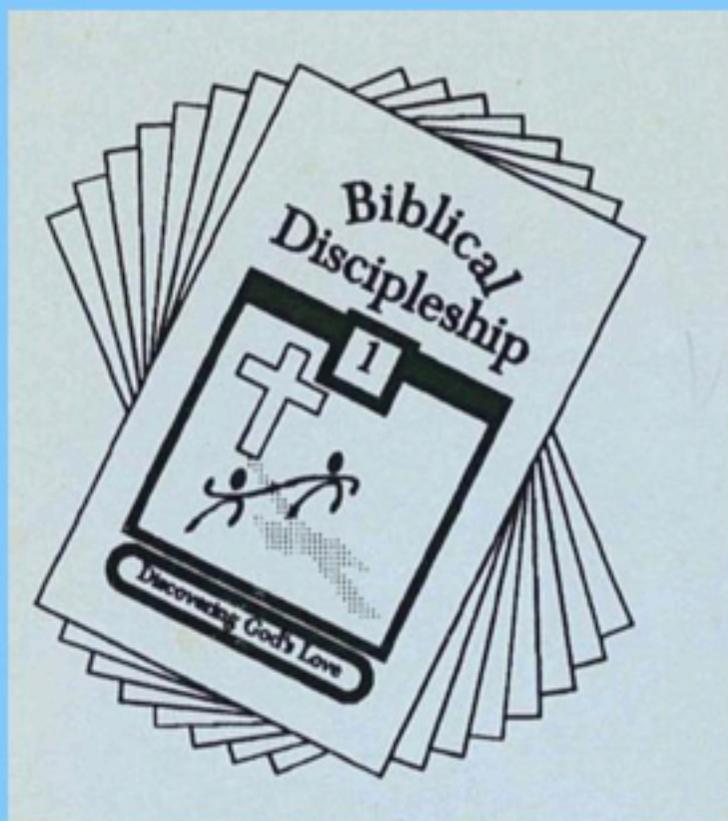


# BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP



WALKING IN NEWNESS OF LIFE

John H King

## ***BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP***

*Our message is Jesus Christ. He is the revelation of what God is and of what man through Him may become. In Him we come face to face with the Ultimate Reality of the universe; He makes known to us God as our Father, perfect and infinite in love and in righteousness; for in Him we find God incarnate, the final, yet ever-unfolding, revelation of the God in whom we live and move and have our being... ..Jesus Christ...through His death and resurrection...has disclosed to us the Father, the Supreme Reality, as almighty Love, reconciling the world to Himself by the Cross...*

*If such is our message, the motive for its delivery should be plain. The Gospel is the answer to the world's greatest need. It is not our discovery or achievement; it rests on what we recognize as an act of God... We believe that men are made for Christ and cannot really live apart from Him...*

*Herein lies the Christian motive; it is simple. We cannot live without Christ and we cannot bear to think of men living without Him... Christ is our motive and Christ is our end. We must give nothing less and we can give nothing more." — Francis M. DuBose ed. *Classics of Christian Missions* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1979 ), p. 343ff. [From *The Christian Missionary Council in Jerusalem, 1928* ]*

*God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.  
— From the Westminster Catechism:*

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Cover: Originally there were 7 Booklets. The covers were designed by Tricia Langione, a dearest friend and encouragement to me while I learned that the contents of this work are more than a colorful theology.

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### ***Introduction***

Welcome to the family of God!!! Your acceptance of Jesus Christ as your personal Savior is the most significant decision of your life. Instead of being destined to a lost eternity apart from God, you are now chosen to spend eternity with the Lord Jesus Christ. No longer living life in vain, you now have a reason to live. The emptiness inside is now filled with Him.

These discipleship lessons are designed to start you on your way in your new life as a believer in Jesus Christ. They are designed to support and emphasize the spiritual growth and development you will be experiencing in your Christian life and to offer some Biblical explanation as to how and why this is happening.

Things are different now that you are a child of God. Life will never be as it once was. Some of these changes will be immediately welcomed; others will require some focused Biblical answers to explain what God is doing in your life.

These lessons are designed to help you to understand your new relationship with God, how to pray (talk to Him), how to apply Biblical principles to problems, how to appreciate more fully the Grace of God in your life, and how to eventually become a spiritually productive Christian helping others.

Our sincere prayer is that it will be an encouraging beginning in a lifetime of discovery of how truly unconditional, eternal and infinite is the Love of God toward you.

## **Discovering God's Love**

We will discover how great and unconditional  
God's love is for us.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal  
life. — John 3:16*

***Lesson One: Our Relationship with  
God***

**WHAT HAPPENED WHEN I GOT SAVED  
AND WHAT IS MY NEW RELATIONSHIP  
TO GOD?**

Your decision to trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior is the greatest decision you could ever make. However, it is very unlikely that you understand the true significance of what has happened in your life. The purpose of this lesson is to explain briefly your new relationship with God.

**I. THERE ARE ONLY TWO SPIRITUAL  
FAMILIES.**

**A. Adam's family —the natural man**

I. You inherited your sin nature from your father Adam, the first man.

Romans 5:12 states "Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"

2. Romans 5:12 also states that a result of your sin you were sentenced to die.

- Romans 6:23: "The wages of death is death"
- 1 Corinthians 15:22: "...In Adam all die..."
- Romans 8:8 "...those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

## **B. God's Family -the Spiritual Man**

- John 1:12-13 says, "But as many as received Him (that is your decision to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior), to them gave He power to become the sons (children) of God (your entrance into God's family), even to them that believe on His Name: which were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man (it is not a physical birth), but of God (it is a spiritual birth).
- This new birth puts you into God's family in exactly the same way your physical birth puts you into your natural family. You are now a child of God by birth.
- As a result of your new birth you are a partaker of God's divine nature (II Pt 1:4), and you now have eternal life.
  - Eternal life not only means "forever" but also a quality of life characterized by fulfillment and meaning in Christ.
  - John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy: I came

that they may have life, and have in abundantly".

- An eternal God only writes eternal covenants. God will not promise us something with only temporary value. (John 3:16)

## **II. BEING IN GOD'S FAMILY SEPARATES YOU FROM THE UNSAVED WORLD.**

**A. A. Your body is now the Temple of the Holy Spirit. God's Holy Spirit lives inside you. (I Corinthians 6:19)**

**B. II Corinthians 6:14-18 commands the believer to maintain a difference (not a distance) between himself and the lost.**

**C. The new life is perfectly summarized for you in II Corinthians 5:17-18, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. And all things are of God Who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ..."**

## **III. WHAT IS MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD NOW?**

**A. He is your Heavenly Father, and you are His child. I John 2:1 says, 'My little children, these things write I unto you, that you sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.'**

**B. Now that you are saved; God no longer deals with you as a sinner, He deals with you as a son or daughter.**

**1. Our Heavenly Father loves and cares for us. I**

**Peter 5:7**

**2. Our Heavenly Father protects us from spiritual**

**(not necessarily natural or social)**

**dangers Matthew 18:6.**

**3. Our Heavenly Father provides for us (not our**

**wants necessarily but our needs).**

Philippians 4:19

Matthew 4:4

**4. Our Heavenly Father guides and teaches us (what is necessary for us to make the next step in following Him).**

2 Peter 1:5

John 14:26

Romans 8:28-29

**5. Our Heavenly Father disciplines (not punishes) .  
Hebrews 12:5-11**

**C. Our Heavenly Father will NEVER do anything to purposely hurt us. He will only do those things which will help us grow and mature into the man or woman He wants us to be. God's love is unconditional and as a child of God you are part of His family.**

*Matthew 7:11: "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?"*

**IV. YOU ARE NOT PERFECT --YET.**

**A. There are two aspects to your being:**

**A. The Old man -sinful, in Adam's image.**

**B. The New man ~spiritual, perfect, in God's image.**

**B. Both aspects are present. The one that will control you is the one you feed or yield to the most.**

*Romans 6:16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?*

**A. Spiritual growth might be defined as the process by which we put off the old man (change our behavior and responses and attitudes) and put on the new man (becoming more and more like Jesus in what we do and say and think.)**

*Colossians 3:8 "But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices 10 and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, 13 forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, ... And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,... and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God\**

## **V. BASIC QUESTIONS.**

**A. Will I sin now that I am saved? Possibly, (some expect it so), for, you are still human.**

I John 2:1-2

**B. How does my sinning affect my relationship with my Father?**

Ps 66:18 Hebrews 12:5-11

**C. What should I do when I sin?**

Confess it and trust the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse you. I John 1:6-10; Proverbs 28:13

## ***Part Two: Believer Assurance***

### **HOW CAN I KNOW THAT I AM SAVED?**

BY FAITH! We know that we are saved because we know Who has saved us.

