bathsheba was taken to the palace after having mourned her husband. David took her as his wife and she gave him a son. A year passed. God waited for David to repent and confess his sin, but because he did not, his sin eventually caught up with him. God sent Nathan to confront David about his sin. The prophet presented the story before him of a rich man with many sheep who one day received a visitor. He went and slaughtered his poor neighbour's only lamb, one that had grown up with his children, eaten from his plate, and slept at his bosom. When David heard the story his anger was greatly aroused against the man and said: "...As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity." (2 Samuel 12:5-6).

After David passed judgment the prophet said, "you are the man!" Nathan, through a prophetic word, began to remind David how God called, prospered, and anointed him as king. If all that had not been enough the Lord would have given him more. God showed David the consequences of his sin. He told David that because he had killed Uriah the Hittite and took his wife, the sword would never depart from his house. His wives would be given to his neighbour, making what he did in private happen to them in public. Lastly, the son born to David and Bathsheba would die. (2 Samuel 12:14).

If David could have determined his own judgment he would have died, but God was merciful and gave him another opportunity. Yet, he lived with the pain of the consequences for the rest of his life. The first thing David faced was finding out his son was to die. This caused pain and anguish in his heart. He stopped eating, bathing and changing his clothes. He prostrated himself on the ground and humbled himself before God, but the days passed and his son died. A short time after, God comforted him and gave him another son, king Solomon. Later, he suffered seeing his children living the consequences of his past actions. David experienced sexual sin and violence in his own household. Amnon, one of his sons, raped his own sister Tamar. Then Absalom, another one of his sons, killed Amnon out of vengeance for the affront and sexual abuse of his sister. Absalom later rebelled and tried to take David's kingdom. This caused David much anguish, "So David went up by the ascent of the Mount of Olives, and wept as he went up; and he had his head covered and went barefoot." (2 Samuel 15:30).

While David fled, his son Absalom laid with his ten concubines 'in the sight of all Israel' (2 Samuel 16:22). These things highlight a very painful truth in David's life -that they were the consequences of his sin. Proverbs 26:2 says: "So a curse without cause shall not alight." Sin is not just a moment of weakness. It is a net that traps and leads to the destruction of all who fall into it.

Today, many young people experience the consequences of sexual sin. They suffer from venereal diseases such as herpes, syphilis, as well as AIDS. Some of these diseases are incurable and effect the person's children. It is terrible seeing children born contaminated with sickness that is a direct result of their parents' past sin.

After giving into pre-marital sex, some fall into sexual exploitation and become emotionally and physically affected. Others enter into the world of prostitution, and having become one flesh with their clients, they receive the curses that their clients carry. Hurt, pain, bitterness from feeling used and abused, resentment and guilt complexes are just some of the consequences of a promiscuous lifestyle.

III. - HOW TO AVOID SINFUL SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS

There is nothing that helps us avoid falling into sin more than being aware of its consequences. But even more than that is the fear of the Lord, a holy awe and respect towards God that motivates us not to sin against Him who is holy! However, you must take adequate measures to enable you to stand victorious when faced by sexual temptation.

A. Strengthen your relationship with God

A fall does not occur as a result of waking up one day and finding your carnal nature out of control. It starts with small concessions, things which open the door to temptation and later, sin. This can come about in different ways with different people. For men, their sight is what is most susceptible. The Lord says: "You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not commit adultery. But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Mathew 5:27-28. Sin begins when you look lustfully. It has been said that there is nothing wrong with the first look; it is the second that is lust!

The woman is most sensitive in what she hears. If she allows compliments and flattery from people whom she knows are not right for her (someone already married, engaged, or leading an ungodly life), she is going to have problems. She may easily become entangled in a tormenting relationship that produces negative results in her life.

The best way I can avoid a fall is by guarding my relationship with God, strengthening my prayer life and depending on the Word of God and abiding in the Word. A good start is to recognise our own past sins and weaknesses, and imitate David in obtaining God's forgiveness. "I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, I will confess my transgression to the Lord, and You forgave the iniquity of my sin." Psalm 32:5. We need to confess every sin to God until we experience His forgiveness and the cleansing that Christ's blood brings. That is the only way to be freed from the curse sin brings. The same must be done if you are going through temptation. If you seek God, He will give you a way out. "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." (I Cor. 10: 13).

Determine to spend time praying and studying the Word of God each day. Do not permit one day to go by without talking to God and listening to His counsel. But, if in some circumstance you fail, ask God's forgiveness, confess your sin, and go on. This will guard your life from falling, and will bring profound strength that will allow you to prevail in all things.

B. Prepare yourself to face temptation

Temptations will come when you least expect them and in the most unusual ways. It is wise, therefore, to take precautions so we are not caught by surprise. Sexual insinuations and remarks are frequently used by those wanting us to give in to their flirting, sexual games, or even sex itself. Phrases like, "if you really love me, then sleep with me!", "if you won't be with me, someone else will!", "if you are really a man, then prove it to me!", "Everyone does it!" or "if you ever want to see me again, you need to be more intimate with me!" are all meant to pressure you into having sex

without having an established commitment. You have to act wisely, and prepare yourself to confront these types of situations.

It is time to shine as children of God. Let us make a difference and show the world that we can be happy without sexual sin. We can be happy with our husband or wife, keeping our bodies for the person destined to be our lifelong mate. Let us produce families that reflect God's love and honour those things that please Him. "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace..." Romans 6:14.

A VERY BRIEF SURVEY OF THE BIBLE

PART ONE – BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson 1 – INTRODUCTION

The Bible is God’s written revelation of Himself and of His will to men. Its central theme is salvation through Jesus Christ. The Bible contains 66 books, written by 40 authors covering approximately 1600 years. The Old Testament was written mostly in Hebrew, and the New Testament was written in Greek. The authors were kings and princes, poets and philosophers, prophets and statesmen. Some were highly educated and others were unschooled fishermen.