Paul wrote to the Hebrews and said (Hebrews 11:1) 'faith is the evidence.' One of the problems with the word "faith," however, is that it means so many different things.

For some, it means only a list of things they believe, a creed. We must be careful not to say that we understand a truth simply because it sounds logical or makes intellectual sense. We must understand Truth also with the heart and in our way of living. It must be experienced if it is really to be understood.

To others, faith means accepting as truth something that cannot be proven or that is by itself "too good to be true," that is, wishful thinking. This is not Biblical faith.

True faith is two fold. It is trust on the one side and faithfulness on the other. It is because we are learning to trust the God we are getting to know through our relationship with Him in the person of Jesus Christ that we can in turn be faithful to Him in following His Word.

True faith like the words trust and faithfulness is an essential part of our relationship with the Lord.

Faith is knowing that the Lord is kindly intentioned toward us regardless of what circumstances seem to be saying to the contrary.

*Jeremiah 29:11 'For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.'*

In Lesson one, we learned that there are only two spiritual families on this earth, God's and Adam's. We learned that we were born into Adam's family at the time of our physical birth, and we are born into God's family when we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior (John 1:12~13). In this lesson we discuss the new believer in God's family, and God's unconditional love for us.

## **I. THE TESTIMONY OF THE LORD JESUS HIMSELF**

**A. Jesus Christ promises that "...he who comes to me I will in no wise cast out (reject). (John 6:37) God will neither reject you nor later change His mind.**

*Ro 11:29 'For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable'*

**B. Our relationship with Christ is not conditioned on the reactions of others, what other people do or think about us or our Lord. '**

*Romans 8:38-39. "...neither death (life threatening or martyrdom), life(present responsibilities), angels (heavenly beings), principalities (demonic), powers (authorities, man's laws), things present (present situations), things to come (tomorrow's problems), height, depth, nor any other creature*

*(nothing) can separate us from the love of Christ, ie. Cause Him to stop loving us or us to stop loving Him."*

## **II. THE DOCTRINE**

### **A. Because we have a Fattier/child relationship with God .**

(John 1:12-13).

### **B. Because that relationship is spiritual and is not governed by temporary or material changes.**

(Philippians 3:20-21 and Colossians 3:1-4; Ephesians 2:10.)

### **C. Because our spiritual birth certificate is the "Seal" of the Holy Spirit, i.e. We belong to HIM.**

Ephesians 1:13-14 says, "...we are sealed with the Holy Spirit..." And I Corinthians 6:19-20 says our body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit " which is in you."

### **D. I can have a full assurance and knowledge of my present and full salvation based on this relationship. As a new Christian John's first letter should be a primary focal point to help you grow and to settle this issue. The letter of First John is written for this purpose.**

I John 5:13 says, "These things have i written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God, that you may KNOW that you have eternal life..."

Read the First Letter of John.

I may know that I am saved because I have:

Obedience to His Word. I John 2:3; 2:29; 3:14; 3:19; 3:24.

The Revelation of Who He is. I John 4:2

The Affirmation of the Holy Spirit. I John 4:13

Also God's continual dealing with me. Philippians 1:6 and Romans 8:26-30.

## ***Basic Questions***

### **A. How can I be assured of my salvation?**

- 1) Because I said a sinner's prayer.
- 2) Because of my developing relationship with Jesus.
- 3) Because other believers assure me so.

### **B. Name the four aspects of our relationship with Jesus that affirm (to the heart), and confirm (to the understanding) our salvation.**

- 1) Obedience to His Word.: The Revelation of Who He is.; The Affirmation of the Holy Spirit; God's continual dealing with me.
- 2) Obedience to His Word.: A belief in God existence.; The Affirmation of the Holy Spirit, God's continual dealing with me.
- 3) A Study of God's Word: The Revelation of Who He is.; The Affirmation of the Holy Spirit, God's continual dealing with me.
- 4) Obedience to His Word.: The Revelation of Who He is.; The affirmation of circumstances; My ability to serve Him faithfully.

### **C. What can we learn from the following verses about our relationship will God?**

*Philippians 2:12 "Therefore, my beloved as you have always obeyed so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and tremblings."*

*Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me."*

- A. Briefly define God's love toward you? Is it unconditional? What does this word mean to you?**
- B. What does I John 2:25 mean to you?**

*"And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life."*

**Review**

A. How does an individual enter Adam's family?

B. How does an individual enter God's family?

C. List two reasons why a Christian in God's family is different than a non-Christian in Adam's family.

A.

B.

D. God now deals with you as His  
----- rather than a  
\_\_\_\_\_.

E. Your new relationship with God can be seen through the earthly father and child relationship. List five ways God deals with you as His child

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F. Briefly explain the two aspects of your being.

A.

B.

G. What would be the reason for one aspect of your being overpowering the other?

H. When a Christian chooses to continue in a particular sin, what can he expect from God?

I. According to First John 1:9, when we confess our sins to God, then He will \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ us from all unrighteousness.

***Key Memory Verses***

Hab 2:4; John 3:16; Romans 5:12; Ephesians  
2:8-9; Col 3:10; I John 1:9 and 2:1,2.

## **NOTES**

Some popular erroneous teachings are:

- All mankind is part of one large family of God.
- Each person must earn their way to heaven.
- Each one can get to heaven through any way (religion) they choose.
- We can never be assured of having eternal life until we have come to the end of this life. We may hope but never be sure.
- There can be no assurance of salvation until we are perfected. If Jesus were to return before we could repent or if we died before repenting of evil one sin committed in ignorance, we would be eternally lost.
- When God's children sin, He punishes them, that is partly why so many things go 'wrong in a believer's life and especially great tragedies occur. They are being severely punished and given the reminder of pain that what they did wrong must never be done again.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

If you feel the need for a deeper level of Biblical counsel for any reason: individual, marital, family, financial, etc. feel free to call on the pastor and set up an appointment.

## **Discovering God's Word**

After the message of God's unconditional love is clear, we are more prepared to face the more demanding truth in God's Word as it encourages change and growth.

*Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*  
— Matthew 4:4

***Lesson Two: Water Baptism***

**NOW THAT I AM SAVED, WHERE DO I  
START?**

Virtually every religious denomination in existence teaches some form of water baptism as part of their doctrine, and the diversities in their teachings are wide. This lesson is intended to give a clear and definite Biblical teaching on the subject so the individual believer understands perfectly what God's intention is regarding water baptism .