We shall study the Old Testament this first month of our school. It is made up of 39 books on these subjects: 5 – Law

12 – Historical

5 – Poetical

17 – Prophetical (5 Major, 12 Minor)

The Bible is the greatest document available for the human race. It needs to be read, studied, and believed and obeyed.

Lesson 2 – GENESIS

The first five books of the Bible were written by Moses and are called the Pentateuch. The word “Genesis” means origin, or birth. Genesis is the book of beginnings – the beginning of the world (1 : 1 – 25), of the human race (1 : 26 – 27), of sin in the world (3 : 1 – 7), of the promise of redemption (3 : 8 – 24), of family life (4 : 1 – 15), of a man-made civilization (4 : 16 – 9 : 29), of the nations of the world (10, 11), and of the Hebrew race (12 – 50).

Genesis is a history of man’s failure. It begins with “God” and ends “in a coffin”. Here is an outline that divides the book into two large thoughts:

Entrance of sin on the earth, chs. 1 – 11.

Creation, chs. 1, 2

The fall, chs. 3, 4

The flood, chs. 5 – 9.

Tower of Babel and confusion of tongues, chs. 10, 11.

Preparation for the coming of the Redeemer, chs. 12 – 50.

Abraham, the man of faith, chs. 12 – 23

Isaac, the beloved son, chs. 24 – 26.

Jacob, who suffered and remained true to God, chs. 27 – 50.

Lesson 3 – EXODUS

Exodus means “the way out”.

There were only seventy persons who went down into Egypt, but before they left Egypt they had grown into a nation of three million. Genesis tells of man’s failure; Exodus tells of the redeeming work of a sovereign God. It begins in darkness and gloom, and ends in glory.

Exodus 12 gives us the thrilling story of the Passover, the clearest Old Testament picture of our individual salvation through faith in the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. The outline of Exodus follows:

God prepares Moses, a deliverer, chs. 1 – 11.

Deliverance, by blood and power, chs. 12 – 14.

Marching to Mt. Sinai, the Spiritual education of the people, chs. 15 – 18.

Giving of the Law, God’s mirror to show us our exceeding sinfulness, chs. 19 – 24.

Blueprint and construction of the tabernacle, testifying that God was dwelling in the midst of His people, chs. 25 – 40.

Lesson 4 – LEVITICUS, NUMBERS AND DEUTERONOMY

The Book of **Leviticus** is God’s picture-book to help the children of Israel in their religious training. Every picture pointed forward to the work of Jesus Christ. It is called the Book of Atonement. “Get right,” say the offerings. There are five offerings: burnt, meal, peace, sin and trespass. “Keep right,” say the feasts. There are eight feasts: Sabbath, Passover, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles, the Sabbath year, and Jubilee. The sacrifices spoke of the blood that saved. The feasts spoke of the food that sustains.

Numbers is the Book of Wildness Wandering from Sinai to the border of Canaan, the land of promise. It might also be called the Book of Murmurings. The key thought is discipline. Numbers deals with the believer’s walk.

Chapters 1 – 10 give us the divine legislation.

Chapters 11 – 20 tell the story of the nation’s failure.

Chapters 21 – 36 record Israel’s return to Jehovah’s favor and final victory, even in the wildness.

These are the important persons in this book: Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Joshua and Caleb.

Deuteronomy is a Book of Remembrance. It is a collection of the speeches and songs of Moses who he gave as his farewell to the children of Israel. This book shows the blessings of obedience and the curse of disobedience. It covers only about two months, including thirty days of mourning for Moses. Jesus often quoted from Deuteronomy. He answered the devil from its writings.

Deuteronomy gives a taste of heaven on earth.

Review: In Genesis, we see man ruined;

in Exodus, man redeemed;

in Leviticus, man worshiping;

in Numbers, man serving;

in Deuteronomy, man learning to obey.

Lesson 5 – JOSHUA, JUDGES AND RUTH

The Book of **Joshua** opens the Books of History. It is full of spiritual truth, encouragement and wisdom. Moses was dead, but the march must continue. Joshua completes what Moses began. The book about this great leader falls into two parts:

Conquest of the promised land, chs. 1 – 12.

Occupation of the promised land, chs. 13 – 24.

Judges is the account of the Dark Ages of the people of Israel. The people forsook God (Judges 2 : 13) and God forsook the people (2 : 23). Judges covers the period after the death of their great leader, Joshua, to the ascension of Saul to the throne of Israel. There was no king in those first 350 years in the land of promise. This phrase runs through the whole book: “Every man did what was right in his own eyes.” The book shows man’s constant failure and God’s constant mercy. It can be outlined this way: Seven apostasies, seven servitudes to seven heathen nations, and seven deliverances!

Ruth speaks to us of Jesus Christ, our Kinsman-Redeemer. This book is a bright picture on the black background of the Judges and is a lovely picture of Christ and the Church. It records the events during the rule of Gideon or Jephthah. Ruth was the great grandmother of David the ancestor of Christ. This book tells the beginning of the Messianic family and nation into which the Messiah was to born. Ruth was a Moabitess, of the people who were descendants of Lot, a heathen people. What a picture of God’s grace, adopting the Gentiles into Christ’s family!

Lesson 6 – FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL

I Samuel is the first of the six King books. They are the two books of Samuel, of Kings and of Chronicles. The events recorded in 1 Samuel cover a period of about 115 years, from the birth of Samuel through the troublous times of Saul to the beginning of the reign of David. The book may be divided under the names of its three chief characters:

Samuel, God’s prophet, chs. 1 – 7

Saul, the king disobedient to God and a failure, chs. 8 – 15.

David, God’s man, chs. 16 – 31.

II Samuel – First Samuel records the failure of man’s king, Saul. Second Samuel describes the enthronement of God’s king, David, and the establishment of the “House of David” through which the Messiah should later come. David was a man after God’s own heart – not perfect, but repentant when he failed. He was extremely versatile – shepherd boy, court musician, soldier, true friend, outcast captain, king, great general, loving father, poet, sinner and brokenhearted old man, but always the lover of God. The book may be divided into two parts:

Triumphs of David, chs. 1 –10.

Troubles of David, chs. 11 – 24.

Lesson 7 – FIRST AND SECOND KINGS

These are just a continuation of the Books of Samuel. They cover a period of 400 years and record the growth, decay and division of the kingdom. The Southern Kingdom, Judah, had 20 kings, and the Northern, Israel, had 19. Both Judah and Israel were led into captivity. The powerful voices for God were Elijah, the prophet of judgement and severity, in 1 Kings, and Elisha, the prophet of grace and tenderness, in 2 Kings. These are the important parts of the two books:

Death of David, 1 Kings, 1, 2.

Glory of Solomon’s reign, 1 Kings 3 – 11.

Division of the Kingdom, 1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 16.

Captivity of Israel by Assyria, 2 Kings 17.

Decline and captivity of Judah by Babylon, 2 Kings 18 – 25.

Lesson 8 – FIRST AND SECOND CHRONICLES

The Books of Chronicles record the same events as the Books of Kings, but from a different perspective. In Kings the history of the nation is given from the throne; in Chronicles it is from the altar. In Kings the place is the center; in Chronicles, it is the Temple. Kings records the political history, Chronicles the religious. Kings gives us man’s viewpoint; Chronicles gives us God’s. II Chronicles records five great revivals; under Asa, ch.15; Jehosaphat, ch.20; Joash, chs. 23, 24; Hezekiah, chs. 29 – 31, and Josiah, ch.35.

This is the outline of **I Chronicles**:

Genealogies, chs. 1 – 9.

Saul’s reign, ch. 10.

David’s reign, chs. 11 – 29.

And here is the outline of **II Chronicles**:

Solomon’s reign, chs. 1 – 9.

Division of the kingdom and history of Judah, chs. 10 – 36.

Lesson 9 – EZRA, NEHEMIAH AND ESTHER

Ezra and Nehemiah tell the story of the return of God’s chosen people after their exile in Babylon. Ezra was a priest. Nehemiah was a layman. The first exodus of the children of Israel was from Egypt under Moses: the second was from Babylon under **Ezra**. Some Jews had already returned

and when Ezra arrived in Jerusalem he found things even worse than he had expected. The Jews had intermarried with people of the land and had done everything that the heathen had taught them (9 : 1 – 4). Ezra was grief-stricken (9 : 5 – 15); then the people assembled about him and came to a consciousness of the greatness of their sin (10 : 1 – 44). At once Ezra led them into a sacred covenant with God.

Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem thirteen years after Ezra. He came with the authority of the king of Persia to build the walls of Jerusalem. He was a real engineer and in spite of much opposition, the work was accomplished in 52 days.

Here is an outline of two books:

Return from Babylon under Zerubbabel, Ezra 1 – 6.

Return from Babylon led by Ezra, Ezra 7 – 10.

Rebuilding the walls, Neh. 1 – 7.

Revival and reform, Neh. 8 – 13.

Esther – the name of God does not occur in this beautiful story, but every page is full of God, who hides himself behind every word. The book teaches the providence of God. God is at the steering wheel of this universe. All the events of the book center around three feasts:

- 1) Feast of King Ahasuerus, king of Persia, when Vashti was rejected and the way was opened for Mordecai to bring Esther, a young orphan in his care, to be introduced to Ahasuerus and became queen, chs. 1 and 2.
- 2) Feast of Esther, when the Jew's enemy, Haman, was exposed and condemned to death and Mordecai was elevated, ch. 7.
- 3) Feast of Purim, which celebrated the deliverance of the Jews from a fearful danger, ch. 9.

Lesson 10 – JOB

Job is the first of the five books of poetry. These books tell of the experiences of the heart. This book is perhaps the oldest book of the Bible. It gives God's answer to the problem. "Why do godly people suffer?" The account opens with a scene in heaven, and then tells of Job's fall from prosperity to poverty. This is followed by the great discussion between Job and his friends.

The story opens with a scene in heaven. 1: 1 – 12, 2 : 1 – 6, and is followed by Job's fall from prosperity to poverty, 1 : 13 – 22; 2 : 7 – 10, then

The great discussion between Job and his four friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and Eliu, 2 : 11 – 37 : 24. Finally,

The climax is reached, when God speaks, 38 – 42. Jehovah explained to Job that when men see God, something always happens. The godly are allowed to suffer so they may see themselves; then God can lift them up. He has a wise purpose in all suffering. He wants to bring out the gold as by fire.

Lesson 11 – PSALMS

Psalms is a book of praise, prayer and worship. The Psalms magnify and praise the Lord. Every human experience is related to Him. The life of the believer is pictured in all of its experiences of joy and sorrow, victory and failure. The Psalms are full of Christ. They describe the whole program of His suffering and death. Someone has outlined the Psalms after the pattern of the Pentateuch:

Genesis section, Psalms 1 – 41, views man in a state of blessedness, then there is his fall and recovery.

Exodus section, Psalms 42 – 72, pictures Israel's ruin and redemption.

Leviticus section, Psalms 73 – 89, depicts our sanctuary in God, in both darkness and dawn.

Numbers section, Psalms 90 – 106. This section focuses on the earth, its peril and protection.

Deuteronomy section, Psalms 107 – 150. These psalms show the perfection and praise of the World of God.

Lesson 12 – PROVERBS, ECCLESIASTES AND SONG OF SOLOMON

Solomon was a great king, famous for his wisdom and riches. He wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs (1 Kings 4 : 31, 32). Solomon was a philosopher, a scientist, an architect of a temple that was one of the wonders of the world, and a king. **Proverbs** is filled with words of wisdom. It can be divided like this:

Counsel for young men, chs. 1 - 10.