**I. WHY DOES GOD INSTRUCT US TO BE  
WATER BAPTIZED?**

**A. Water Baptism is the first act of obedience in service to the Lord. Anyone can be water baptized, it takes me special talents or effort.**

**B. Jesus set the example Himself by submitting to baptism before He began His public ministry. Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22.**

**C. In Matthew 3:13-15, it is clear that Jesus was baptized in obedience to God's plan. in verse 15, He said,"...Suffer (allow) it to be so now: for thus it becomes us to fulfill all righteousness." This point of submission and obedience is the single most important thing to realize regarding baptism.**

**D. Some other examples of persons who submitted to baptism after salvation.**

- The Ethiopian Eunuch. Acts 8:36-39.
- The Apostle Paul. Acts 9:18.
- The Philippians Jailer & his house. Acts 16:25- 33.

## **II. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF WATER BAPTISM?**

Romans 6:1-7 (specifically verses 3-4) shows the two purposes of water baptism.

1. It pictures the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. It is a public testimony of the new convert's identification with Jesus Christ in His death,

burial, and resurrection. We can call this a  
"Confession of Faith"

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the  
Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that  
God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be  
saved. - Romans 10:9

### **III. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?**

**A. The clearest case of an individual's baptism in the Bible is the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-39. In verse 36, the eunuch asked, "...what hinders me from being baptized?" Philip then answered with the condition of baptism in verse 37, "...If you believe with all your heart, you may be baptized" The eunuch's response sealed the matter, "...I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."**

**B. The only requirements for baptism are the same requirements for salvation found in Romans 10:9- 10.**

- Heart belief in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- I desire to personally (of one's own free will) and publicly confess Jesus as Lord and Savior.

**C. There are NO cases of baptism in the Bible of anyone else except believers.**

**D. Here are some examples of water baptism immediately after salvation:**

- Acts 8:12
- ACTS 18:8

#### **IV . WHAT IS THE METHOD OF BAPTISM?**

**A. Again, Acts 8:26-39 gives the clearest example. In verses 38-39, BOI H Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch went down into the water and came up out of the water.**

**B. In Matthew 8:16 Jesus was baptized in the same manner.**

**C. As seen previously: baptism is a picture of death, burial, and resurrection. The only way to bury someone is to put them completely underground. The method of baptism, therefore, that symbolizes this best is complete immersion.**

#### **V. HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO BE BAPTIZED?**

**A. Water baptism is NOT essential for salvation. Ephesians 2:8~9 makes it clear that a man is saved by grace through faith without works, including baptism.**

**B. Water Baptism IS essential for service and spiritual growth. Matthew 28:19-20 (the "Great Commission") proves that it is essential. Baptism is an integral part of the Great Commission and precedes teaching.**

**C. Before anyone can be taught to follow Jesus Christ, he/she must be willing to submit to the first act of obedience. If a person refuses to obey the Lord in the first point, he/she will not obey in future points. (Matthew 3:13-15.)**

**D. Water Baptism -a Confession of Faith.**

- 1. Following Jesus (Jesus Himself was baptized.)**
- 2. Associating with Jesus (Letting our world know that we are His disciples.)**
- 3. Identifying with Jesus (Buried with Him in Baptism. (Letting our world know that He indeed forgives and cleanses from sin, as He provided on Calvary.)**
- 4. Testifying of Jesus.(Proclaiming our salvation)**
- 5. Honoring Jesus (Celebrating His Salvation)**

### ***Basic Questions***

- A. Where should I be baptized? Since water baptism is a public confession of your faith in Jesus Christ, it is only essential that there be witnesses. Most baptisms will be in front of the local congregation the candidate is a part of. Some person are baptized in a creek or a river, which is fine. The Lord Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan. The actual place of baptism is not important. The act of public testimony of our identification with the Lord Jesus Christ is the important point.
  
- B. How soon after I repent of my sins and accept Jesus as my Savior should I be baptized? Although water baptismal services are scheduled periodically in most churches, each new believer should immediate make an appointment to counsel with the pastor to set up a time to be baptized.

***Part Two: The Word of God***

**WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE  
BIBLE IN MY LIFE?**

For Christians the Bible is the “Word of God” and is an absolute written authority from God for life and conduct. Having the Word of God is essential to a Christian's growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. The standards by which a Christian is to govern his life in every detail are found in the pages of the Word of God.

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the new Christian with the basics of the Bible and how it relates to his everyday life, so he can begin to understand how its principles are to guide every facet of his walk with Jesus Christ.

**I. THE WORD OF GOD IS ACTIVE IN  
SALVATION.**

**A. I Peter 1:23 says a man is born again 'BY THE WORD OF GOD.' The word of God is the agent which brings about the new birth.**

**B. Ephesians 2:8~.9 says, "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith..."**

**C. Romans 10:17 says, "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ..**

**D. James 1:21 says the word of God "...can save you."**

**E. Paul's summary of the gospel contains four parts in I Corinthians 15:1-4:**

- Jesus Christ died for our sins.
- Was buried.
- Rose from the dead.
- ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES.

**F. You must believe what the Bible says about sin, your condition, and God's plan of salvation in order to be saved.**

## **II. THE WORD OF GOD IS YOUR INFALLIBLE GUIDE TO LIVING.**

*2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,*

TO ILLUSTRATE:

- Every major purchase (car, appliance, etc.) is accompanied by an owner's manual which tells you how to operate it. if you don't go by the book, it won't work.
- The Bible is God's "owners manual" for your life. God would not save you and call you to service without clear directions, but you must "go by the book." Psalm 119:105, Proverbs 3:5-6

### **III WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE WORD OF GOD FOR A CHRISTIAN?**

**A. The word of God equips you for service, "so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. " II Timothy 3: 16-17; Ephesians 6:10-18**

**B. The word of God sustains you. This is illustrated in the Bible as "spiritual food." See Job 23:12 and Jeremiah 15:16. It is a complete and balanced diet.**

- Milk. 1 Peter 2:2
- Honey. Psalm 119:103, Proverbs 16:24 3.
- Apples. Proverbs 7:2; 25:11
- Bread. Luke 4:4
- Water. Isaiah 55:10-11; Ephesians 5:26 6.
- Meat. Hebrews 5:12-14, 1 Con 3:1-2
- Vegetables. Psalm 78:24

C. The word of God keeps you clean to please God. Psalm 119:94; John 15:3

#### **IV. IS THE BIBLE COMPLETELY RELIABLE?**

A. It is more sure than the audible voice of God. This is a very critical point. It must be understood that all "experiences" are to be judged by an infallible standard which is greater than any experience. Peter said the word of God was MORE SURE than the physical appearance and audible voice of God. II Peter 1:16-21 compared with Matthew 17:1-9.

B. The universe was created by the spoken word of God. Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 33:6, Genesis 1:3

#### **V. HOW DO I LEARN THE BIBLE?**

A. The Holy Spirit of God will lead and guide you into all truth. God may use other instruments to aid in teaching (books, tapes, pastors) but ultimately, truth is revealed by the Holy Spirit. John 14:26; John 16:13-15

**B. The Bible is learned by comparing scripture with scripture, relying on God's Spirit to teach you and not your own natural intellect. "The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God." I Corinthians 2:9-16**

## **VI. A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BIBLE**

**A. The total of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.**

**B. These books were written by more than 40 men.**

**C. The separate books of the Bible fit together perfectly as if written by one man, because the author of all as books is the Holy Spirit. II Peter 1:21**

**D. The Bible was written over a time span of about 2,000 years.**

**E. The historical accuracy of scripture and alleged contradictions within it are matters taken up separately. We live in a postmodern age in which the coherence and continuity of the Biblical message is being challenged. As believers we maintain—and not without extensive and reliable research—that the Bible is the product of Divine guidance and is the message of Grace, salvation, and the coming Kingdom of God. After the provision of our savior’s sojourn, His death and resurrection, the Written Word of God is the second most reliable miracle God has given us.**

## **VII. A FAMOUS ANONYMOUS QUOTE**

*'The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end.*

***Basic Questions***

A. Where should I start reading? The Gospel Story is an excellent place to begin. The Gospel of John is written that you might believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. John 20:31

B. What if I find something I don't understand? Don't get upset about it, God will reveal it to you in time--when you are ready. John 16:12. It is also recommended you bring your questions to an elder or pastor in the church.

**Review**

A. Give the key reasons why God instructs believers to be water baptized.

B. In Matthew 3:13-15, Jesus was baptized to demonstrate His \_\_\_\_\_ to God and His plan. Jesus fulfilled this before He began His \_\_\_\_\_

C. What are the 2 purposes for baptism found in Romans 6:3-4?

In Acts 8:36-37, the Ethiopian eunuch had to fulfill two requirements before he could be baptized? What were these two requirements?

D. Baptism by complete immersion in water is a picture of what?

E. Is Baptism essential for salvation? Give a Scripture reference that explains this.

F. The word of God is active in our salvation. Briefly explain how the following verses apply to this.

- I Peter 1:23
- Romans 10:17 3.
- James 1:21

**G. What are the 4 key elements of the Gospel according to I Corinthians 15:1-4?**

**H. What are the 3 major purposes of the Word of God in the Christian's life?**

**From II Timothy 3:16-17, we understand that all scripture is profitable for what 4 purposes:**

**I. According to I Corinthians 2:9-16, why cannot lost people properly understand what the Bible teaches?**

***Key Memory Verses***

Matthew 3:13-17, Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:1-7. 2 Peter 1:21;  
Psalm 119:9, 2 Timothy 3:16-17

**NOTES**

The following are not Biblical ideas:

- Man must be baptized in order to be saved.
- Baptized is essential for church membership.
- The Bible is just another religious book written by men.
- The Bible can only be understood by the "clergy" or by years of formal education.

NOTE: From the principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are not supportable and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson

## **Discovering A New Me**

As we begin to develop a love for God's Word to instruct and correct, the change in us becomes more evident: we are being conformed to the image of Christ.

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. — Romans 12:2*

## ***Lesson Three: The Holy Spirit***

### **WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN MY LIFE?**

When you receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you receive the Holy Spirit as well (John 7:89). The work of the Holy Spirit is to guide you in living the teachings of Jesus. For this reason, He draws no attention to Himself but only to Christ (John 16:13).

An emphasis on the Holy Spirit and not on Christ is in fact misplaced and not the work of the Holy Spirit at all. It is for this reason He is easily misunderstood and there is such diversity of thought about His work in the church.

The purpose of this lesson is to give to you a basic understanding of what the Holy Spirit does in your life.

### **I. THE GREATER WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN YOU that is, guiding you away from sinning and following Jesus faithfully. This is known as SANCTIFICATION.**

- A. Titus 3:5 "Ha saved us by the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."
- B. I Corinthians 12:3 "No one can say, Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit."
- C. John 14:17 "...He shall be in you...."

- D. Ephesians 2:22 You are... a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit..."

## **II. WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOUR LIFE?**

### **A. The Holy Spirit first convicts of sin. John 16:8-9**

- Before you were saved He showed you that you were a sinner and needed to repent.
- After your salvation the work of the Spirit is to guide you INTO all Truth and away from all sin. John 13:13.
- There is a false-conviction (guilt) which is the heart's response to the accusing words of Satan, another person or one's self. It is never healing nor does it ever lead to repentance. 1 John 3:20.

### **B. The How Spirit creates and regenerates.**

- The Holy Spirit was active in creation. Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4.
- In Jesus Christ, you are a new creation, born again by the Holy Spirit. John 3:3-8.
- The Holy Spirit seals you once you are saved, a mark of God's ownership of your life.
- Ephesians 1:13-14 Ephesians 4:30

**C. The Holy Spirit bears witness to you of your salvation. He continually affirms to you that you are a child of God.**

- 1 John 4:13
- Romans B:16

**D. The Holy Spirit teaches you the Bible.**  
**John 14:26**

- John16:13~15
- I Corinthians 2:9-10

**E. The Holy Spirit intercedes in prayer for you. He prays FOR you: Praying when you do not know the words and also on your behalf, representing your need to the Father.**

- Romans 8:28-27 Ephesians 2:18

**F. The Holy Spirit comforts you in time of need. He is the bearer of the good news of God's promises as well as the messenger of peace.**

- John 14:15-18
- Romans 14:17
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

**G. The Holy Spirit empowers you to serve God.**

- Zechariah 4:6
- 2 Corinthians 4:7
- Ephesians 3:16

### **III. WHAT IS THE RESULT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOUR LIFE?**

**A. A. The Holy Spirit of God produces a set of character qualities as you give your life to Him. These are the Fruit (singular) of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. It is singular because ALL of these qualities, produced together through a close relationship with the Lord, are a good definition of the first one 'love.'**

**B. The fruit of the Spirit are (is):**

- 1. Love**
- 2. Joy**
- 3. Peace**
- 4. Longsuffering**
- 5. Gentleness**
- 6. Goodness**
- 7. Faith**
- 8. Meekness**
- 9. Temperance**

#### **IV. WHAT SHOULD BE MY RESPONSE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

**A. Walk in the Spirit.** Walking is a steady, consistent, and faithful obedience in response to God's Word AS you grow in Him. Apply the Truth you know.

- Galatians 5:16-18, 25,
- Romans 8:1.

**B. Allow God to decide your life.** The infilling of the Holy Spirit is NOT you getting more of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit getting more of you.

**C. BE PATIENT.** Spiritual growth, and therefore spirituality in your life, is the process of sanctification. Give God time. Give Him the rest of your life to work His work of perfection in you.

- Philippians 1:6.

#### **V. THE INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SEPARATING US UNTO SPECIAL SERVICE FOR CHRIST**

Acts 1:8

Acts 4:29-31

Acts 13:2

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

(There are nine gifts of the Spirit listed in I Corinthians 12. Starting in verse 4 we are given insight into

another aspect of the Holy Spirit's ministry to His people. These gifts, however, are the work of the Spirit THROUGH one believer unto another. It is for this reason they are listed here under the section on "special service for Christ." Beginning in verse 4:

'Now there are diversities of gifts (There are nine different gifts of the Spirit) , but the same Spirit (There is only ONE Spirit of God working through each of us differently) . And there are differences of administrations, (ministries) but the same Lord, {Administrator -Jesus Is the head of the Body). And there are diversities of operations, (it takes differing amount of grace or empowerment from God to minister) but the same God (He alone strengthens all of us for service.) which works all in all For to one is given by the Spirit (No one chooses his our ministry. It is given by the Spirit),

- A. A Word of Wisdom;**
- B. to another(same type of individual) the Word of Knowledge by the same Spirit;**
- C. To another (different type of individual) Faith by the same Spirit;**
- D. To another (same type of individual) the gifts of Healing by the same Spirit**
- E. To another (same type of Individual) the working of Miracles;**
- F. To another (same type of Individual) Prophecy;**
- G. To another (same type of Individual) Discerning of spirits;**
- H. To another (different type of individual) [divers] Kinds of Tongues (different languages.)**
- I. To another (same type of individual) the Interpretation of Tongues:**

But all these works that one and the selfsame Spirit dividing to every man severally (fitting our personalities, virtues, talents, resources, temperament.) as He will."

***Part Two: Prayer***

**HOW IMPORTANT IS PRAYER I MY LIFE?**

Someone once said that a Christian is only as strong as his prayer life. There is a great deal of truth in this because prayer is simply your direct communication to God. When you read the Bible, God speaks to you; and when you pray, you speak to God. Your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ cannot grow without proper communication.

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the individual with the basics of a proper prayer life so that these lines of communication can be open and effective in his life.