Counsel for all men, chs. 11 – 20.

Counsel for kings and rulers, chs. 21 – 31.

Ecclesiastes is the record of all that human thinking and natural religion have been able to discover about the meaning and goal of life. The arguments in the book are not God's arguments, but God's record of man's arguments. The writer is Solomon, and the book is a dramatic autobiography of his experience and reflections while he was out of fellowship with God. Solomon may have been wise, but he did not follow his own wisdom. The key words are "vanity"(meaningless) and "under the sun".

Song of Solomon has been called the Christian's Love Song.

There are four important meanings found in this book:

It sets forth the "glory of wedded love".

It sets forth the love of Jehovah for Israel.

It is a picture of Christ and the Church.

It depicts the communion of Christ and the individual believer.

Personal love to Christ is the greatest need of the church today.

Lesson 13 – ISAIAH

This is the first of the 17 prophetic books. The prophets were men whom God raised up during the dark days of Israel's history. They were the evangelists of the day. The period of the prophets covered 500 years from the ninth to the fourth centuries B.C. These prophets spoke fearlessly to kings and people alike of their sins and failures. The book of Isaiah has two distinct emphases. In the first part the prophet pictured Israel. In the last of the book he revealed Jesus bearing our load of sin, then Christ exalted and glorified.

Isaiah is miniature Bible in structure. It has 66 chapters, just as the Bible has 66 books. There are two great divisions, just as there are in the Bible, with 39 chapters in the first, like the Old Testament, and 27 chapters in the second, like the New Testament. The book has been labeled "The Gospel According to Isaiah". Christ's virgin birth, His character, His life, His death, His resurrection and His second coming are all presented with definiteness and clarity.

Lesson 14 – JEREMIAH AND LAMENTATIONS

Jeremiah is called the "weeping prophet". The message he was called to give broke his own heart. It was the most unwelcome ever delivered to a people. He was called a traitor because he said they were to yield to Babylon (38 : 17 – 23). There was only one thing left for Israel to do – surrender. The "times of Gentiles" had already begun with Babylon, the head of gold in Daniel's vision.

Jeremiah predicted the 70 years captivity in Babylon (25 : 9 – 12). However, he saw beyond the darkness to the light, and no prophet spoke so glowingly of the future as he did (23 : 3 – 8; 30;31; 33 : 15 – 22). Jeremiah used many object lessons given him by Jehovah in teaching the people.

His message was not only unpopular – it was rejected, and his enemies even demanded his death.

It is thought that Jeremiah wrote **Lamentations**, an exquisite book of poetry of five distinct poems. It is not all sorrow. Above the clouds of the poet's weeping over the sins of his people, God's sun is still shining. Read 3 : 22 – 27.

Lesson 15 – EZEKIEL

Ezekiel was a prophet during the captivity in Babylon. He tried to remove Israel's false hopes of an early return to Palestine and to prepare them for the news of the tragic destruction of their beloved Jerusalem.

His message was the most spiritual of the prophets, as he deals more with the person of God. He spoke in the darkest days of the nation. The people would not listen to him or to his message, so he resorted to a new method. Instead of speaking in parables, he acted them out (24 : 24). Ezekiel is the prophet of the glory of the Lord. Here is a quick view of the book – it focuses on the destruction of Jerusalem.

Pre-siege, chs. 1 – 24. Ezekiel began his prophesies six years before Jerusalem's destruction and kept predicting its certainty until it occurred.

Siege, chs. 25 – 32. After that, his prophesies here deal with Judah's enemies and the overthrow of these heathen nations.

Post-siege, chs. 33 – 48. Finally, the restoration and reestablishment of Judah are pictured.

Lesson 16 – DANIEL

Daniel has been called the prophet of dreams because God revealed to him His secrets. He looked far into the future and is quoted most in Revelation. His life and ministry bridge the entire 70 years. He was taken captive about the age of 16 and lived to be over 90. Although he was a captive, he rose to be prime minister of Babylon. The wonderful thing is that he always remained true to Jehovah God.

This is an outline of the book:

The private life of Daniel, 1 : 1 – 2 : 3.

The public life of Daniel – a portrayal of the times of the Gentiles, 2: 4 – 7:28.

The prophetic visions of Daniel – the prophetic history of the nation, 8 – 12.

Lesson 17 – HOSEA, JOEL AND AMOS

Hosea is the first of the 12 books known as the Minor Prophets, called that way because of the amount of material written. Hosea, whose name means "salvation," has been called the Jeremiah of the Northern kingdom. He was a layman called by God to give the distinct message to way ward Israel that God loved them.

Hosea was commanded to marry a harlot, who bore him two sons and a daughter. She played the harlot again, and Hosea put her out of his home. But God commanded him to take her back and love her again.

The message was that Israel was unfaithful to God, but He loved her still and would bring her back to her homeland. The outline of Hosea:

The prophet and his faithless wife, Gomer, chs. 1 – 3.

The Lord and the faithless nation, Israel, chs. 4 – 14.

Joel was a prophet to Judah who wrote at the time of a terrible plague of locusts. He compared this to future judgements. He spoke of the "day of the Lord" five times, referring to judgement.

Spiritual deliverance is the great central promise of the book of Joel. Joel had the privilege of telling that God would pour forth His Spirit upon all flesh (2 : 32 : 3 : 18). This was fulfilled at Pentecost (Acts 2 : 16).

Amos was a herdsman, and his message was addressed largely to the Northern Kingdom. He feared God so much that he feared no one else at all. Amos started his preaching by proclaiming the Lord's judgment upon six neighboring nations. Then he came nearer home against the whole nation of Judah and Israel.