"The great masters amid teachers in Christian doctrine have always found in prayer their highest source of illumination Not to go beyond the limits of the English Church, it is recorded of Bishop Andrews that he spent five hours daily on his knees. The greatest practical resolves that have enriched and beautified human life in Christian times have been arrived at in Payer-" Caron Liddon.

"One bright benison which private prayer brings down the ministry is an indescribable and inimitable something --an unction ion the Holy One... If the anointing which we bear come not from the Lord of Hosts, we are deceivers, since only in prayer can we obtain it. Let as continue instant, constant, fervent in supplication. Let

your fleece lie on the thrashing floor of supplication till it is wet with the dew of heaven " -Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

"Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen, such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth. God does nothing but in answer to prayer." - - John Wesley

"I judge that my prayer is more than the devil himself. If it were otherwise, Luther would have fared differently long before this. Yet men will not see and acknowledge the great wonders or miracles God works in my behalf. If I should neglect prayer but a single day, I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith. " -- Martin Luther.

"The prayer of faith is the only power in the universe to which the great Jehovah yields. Prayer is the sovereign remedy." -- Robert Hall

## **I. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER?**

**A. To develop an awareness of the peace and presence of God. A proper prayer life results in peace of heart and mind.**

- **Philippians 4:6-7**

**B. To draw closer to God and so prove His sufficiency for every need.**

- **God is active in every detail of your life, and He knows exactly what you need even before you ask.**

- Matthew 6:8

- Our need is God's opportunity when we pray.

- Psalm 50:15

- The most dangerous time in your life is when every single need is met, and you have need of nothing.

- Revelation 3:16-17

- God uses needs to draw you to a place where He can bless you and

reveal to you that your only real need is simply the Lord Jesus Christ and His grace. The classic example of this tremendously important principle is Paul's thorn in the flesh.

- It Corinthians 12:7-10
- We can even find reason to thank God through the difficult times.
  - I Thessalonians 5:18
  - Romans 5:3
- That is also why it is absolutely essential to develop a consistent prayer attitude in order that your first reaction in a difficult moment will be to go to God in prayer.

- **I Thessalonians 5:17**

## **II HOW DO I PRAY?**

- A. First, Romans 8:26-27 makes it clear that we don't always know how to pray or what to pray for. That is why the Holy Spirit Who lives inside us intercedes for us in prayer.**
  
- B. But there are some basic guidelines.**
  - Pray always-develop a life style of prayer.**

- **I Thessalonians 5:17 pray continually,**
- **Luke 18:1 always pray and not give up**
- **There is no good reason to memorize or repeat "special" prayers, There is no special power in doing so.**
- **Matthew 6:7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.**

- **Talk to the Lord as a friend.  
He is your friend!**
- **John 15:13-14 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.**
- **Exodus 33:11 The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.**

- **Proverbs. 18:24 there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.**
  - **Realize that you have DIRECT access to God personally. You do not need to go through any man to talk to God.**
  - **I Timothy 2:5 Ephesians 2:18 Hebrews 4:16**
- C. Be sure to keep your basic relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ proper. There are some things in your life which will hinder your prayers.**

**1. Unconfessed sin.**

- **Isaiah 59:1-2 your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.**
  
- **Psalm 66:18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened**

**2. An unforgiving spirit.**

- **Matthew 6:14- 15 if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.**

**3. Bitterness toward your spouse (as well as others).**

- **I Peter 3:7 respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.**

**4. Not asking.**

- **James 4:2 You do not have because you do not ask God.**

**5. Asking with selfish or wrong motives.**

- **James 4:3; When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.**

- **Proverbs 21:13**  
**Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered.**

**6. Insensitivity to the Word of God.**

- **Proverbs 28:9** If anyone turns a deaf ear to my instruction, even their prayers are detestable.

**III. THERE ARE FOUR BASIC TYPES OF PRAYER.**

*1 Timothy 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people*

**A. Supplication- specific requests.**

- *Philippians 4:6 says to "...present your requests to God " Too many prayers are wasted because they are so general.*

**C. Prayers--This is the summation, the term used to classify all communication with God.**

**D. Intercessions:-prayers for others. This is important to keep your selfish eyes off yourself.**

**E. Giving of thanks-Psalm 100:4 makes it clear that we enter the presence of God through thanksgiving and praise.**

## ***Basic Questions***

**A. Does God answer all my prayers?**

**B. Yes, but not always when and how we may have thought. The important thing is to remember that faith always anticipates with joy a wise response from a loving God.**

**C. How important is it to pray for others?**

**D. Paul prayed for others continually, (Romans 1:9) and requested prayer on many occasions.**

- Hebrews 13:18 *Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.*
- 2 Thessalonians 3:1 *As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.*

Keep at it. The full results of your prayers will never be known completely in this life.

**Part Three: The Will Of God**

**HOW DO I FIND GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE?**

The true measure of a man's success is not his social status or bank accounts, or his influence and fame. It is simply doing what God wants him to do.

The purpose of this lesson is to give you, the disciple, a clearer understanding of what the will of God is, as revealed in the Bible. There is no greater encouragement as a believer than being aware of spiritual victory over sin. Discovering that you CAN indeed begin to live this Christian life as the Lord designed for you as a critically important discovery at this time in your Christian walk. This is what we are asking when we ask "How may I find God's will for my life?"

*For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. — Romans 8:29*

**I. WHAT WE ARE NOT SAYING:**

- A. We are not talking about a desire to minister in a geographical location, or a specific ministry.**

**B. God has a specific plan for your life individually, which is every bit as much His will for you, but that will be discussed later. That plan is the specific direction God will give in individual circumstances of your life.**

## **II THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS TO THE WILL OF GOD, HIS COUNSEL., AND HIS DESIRE.**

*Ephesians 1:9-11 "And He made known to us the mystery of His will (His desires) according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Christ... In Him we were also chosen... according to the plan of Him Who works out everything in conformity with the purpose (counsel) of His will (desire)."*

**A. The counsel of God. It must be clearly understood that God occasionally allows things to happen He does not necessarily approve of in order to accomplish some larger purpose. Examples are abundant, both in and out of the Bible.**

1. The most outstanding example is Jesus death on Calvary which the counsel of God deemed painfully necessary in order to satisfy the punishment for sin and in order

that the ultimate pleasure or desire of God could be fulfilled in us. (Isaiah 53:11)

2. Occasionally, things happen in a Christian's life which do not appear to be good.
  - a. God allows certain kinds of suffering in our lives such as: adversity, persecution, want and loss, although He would prefer that we did not suffer.
    - 1 Peter 3:15-18
    - 2 Corinthians 12:6-10
    - 1 Peter 5:10
  - b. From lesson one we learned that our Heavenly Father will never make a mistake in His dealings with His sons.
    - Matthew 7:11
    - Romans 8:28
3. God allows us to make choices in life, both good and bad. A relationship, as we have with the Lord, can only be maintained by a free and volunteered willingness to love and trust Him.
  - a. The New Testament is filled with admonishment and instruction for all believers.
  - b. Even so called "natural" disasters are an example of God's allowing for the unpredictable but still causing all things to turn out for the good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.
    - Romans 8:28
    - Genesis 50:20

- c. God will not force anyone to do anything. Even salvation is offered by God leaving the unsaved without an excuse on the day of Judgment.
  - Romans 1:20
  - Galatians 6:7-8

## **B. The desire of God.**

1. There are certain things God specifically wills and takes pleasure in. There are some things that specifically grieve Him, too.
  - a. 2 Peter 3:9: God is not willing that any should perish. All lost people are out of the will of God regardless of what else they may do.
  - b. I Thessalonians 5:18: We are to give thanks for everything.
  - c. I Peter 2:13-15: We are to submit to every ordinance of man. However, this must be balanced by the next point:
  - d. Romans 12:1-2: We are not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Submission to the ordinances of man is to maintain a proper testimony to win them; while at the same time, our lives are to be transformed in order for us to live by a higher standard to please God.)
  - e. I Thessalonians 4:3-7: God desires our sanctification.
  - f. Ephesians 6:5-8—Our service is to be from the heart, with pure motives, because we are serving Jesus Christ.



*ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"—the things God has prepared for those who love him—these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.*

**A. The Word of God is your absolute authority in every detail of your life "in matters of faith and conduct." Learn to saturate your mind with God's thoughts.**

- *Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*
- *Isaiah 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.*
- *Philippians 2:5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*
- *Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*
- *Isaiah 55:6-9 Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is*

*near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

- A. Local Christian Community. The local church is organized to equip Christians for ministry.**
- B. Ephesians 4:11-12 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up**

**IV HOW DOES GOD GIVE HIS  
DIRECTION IN THE DETAILS OF  
MY LIFE'?**

- A. Give your full attention to living the Christian life (2 Peter 1:1-11). The Lord will open doors of ministry in His time which will then become clear to you.**
  
- B. God is infinitely more interested in your being the type of person He wants you to be than In your doing "mighty works." Be what He wants you to be, and He will show you what to do.**

## ***Basic Questions***

**A. Why doesn't God reveal all of the details of His direction for me now?**

1. It would overwhelm you before you got started. (uninstructed)
2. You may not be equipped to handle it yet. (unequipped)
3. You may not be the type of person God wants you to be yet. (unprepared)

**B. God will reveal what you can handle when you can handle it. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17**

**C. This is illustrated by the old question asked of children, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" If all the five year olds in America were surveyed on this question, then in 20 years there would be nothing but firemen, policemen, and nurses. As time goes on and you grow spiritually, your interests, talents, and desires will grow and change. Be patient and wait on God while fulfilling His specific will for your life.**

***Review***

**A. List three Scriptures that describe the Work of the Spirit in your life.**

**B. At what time does the Holy Spirit come into the believer's life?**

**C. Why does the Holy Spirit convict the lost of sin?**

**D. How and Why does the Holy Spirit "convict" the believer?**

**E. What is the difference between conviction and guilt?**

**F. List two other ways that the Holy Spirit works in the life of the believer.**

**G. Prayer keeps you close to God so He can prove His sufficiency for your every need. What do the following verses teach us about God and our needs?**

- Matthew 6:8 2.
- Psalm 50:15

H. According to I Thessalonians 5:18, we are to give thanks in everything. This includes the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives.

I. What should be your first reaction in a tough situation?

J. There are some primary principles concerning prayer. Briefly explain them from the following verses.

- I Thessalonians 5:17
- Matthew 6:7
- Exodus 33:11

K. Briefly explain the Counsel of God.

L. List two attitudes that will interfere with your prayer life.

**M. List four things that the will of God is NOT**

**N. According to I Peter 5:10, God allows Christians to go through suffering so that they might be more (4 qualities):**

**God has given us a free will, therefore, He will not force us to do anything. But when God offers an individual salvation or direction, and this is rejected what is the result?**

**O. Summarize God's will for a Christian's life. Give scripture references to support your answer.**

**P. What must be active in the life of a believer to fulfill God's will and receive His direction in life?**

**Before God can give His direction in your life, what must take place?**

***Key Memory Verses***

I Timothy 2:5; Psalm 66:18; I Thessalonians 5:18; Romans 12:1-2; II Peter 3:9.

**NOTES**

The following teachings are not Biblically sound.:

1. Man should pray to idols, saints or other men.
2. If you pray long enough or hard enough, God will change His mind and do what you want.
3. The best prayers are those which have been written by others and are just "said" by you.
4. Prayer must be at a set time in a set format.
5. The will (desire) of God is different for every individual.
6. The will of God has always to do with a specific plan for ministry in the church.
7. God has predetermined what will happen (fate) and man's free will has no bearing on the matter.
8. Problems in a Christian's life are always the result of sin in his life.
9. A Christian does not get the Holy Spirit at salvation.
10. The Holy Spirit leaves you every time you sin.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson. .

## **Discovering Basic Truth**

There are basic truths it is important we discover,  
as believers.

*...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to  
serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. — Matthew  
20:28*

## **Lesson Five: Basic Truths**

The following study is provided to give to you a basic understanding Of those Bible Truths that are important to all Christians.

As a follower of Jesus, you will find that everything you will learn about Jesus from the Bible will be built on what is taught in this study. You will discover that the overall purpose behind the writing of the Bible was to prove our need of a Savior, Who that Savior is and how He would provide for that Salvation.

All Christians have FIVE beliefs in common. Before we list them and explain them, let us emphasize what we are saying. If ANY religion or religious group or organization does NOT believe ANY ONE of these five beliefs, that organization is NOT christian.

*Galatians 1: 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!*

It is important to also say that there are many other beliefs that are important to some Christians and not to others. The Bible recognizes these as private beliefs. Such beliefs should not divide Christians but sadly they have. It is our desire not to allow these additional beliefs to harm our unity as believers.

It is because some Christians believe that the Bible supports what they are saying on some of these more private issues that they argue.

The main point we make here is that these issues are NOT emphasized or clearly explained in the Bible and although believers should have the additional right to believe them, they should do so only (1) if such beliefs will strength their resolve to serve the Lord, (2) if such beliefs

will help encourage their obedience to what is clearly instructed in the Bible, (3) If such beliefs do not contradict the five basic or cardinal Truths of the Bible, and (4) If such beliefs are not used in argument.

*Romans 14:22-23 So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin*

## ***The Five Cardinal Truths***

There are THREE individual and distinct persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, and that these three are all ONE God We call this

### **'The Trinity'**

*Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

That Jesus is Himself totally God, that is, He is not simply godly but He is by nature GOD and a member of the Trinity. We call this

### **'The Deity of Christ.'**

*John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

That Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, That is to say. that Mary was a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus, thus showing that Jesus had to be conceived by the Holy Spirit and that He, Jesus, was. therefore, divine. We call this

### **'The Virgin Birth.'**

*Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*

That Jesus died on the Cross of Calvary to receive upon Himself the punishment for OUR sins (He was and is sinless). We call this Vicarious. that is, *in our place*. If He had not paid the punishment for our sins, we would have to. We call this

## **'The Vicarious Atonement'**

*Matthew 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

That the Bible IS the Word of God, that is to say, that God is the Author of the Bible and the men who did the actual writing were 'moved' by God to write it. We say that the Bible is therefore "inspired" or a "revelation from God." We have only translations of that original Bible. The translations are not in themselves inspired. (The originals were written in three different languages: Classical Hebrew, Koine Greek, and Palestinian Aramaic.) We call this

## **"The Verbal Plenary Theory of Inspiration."**

[Verbal means 'word' and plenary means "every."  
Every word of the Bible is inspired and God is its Author. ]  
*2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.*

## ***The Message of the Bible***

There are other Teachings of the Bible that further explain these Truths and their importance to us as believers.

The Bible is the absolute authority in all matters of faith and conduct. The Inspiration of the Bible is not simply to show that Jesus is God. It also tells us how that Truth has changed our lives. The Scriptures thus become the absolute authority in all matters of faith (what we should believe) and conduct. (how we should live.) 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

We are NOT saying that the Bible tells us everything we need to know to live. Obviously, the sciences teach us a lot about our world and our health that is important but goes beyond the message of the Bible (although true science will not contradict the message of the Bible.)

What we ARE saying is that the Bible explains the 'new' you and your relationship with God and with other believers and that explanation is important for your adjustment and happiness in this life and your preparation for the life to come.