Lesson 18 – OBADIAH, JONAH AND MICAH

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament – only one page, 21 verses, but it is still significant for us today. It is the prophecy of judgment against Edom. It includes two important themes – the doom of the proud and rebellious, and the deliverance of the meek and humble. The Edomites descended from Esau, who had despised his birthright – Edom continued to be Israel’s enemy. She was destroyed, as Obadiah warned.

Obadiah, like the other prophets, predicted the coming of the day of the Lord and the establishment of Messiah’s kingdom.

The book of **Jonah** contains no prophecy, although Jonah was a prophet. It is the personal account of a major event in Jonah’s life, which was a sign of the greatest event in the history of the world the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this book, God prepared four things: a great fish (1 : 17), a gourd (4 : 6), a worm (4 : 7), and a vehement east wind (4 : 8). God was taking care of His prophet!

There are two events of great importance in the book: the great fish swallowing Jonah, and the huge heathen city of Ninevah being converted by an obscure foreign missionary in just a few days.

We must notice two things in this book. First, Jonah is a type of Christ in his death, burial and resurrection. Second, Jonah is also a type of Israel – disobedient to God, swallowed by the nations of the world, who will yet give her up when Christ comes. Then Israel will be witnesses of God everywhere.

Micah proclaimed judgment on Jerusalem and the cities of Israel. But he hastened on to words of hope. He looked beyond doom and punishment to the day of glory when Christ would reign. The Messiah will come (4 : 8). He will be born in Bethlehem (5 : 2 – 4).

A natural warning comes from Micah’s three messages, each beginning with “Hear”.

The first (1 : 2) was addressed to all people.

The second (3 : 1) was addressed to the leaders of Israel.

The third (6 : 1) was a personal word of pleading to Israel to repent and return to God.

Lesson 19 – NAHUM, HABAKKUK AND ZEPHANIAH

The theme of **Nahum** is the destruction of Nineveh, the city that Jonah warned. Nahum was written about 150 years after the revival of Jonah’s day. The repentance did not last and Nineveh was destroyed because of her sin (3 : 1 – 7).

Nineveh is a type of all nations that turn their backs on God. The person or nation that deliberately rejects God deliberately and fatally elects doom.

Habakkuk asked questions and received answers. The question, “Why do the wicked prosper?” is discussed. In all his difficulties, he went to God in prayer and waited patiently for his answer (2 : 1). After a sincere prayer (3 : 1 – 16), God’s glory appeared.

The words, “The just shall live by his faith” (2 : 4) had great significance in the Reformation.

These words are quoted in the New Testament: Romans 1: 17, Galatians 3: 11 and Hebrews 10: 38.

Zephaniah is filled with the wrath and judgment of God (1 : 15; 3 : 8), but there is the undertone of the love of God (3 : 17). Zephaniah denounced the various forms of idolatry. He may have been mainly responsible for the revival under Josiah.

The book begins with sorrow but ends with singing.

Lesson 20 – HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH AND MALACHI

Most of the Old Testament prophets spoke before the captivity. Just two, Ezekiel and Daniel, prophesied during the captivity. These three, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi, prophesied after the return.

The reconstruction and refurbishing of the Temple were the supreme passion of **Haggai**. He rebuked the people for their slowness in rebuilding it, and he encouraged and helped them in the

enterprise. His book is a series of four brief messages written over a period of four months. His stern call to duty was a good tonic. The people arose and began to build the temple (1:12 – 15). **Zechariah**, a young prophet, stood alongside the aged Haggai, strengthened the children of Israel as they built the temple and warned them not to disappoint God as their fathers had done. He painted in glowing colors the perpetual blessings that was coming to Israel in far-off ages. Zechariah for told the Saviour more than any other prophet except Isaiah. Looking far into the future he saw Him first in humiliation and suffering, and again, in majesty and great glory. **Malachi** is the bridge between the Old and New Testaments. A silence of 400 years lies between Malachi and the voice of John the Baptist saying “Prepare the way of the Lord.” The Old Testament ends with the world “curse”, while the New Testament closes with a blessing. Following a period of revival (Neh. 10: 28 – 39), the people had become spiritually cold and morally lax. Malachi came as a reformer, and he encouraged while he rebuked. Read Malachi’s solemn declaration concerning the second coming of Christ, for which we wait, 3: 16 – 4 : 3.

PART TWO – BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Lesson 21 – INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPELS

The word “Gospel” means “good news”. The four writers are called evangelists, which means messenger of good tidings. Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the Synoptic Gospels because, unlike John, they give a synopsis – a view together, a collective view – of Christ’s life.

The Synoptic Gospels tell of Christ’s ministry chiefly in Galilee, while John tells about Judea. The Synoptics narrate His miracles, parables and addresses to the multitudes; John presents His deeper discourses, His conversations and prayers. The three portray Christ in action; John portrays Him in meditation and communion.

All that the prophets have said lead to our Lord’s earthly life and work, and all that follows in the Epistles proceeds from them. The Gospels are the source.

The Gospels tell us **WHEN** and **HOW** Christ came.

The Epistles tell us **WHY** and **FOR WHAT** Christ came.

Lesson 22 – MATTHEW

Matthew presents Jesus as the King. Written primarily for the Jew, He is presented as the Son of David. His royal genealogy is given in chapter 1 and goes back to Abraham. 29 quotations from the Old Testament are given, more than any other Gospel, showing that Christ was the fulfillment of prophecies of the Messiah.

Matthew was a tax collector at Capernaum, under the Roman law, when Jesus chose him (9: 9; 10: 3). The other evangelists tell about the great feast he gave Jesus and record the significant fact that he left all to follow Him. No doubt he was a man of means.

Matthew is the Gospel of the Messiah, God’s anointed One. The main purpose of the Spirit in this book is to show that Jesus of Nazareth is the predicted Messiah of whom Moses and the prophets wrote.

Matthew alone tells of the visit of the wise men from the East. The Sermon on the Mount sets forth the Constitution of the Kingdom. The word “kingdom” occurs 55 times in Matthew, for this is the Gospel of the King.

Much of Jesus discourse in Matthew 24 and 25 is devoted to His second coming.

The ascension of Jesus is not recorded in Matthew. The curtain falls with the Messiah still on earth, for it is on earth that the Son of David is yet to reign in glory.

Lesson 23 – MARK

Mark depicts Jesus as the Servant. Written to the Romans, there is no genealogy. Why? Because men are not interested in the genealogy of a servant.

The writer was John Mark, the son of Mary and the cousin of Barnabas. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Antioch, and was the cause of some trouble between them (Acts 12 : 25, 13: 5). Then he left them, probably because of hardships (Act 13: 13). Finally he became a great help to Paul (Col.4: 10; II Tim.4: 11). Peter was the means of his salvation and spoke of him as “my son” (I Pet.5:13). We see Peter’s influence in this Gospel.

This is the shortest Gospel, full of action and accomplishment. Mark wrote this Gospel in Rome, evidently for Romans. They were a busy people and believed in power and action. They cared more for deeds than for words. Few Old Testament Scriptures are quoted. Only four parables are given. There is no lengthy introduction. The words “forthwith”, “straightway”, “immediately”, showing speed, are used 40 times.

Miracles have a leading place in Mark – 20 are recorded.

Lesson 24 – LUKE

Luke sets forth Jesus as the perfect Man. Written to the Greeks, his genealogy goes back to Adam, the first man, instead of to Abraham. As a perfect Man, Jesus is seen much in prayer and with angels ministering to Him.

Luke was a physician, the companion of Paul. He was the only Gentile writer of a New Testament book. He was an educated man and a keen observer. He was also the writer of the Acts. He presents Jesus as the ideal of perfect manliness.

This is the Gospel for the sinner. It shows Christ’s compassionate love in becoming man to save man.

Dr. Luke has given us the fullest particulars concerning the miraculous birth of Jesus. He alone tells of the visit of the shepherds. Only Luke tells of Jesus’ visit to the temple when he was 12. As a man He toiled with his hands, suffered. Five out of six miracles in the Gospel were miracles of healing. Luke alone tells of hearing Malchus’ ear (22 : 51).

Luke’s is the Gospel for the outcasts on earth. He has most to say about womanhood. His is a poetic book with beautiful songs. He speaks more of the prayers of the Lord than any other writer.

Lesson 25 – JOHN

John portrays Jesus as the Son of God. Everything in this Gospel illustrates and demonstrates His divine relationship.

The author was John, “son of thunder”, the “disciple whom Jesus loved”. His father was Zebedee, a prosperous fisherman; his mother was Salome, a devout follower of the Lord. His brother was James.

John wrote nearly a generation after the other evangelists. He may have been around 25 when Jesus called him. He had been a follower of John the Baptist. Later in life he was banished to Patmos somewhere between 80 and 100 A.D., when all the New Testament was complete except for his own writing.

John is more elevated in tone and more exalted in view than the other Gospels. 35 times Jesus speaks of God as “my Father” in John. 25 times He says “Verify, verily”, speaking with authority. John says that he wrote his Gospel that men might believe that Jesus is the Christ. John brings seven witnesses to this: 1: 34; 1: 49; 6: 69; 11: 27; 20: 28; 20: 31 and 10: 36. He records seven miracles; 2:1-11; 4:46-54; 5:1-47; 6:1-14; 6:15-21; 9:1-41 and 11:1-57. And Christ’s God-nature revealed in the seven “I Am’s” of this book.

Lesson 26 - ACTS

Luke, in his Gospel, shows what Christ “began to do” on earth. In **Acts** he shows what He continued to do, by the Holy Spirit.

The ascension of our Lord is the closing scene in Luke. It is the opening fact in Acts.

Acts records the acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles. His name is mentioned about 70 times. The word “witness” is used over 30 times.

The book opens with the preaching of the gospel in Jerusalem, the metropolis of the Jewish nation. It closes with the preaching of the Gospel in Rome, the metropolis of world power. In one generation the Apostles had moved out in every direction and had preached in every nation of the then known world (Col. 1 : 23).

In Acts 1 through 12 we find Peter witnessing to the Jews. His message is “Repent”. In Acts 13 – 28, we find Paul witnessing to the Gentiles. He says, “Believe”.

Acts is a fine guidebook to missions. It shows the motive for missions – bringing men to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The first church pursued a definite program in carrying out its plans they chose a great radiating center of population for a base. The dependence was upon the Holy Spirit, and there was great zeal. Paul’s three missionary journeys were prime examples of effective missionary work.

Lesson 27 – ROMANS

This is the first of Epistles. 13 were written by Paul, so are called the Pauline Epistles. (This includes Hebrews, although we are not certain that Paul was its author). Paul was born of pure Jewish stock. The combination of Roman citizenship, Greek education and Hebrew religion wonderfully qualified him for his great work.

Visitors from Rome, in Jerusalem for the Passover and converted at Pentecost, went back to the capital, carrying the seed of the Gospel, and planted the church there. 28 years later Paul was eager to visit it and sent this letter from Corinth, where he spent three months on his third missionary journey.

The Book of **Romans** shows God’s method of making guilty men good. It is the greatest document on our salvation.

Outline: Chapters 1 – 8 are doctrinal. The first three chapters (see especially 1: 18 and 3 : 20) show the terrible sinful condition of man. The righteousness of God given through justification follows (3: 21 – 5 : 11). Next comes the message of the sanctification of the saints (5 : 12 – 8 : 39). Chapters 9 – 11 are dispensational, showing God’s purpose with Israel throughout history.

The last four Chapters, 12 – 16, are practical, showing a Christian’s duty.