THERE IS ONE GOD, ETERNALLY EXISTENT IN THREE PERSONS: FATHER, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16, 17; Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 4:6; 1 John 5:7)

We are NOT saying that there are three Gods. There is only ONE

What we ARE saying is that though we cannot adequately explain it, God relates to us in three different persons. The Holy Spirit, therefore, is not a force but God and a personable member of the Trinity.

Our Lord Jesus Christ as Totally Goo And TOTALLY MAN. (John 1:1; John 8:24).

We are NOT saying that Jesus is a lesser god or only a godlike person or one of the gods. Nor are we saying that he resembled a human being.

What we ARE saying is that Jesus had two natures, that He IS God and He is human (Philippians 2:5~8). This is another mystery about Him (1 Timothy 3:16). God coming in a human body is known as His INCARNATION. This agrees with the Truth regarding: His Virgin Birth (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:27~35), His Sinless life (1 John 3:5) and His Death in our place on Calvary's Cross. (Isaiah 53; Hebrews 10:10) This is known as the plan of SALVATION.

This is a central truth explained using different words:

*Adoption* is used In the Bible to show that the Lord has chosen us (we are no mistake) because He loves us. It also draws attention to the relationship we have with the Lord. He is our Father. (Ephesians 1:5; Romans 8:15)

*Atonement*. This word comes from the Old Testament and means that our sins through Jesus's death on Calvary have been hidden from God's view. Another way of saying this is to say that our sins have been buried out of God's sight or, in other words, God has forgotten what He has forgiven. Job 33:24

It is important to note that even though this provision has been made for everyone, only those who invite the Lord into their hearts and lives apply this truth to their lives and are true believers. (Hebrews 3:2, 14)

*Justification* means that believers are declared righteous before we are actually righteous. Even though we are saved we are nonetheless not sinless, yet. God has

chosen us by Grace. We have not earned our salvation. (Romans 5:1)

**Propitiation:** This word means a legal satisfaction or sufficient punishment for our sins. God's standard of Holiness or sinlessness (His way at doing things) was so important to Him that He could not allow us to change things by our disobedience. He would not lower His standard. He can not deny Who He is. (Isaiah 58:11: Romans 3:25)

When Jesus died on Calvary, God saw Jesus' suffering for our sin and said, 'It is sufficient.' Jesus paid the penalty for our sin so that we would not have to. We are no longer condemned for our sins. (Romans 8:1.)

**Reconciliation** means restored to friendship and fellowship with God. Jesus reconciled us to God by His death. The way was open for us to once again have communion with God. It is important to note that Jesus did this without asking us. He did It *for* us not *with* us. This Is what GRACE is, a free gift (of Salvation) unearned and undeserved. (Romans 5:11)

**Redemption** means FREEDOM from sin. What we may not have realized is that before we were saved it was impossible for us to obey God. We could not help but sin. Now we are REDEEMED, that is, free to obey God.

**Regeneration** means the same as being 'born again.' At salvation a believer literally becomes another person, a new person In Christ. John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5

## ***Summary***

What we are NOT saying: We live in the age 'humanism' where a person believes In himself (self- reliance). Humanism does not believe that there are any absolutes by which all peoples of all ages should be governed. To them all standards are relative to the times. There is, therefore, no such thing as sin and therefore, no judgment coming. The thought that we need God to save us from sin (bondage) to those who are humanists is ludicrous.

Others think Jesus died as a martyr or that He only displayed the supreme expression of love by teaching what would ultimately bring about His death.

What we ARE saying is that Jesus on calvary provided for our salvation, because there IS sin and we were (and are) sinners (Ephesians 5:6-8). The absolute and unchanging standard Of HIS Holiness (His nature; His way of doing things and expressing Himself) was disobeyed by man and as a result a judgment day IS coming. .

Jesus, GOD incarnate (In a human body). died FOR us (so we would not have to). His physical death on Calvary means we who accept Him as Savior will not die spiritually but live forever (John 3:16). He took the penalty of our sin *in our place*.

This is an extremely important point. Our message is only brought by believers. The rest of society will ridicule us and attempt to philosophize our faith away. Only those who are genuinely saved can appreciate this truth. Romans 10:14; 1 Corinthian 12:1

After our Lord Jesus died rose again. Ho was bodily resurrected three days after His death (Acts 4:10; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4), He was In a new body. This is

important to note because He proved that the resurrection from the dead is real.

We are NOT saying that Jesus simply came bad: as a 'spirit.'" or than He was reincarnated.

What we ARE saying is that Jesus had a real, immortal, BODY and so will we someday. Getting an immortal body for us is known in the Bible as our **GLORIFICATION**. Romans 8:30

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead He ascended to the right hand of the Father.

The right hand of God is a place of authority. Jesus continues to minister to us and for us. He administers and leads His Church. He is the Head of the Body (HebrBw8 8:1).

Our Lord Jesus Christ will personally come back in power and glory (Acts 1:9-11; Titus 2:13; I Thessalonians 4:16,17).

The next major event of prophecy we wait for is Jesus's return known as His **SECOND coming**. His first coming was as a babe in a manger. He came then to save us. He will return for us to gather us to Himself. Some refer to this as '*the rapture*."

His second coming is known as the '**BLESSED HOPE**' (Titus 2:18). When we talk about Hope this is exactly what we mean, Jesus's calling us to His side forever. (John 14:1,2) The Bible word 'hope' and Jesus' second coming are the same. Our hope rests in nothing else.

Man was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27)

Through Adam's sin man has fallen from that Image (Romans 3:23)

Only through spiritual rebirth by grace (a free gift from God), by the Holy Spirit through faith (simple acceptance of this gift). can man be restored (to that Image)

and saved from his sins (Romans 5:11; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 2:8, 9)-

What we are NOT saying: To some educators human beings bear no essential or necessary resemblance to God. Some educators say that man evolved from apes, and that in the process he became a rational being.

What we ARE saying is that God IS The Creator and that man was created by God originally capable of communicating with God: Hearing, understanding, obeying and loving God.

When man 'fell' in the act of eating the forbidden fruit (if you need to review Genesis chapters two and three.) he lost the ability to communicate with or understand God, and consequently he lost the ability to obey God. He still had essentially the same 'nature' as before: The capacity to feel and to think, reason, communicate and to love were still there. But these abilities were now selfish interests and limited. The main point is that man could not use his talents and his ability to serve God -only to serve his own interests. Sin entered.

This 'twist' to his nature is called a '*depravity*.' We believe that man is TOTALLY depraved, that is, God must take the initiative through Jesus' death on Calvary and through the conviction of the Holy Spirit to restore man's communion with God. Man would not think or want to do this on his own.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict the unbeliever and to instruct and empower the believer for Godly living and service (witness). (John 14:26 and 16:5-11; 1 Corinthians 12 and 14) This is known as **SANCTIFICATION**.

According to the Bible, The Holy Spirit works in us to bring us once again to a recognition of God's voice, an ability to obey Him, and the ability to love and live as Jesus would. (John 10:27).

At Salvation He changes our nature. He makes an instant and a complete change within us whereby we can now begin to understand, believe the Bible, and follow It.

Changing our behavior and attitudes, however, is a process. Getting the new me on the inside to be consistently expressed in my behavior on the outside takes the Holy Spirit time. Philippians 2:12

It is important to become aware of this process and to be a part of a community of Christians who support this outward change in your life.

This is called *edification* in the Bible. Edification is the result of one believer being used by the Lord to support or encourage God's work within another believer's life. (Romans 15:2).

We are NOT saying that the Holy Spirit imposes God's will on anyone or forces us into doing anything for God.:

What we ARE saying is that being cooperative with the Holy Spirit as He works in our lives provides Him greater and more immediate opportunity to bring us to spiritual maturity.