Lesson 28 – FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS

Carnal Corinth was the sin center of the Roman Empire in Paul’s day. It was the most important city of all Greece. Its wealth was fabulous. Base immorality was rampant.

Against this corrupt background, Paul preached the gospel in Corinth, founded the Church, and wrote these two epistles.

The Corinthians had sent a delegation with a letter (7:1, 16:17), and **First Corinthians** is Paul’s answer concerning conditions in that church. Carnality had entered, and there were divisions. Christians were going to court against Christians and behavior at the communion table was disgraceful. The women were not modest and the church membership was arguing over marriage and spiritual gifts.

Paul gives many proofs of Christ’s resurrection in Chapter 15.

Paul wrote **Second Corinthians** to express his joy over the encouraging news of how his first letter was received, and to defend his apostleship. He gives more of his personal history in this letter than in any other.

The epistle begins with “comfort” (1:3) and closes with “comfort” (13:11).

Lesson 29 – GALATIANS

During Paul's second missionary journey he founded the churches in Galatia, a rural area. Teachers of the law had followed Paul, teaching salvation by works. False teachers had begun to "bewitch" the people by telling them they must keep all kinds of ceremonies. Paul wanted them to know that nothing, no works, could bring them to Christ. Salvation comes by believing on Christ nothing else. When Paul heard the **Galatians** were on the verge of accepting the views of these false teachers, the matter seemed so urgent that he wrote the letter himself (6 : 11).

This epistle is the Christian's Declaration of Independence. It contrasts law and grace.

It is a stern, severe and solemn message. It contains no commendation or praise or thanksgiving. No one is mentioned by name. There is emotion and strong feeling – this is a fighting epistle. It was Martin Luther's favorite epistle. It is the strongest declaration and defense of the doctrine of justification by faith in all Scripture.

Lesson 30 – EPHESIANS

Ephesians is one of the four prison epistles (Philippians, Colossians and Philemon are the others). It shows the great mystery of the Church. It is sometimes called "Paul's Holy of holies", or "Paul's third-heaven epistle".

Paul had been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to enter Asia where Ephesus was the prominent center on his second missionary journey. He went into Europe as far as Corinth, after which he returned by way of Ephesus. He returned there on his third journey and had a ministry there of two years (Acts 18 : 19 and 19: 8 – 10). The people of Ephesus heard more Bible teaching from Paul than did any other people. He met opposition there, but God preserved him. He loved the church at Ephesus.

An outline of this deeply spiritual book may be helpful:

The believer's position – "in Christ", "in the heavenlies"; chap.1-3.

The believer's walk, chap.4-6.

Ecclesiastically – ch. 4

Morally – ch. 5

Socially – ch. 5:21-6:9

Martially – 6:1-24

Lesson 31 – PHILIPPIANS AND COLOSSIANS

These epistles, like Ephesians and Philemon, were written from prison.

Philippians is basically a "thank you" letter carried by Epaphroditus to the church at Philippi expressing the gratitude of Paul and Timothy for the gift they had received.

Paul had a special love for the church at Philippi. He had met with a group of women by the riverside and Lydia was saved. Later Paul and Silas were thrown into prison and beaten. At midnight, as they prayed and praised God, a great earthquake rocked the prison. The jailer and his family believed in Christ and were baptized (Acts 16).

Joy is the keynote of the book: Joy in suffering, chapter 1; Joy in service, chapter 2; Joy in Christ, chapter 3, and Joy in contentment, chapter 4.

Paul wrote **Colossians** because heresy was being taught and he had to correct it. The Christians thought they should retain circumcision, their food-laws and festivals and angel intermediaries.

They did not understand the idea of the deity of Christ, so they didn't understand that everything they needed could be found in Jesus.

Paul corrects them:

Doctrinally, chapters 1 and 2.

Practically, chapters 3 and 4.

Lesson 32 – FIRST AND SECOND THESSALONIANS

Paul and Silas founded the church at Thessalonica on Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 17:1-10). They stayed less than a month because of the mob gathered by the Jews. The young church showed remarkable strength. Its members were chiefly Gentiles converted from heathenism and they were facing a hostile and pagan environment.

Paul was anxious to know how they were progressing. Timothy brought him news (3: 6), and he wanted to encourage them to persist in faith. **I Thessalonians** contains little doctrine but much encouragement. Paul speaks much of the second coming of Jesus (1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:16-18 and 5:23) as an incentive to Christian living and service.

Thessalonians was written shortly after the first. Its theme is the second coming of Christ. Some had been confused about it from the first letter. This letter announces events that will precede His coming and encourage the Christians to endure persecution, to be industrious and to wait patiently for Christ's return.

Lesson 33 – FIRST AND SECOND TIMOTHY

The three letters, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, are known as pastoral epistles because they are taken up with advice given by a mature pastor to younger men who in turn would be training others for the pastoral office.

Timothy's father was Greek but his mother was Jewish. He was converted when perhaps fifteen years old when Paul visited his home town of Lystra (Acts 16:1-3; 1 Tim. 1: 2). Seven years later he became Paul's missionary companion.

I Timothy – After his first imprisonment Paul visited Ephesus. When he had to leave, he left Timothy in charge of the work. Timothy, a shy and sensitive person, found being left alone a sore trial. Paul wrote to him from Corinth to encourage him and give him practical advice.

The key verse is 3: 15. Timothy is advised to warn against false teaching and to stress the importance of prayer. Clear instructions are given for church officers and for qualities of a good minister.

Timothy is Paul's last letter, written while he was in a Roman dungeon, believing the time of his departure was near. He was arrested quite suddenly at Troas and had not had time to pick up his books and parchments (4:13) and his outer cloak. He was alone (4:10-12) and expected to be executed. He wrote urging Timothy to come and bring Mark with him and some of the things he had left behind.

The key themes are suffering, service, apostasy and Scripture.

Lesson 34 - TITUS AND PHILEMON

Titus was a pure Gentile and was also one of Paul's converts (1:4). Paul gave Titus the difficult task of trying to sort out the problems in the church at Corinth (II Cor. 7: 6-7). Paul had great confidence in Titus' abilities because later he was left in Crete to play a leading part in the life of that difficult church (1:5). Titus was a "trouble shooter", the man to handle a delicate situation. He seems to have been a sturdier man than Timothy and probably more mature.

The letter is full of practical advice and warning against false teaching. The main theme contains counsels and exhortations relating to ministerial duties and doctrines, with special emphasis upon the maintenance of good works.

Philemon is a beautiful letter of intercession, pleading with Philemon to forgive Onesimus, his runaway slave, and restore him to favor.

Philemon was apparently a prosperous man (5 – 7, 22) and he probably was Paul's convert (v.19). Onesimus had fled away to Rome where he came under Paul's influence and was converted (10). Here there is the testimonial about Onesimus' changed character and a tender appeal for forgiveness.

Lesson 35 – HEBREWS

This epistle has no signature, but many believe it was written by Paul. It was written primarily to **Hebrew** Christians, and its purpose was to show that the glory of the Christian dispensation far outshone the Old Testament priesthood. Christ is the perfect priest, offering the perfect sacrifice.

The first ten chapters show that the Son of God is superior to angels, to Moses, to Joshua, to Aaron and to Melchizedek. Chapters 11 through 13 show the life of faith.

Lesson 36 – JAMES

The author is probably the brother of Jesus who became the leader of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 12:17; 15:13). He was martyred in A.D.62.

The letter of **James** was apparently written to the Jewish converts who lived outside the Holy Land, but its message is so clear and practical that it applies to the lives of all Christians. Its main theme is practical religion, manifesting itself in good works.

Some passages apply to Christians in particular circumstances: for those under pressure (1: 24), for wealthy Christians (1: 9-11; 5: 1-6), for the attitudes as church members (2: 1-9), for those in leadership (3: 1), and for those who are wavering (5: 19-20).

James uses vivid picture language to illustrate his teaching. Look at these examples: 1: 6, 11, 17, 23, 26; 3: 3, 5, 7, 12; 4: 14; 5: 1-2, 7.

Lesson 37 – FIRST AND SECOND PETER

1 Peter is a letter to suffering Christians who were bewildered because they were being persecuted. It is lively and written from the heart, and it reads more like a sermon than an essay. The key word “suffering” occurs 15 or more times.

Peter talks about the glorious salvation in Christ and the believer’s life, his position and duties. He describes civil and social duties, general good citizenship and duties in the household of faith. He describes Christ as the source of hope (1:3), the sacrificial lamb (1:19), the chief corner stone (2:6), the perfect example (2:21), the ideal sufferer (2:23), the sin bearer (2:24), the shepherd of souls (2:25), and the exalted Lord (3:22).

Peter is a warning against corrupt teaches and scoffers. Great emphasis is laid upon the Word of God and the certainty of fulfillment of the divine promises. Like II Timothy, II Peter stresses that the end is near and that perilous times are ahead for the church.

Peter’s epistles list seven precious things: fiery trails (1:7), the blood of Christ (1:19), the living stone (2:4), Christ Himself (2:6), the meek and quiet spirit (3:4), the believer’s faith (II Pet.1:1), and the divine promises (II Pet.1:4).

Lesson 38 – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD JOHN AND JUDE

The Apostle John wrote these three letters.

I John – This may be entitled “The Epistle of Certainties”. Its key word are: fellowship, know and love. It lays great stress on the spiritual knowledge available to believers. The word “know” or its equivalent occurs over 30 times. The central theme is:

God is Life and Light, chap. 1 and 2;

God is Righteous Love, chap. 3 and 4;

Faith and Love are overcoming principles in the conflict with the world and all evil powers, chap. 5.

John was written to warn friends against heresy and association with false teachers (vs. 7-11). The word “love” appears four times and “truth” five times.

III John was written to Gaius, a consistent Christian given to hospitality. The subject matter centers around him and two others, Diotrephes, whom John will rebuke when they meet, and Demetrius a model Christian of excellent reputation.

Jude was written by the younger brother of Jesus and James. Jude writes to a group of Christians threatened from within by men who have “slipped in” and are creating division by their false teaching. Jude’s intention is to stiffen the resistance to such teachers.

Lesson 39 – REVELATION

Revelation was written by John while he was in exile on the Isle of Patmos. It was written during a time of persecution (2:13) and there was worse to come (2:10), as worship of the Roman emperor a whole, were needed to encourage the Christians to stand firm.

The book is difficult to understand, but it is extremely important for it gives the picture of what is leading up to the great consummation of all prophecies, when evil is judged and Christ is established as King in eternal glory.

This is the only book in the Bible that contains a special promise to obedient readers (1:3), and pronounces a curse on those who tamper with its contents (22: 18-19).

Lesson 40 – OUTLINE OF REVELATION

Outline of the book:

Prologue 1: 1-20

Seven letters to seven churches 2: 1-3:22

A vision of heaven 4: 1-11

The seven seals 5: 1- 8:5

The seven trumpets 8: 6- 11: 19

Seven signs 12: 2- 14: 20

The seven bowls 15: 1- 16: 21

The reign and ruin of the Antichrist 17: 1- 20: 15

The city of God 21: 1- 22: 5

Epilogue 22: 6- 21

The closing chapters of Revelation contain a striking contrast to the opening chapters of Genesis. Genesis speaks of the creation of the sun, the entrance of sin into the world the curse pronounced, Satan’s triumph and the exclusion from the “tree of life”.

Revelation tells of a place where there will be no need of the sun, sin will be banished; the curse will be ended, Satan overthrown and there will be admission to the tree of life.

“Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

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