There will be a bodily resurrection of both the saved and the unsaved, the 'lost.'

There will be a bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost; of the saved to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord. Of the lost to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment (separation from God) (John 5:29; MM 24:15; Matthew 25:48; 1 Corinthians 15:20-58).

We are NOT saying that every person is going to become spiritual beings without bodies.

Some believe that the unbeliever loses consciousness or will be destroyed. The Bible does not say this.

What we ARE saying is that everyone, believer and unbeliever, will receive a new body that cannot decay or grow old or die.

Unbelievers will be judged for their sins and there is a Hell or a place of torment of which Jesus spoke often in which they will be placed. (Mark 9:44-48)

Revelation 20:15 is the saddest verse in the Bible.

There were TWO Holy ordinances instituted by Jesus

There are two Holy Ordinances dearly instituted by Jesus and practiced by the early church: the Holy Ordinance of the Water Baptism of Believers (Acts 8:38-39; Matthew 28:18, 19) and, Holy Communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Luke 22:19, 20).

We are NOT saying that the sacrament of marriage and anointing the sick with oil and other practices within the churches are unimportant or to be discontinued. These are more sacramental or a believer being used of God in service.

What we ARE saying is that these two practices were (1) first practiced by Jesus, (2) continued to be practiced by the early church, and (3) have continued to be a part of Christian worship since the founding of the church.

There is only one Body of Christ spiritually united under the headship or leadership of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:4).

We are NOT saying that every believer must worship the same way or that ritual does not have an important meaning to a believer or that all believers must believe exactly the same.

What we ARE saying is that serve Jesus and only Jesus and since He alone is the leader or head of the body there can be no disunity if we are all following Him.

We should be able to accept one another solely on the basis that we have been accepted by Christ.

**Review**

**Match the following:**

- |                    |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Adoption        | a. Sins taken away           |
| 2. Atonement       | b. Cleansing from sin        |
| 3. Blessed Hope    | c. Jesus died in our place   |
| 4. Depravity       | d. Satisfaction for sin      |
| 5. Edification     | e. Becoming a new person     |
| 6. Justification   | f. Christian ministry        |
| 7. Glorification   | g. The return of Jesus       |
| 8. Grace           | h. Declared righteous        |
| 9. Propitiation    | i. God incarnate came to die |
| 10. Reconciliation | j. Bodily resurrection       |
| 11. Redemption     | k. Free gift from God        |
| 12. Regeneration   | l. Chosen by God             |
| 13. Salvation      | m. Freedom to obey God       |
| 14. Sanctification | n. R e s t o r e d communion |
| 15. Vicarious      | o. Inability to please God   |

**NOTES**

Ans. Re review: 1.l; 2.a; 3-g; 4.o; 5.f; 6.h; 7.j;8.k; 9.d; 10.n;  
11.m; 12.e; 13.i; 14.b; 15.c

## **Discovering Christian Community**

Realizing the change in us, individually, brings us to a common understanding with other believers who are on the same spiritual journey and encourages proper christian relationships.

*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. — I John 1:7*

## ***Lesson Four: Christian Community***

### **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF MY INVOLVEMENT IN A LOCAL CHURCH?**

God has called us together for specific reasons and these reasons alone unite us and cause us to become in truth: *The Church of our Lord Jesus Christ*.

The local church has been commissioned by God to carry out His purposes in reaching the lost and perfecting the saved. Therefore, God's plan for a Christian will always be fulfilled best when it is part of His overall plan for His Church. Put another way, each Christian is a part of the community of believers and cannot effectively serve the Lord outside that community.

The purpose of this lesson is to impress upon the young believer the central role which Christian community (or a local gathering of believers to which we belong) plays in our everyday life.

#### **I. WHAT IS A LOCAL CHURCH OR COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS?**

- A. It is NOT a building. Acts 14:27
  - We worship God in spirit and truth.
    - John 4:24
  - Our bodies are the temple of God.
    - I Corinthians 6:19
- B. It is not a denominational group or congregation

- C. A local community of believers is a body of men and women who have been saved and called by God to serve in a specific area.
- D. "The Church" is the entire body of Christ, the saved multitudes from every nation.
  - 1. In I Corinthians 12:27 Paul, writing to saved people, states dearly, 'you are the body of Christ.'
  - 2. Paul compares the church to the human body in this passage I Corinthians 12:14-17.
    - Each member has a different function, verses 14-10.
    - No one member can function done, verse 21.
    - Each member's contribution is important, verses 22-24.
    - A properly functioning body operates as a single unit, verses 25-27.

## **II. WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF CHRISTIANS TOGETHER?**

- A. The first local body of believers in the Bible was in Jerusalem. (Acts 2:41-47) The believers there met for the following purposes:
  - 1. The teaching of the Word of God, verse 42.
  - 2. Fellowship with other believers, verse 42.
  - 3. Prayer, verse 42.

4. The observance of the two ordinances of the church: baptism, verse 41, and the Lord's supper, verse 42.
  5. To be a testimony of God's grace and power, verse 43.
  6. For mutual assistance and ministry, verses 44-45.
  7. To reach out into the community, verses 46-47.
  8. To glorify and praise God, verse 47.
- B. The single most important priority of the local church is to edify (build up, teach, strengthen) the saints.

*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. - Ephesians 4:11-16*

### III. HOW DO I FUNCTION IN THE BODY OF CHRIST?

**A. During your Christian life, you should grow through two broad, general stages, as outlined in Ephesians 4:12.**

1. The perfecting of the saints. Observe and learn. Your first priority should be to submit to the teaching of the Word of God to learn to be the man or woman God wants you to be.

- *Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

2. Participation in the work of the ministry. In time, you will naturally grow to the point where you can begin to serve in whatever specific ministry the Lord may call you to. As your growth continues, you should reach the point where you can begin to minister to others in the same way you have been ministered to.

- *Matthew 4:19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."*

- James 1:22-25 *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.*
- 2 Timothy 2:2 *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.*

**B. BE PATIENTI Give the Lord time to work!**

## **Basic Questions**

If God moves me to another location, how do I find the particular local church that God wants me to serve through?

1. Pray about it Ask God to show you the right church with which to associate.
2. James 1:5 *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*
3. Observe the qualities of a particular church and compare them with the biblical requirements of a proper church.
  - Is there evidence of soul winning?
  - Matthew 7:20 *Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.*
  - Acts 2:47 *praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*
4. Do they believe and teach the Bible as the infallible guide for life?
  - Titus 1:9 *He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.*
5. Is the membership disciplined?
  - Acts 17:10-12 *As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to*

*the Jewish synagogue. Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.*

- 6 Do they minister to the needs of people?
  - Acts 6:1 *In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews[a] among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.*
- 7 Do they send out and support missionaries?
  - Acts 13:1-3 *Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.*

## ***Part Two: Other Christians***

### **WHAT IS MY RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER CHRISTIANS?**

As we learned in lesson one, when you were saved, you became a member of God's family. Spiritually, you now have a new family with many brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

We saw how the church is likened to a body. Now, we will study the special relationship which you now have with your spiritual family. This lesson is designed to give the individual a clear understanding of how the Body of Christ operates as a family unit.

#### **I. HOW AM I RELATED TO OTHER CHRISTIANS?**

- A. They are your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. Be sure to understand, only those in Jesus Christ (saved people) are your spiritual family, regardless of any other factors (regardless what church they attend, for example.)
  - Romans 8:28
  - I John 3:1-3
  - Romans 9:8
  - Hebrews 2:9-12
- B. They are your fellow laborers in service for Jesus Christ.
  - I Corinthians 3:5-10

## II WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD OTHER CHRISTIANS?

- A. We are to pray for each other. Almost every one of Paul's letters opens with a prayer for those to whom he is writing.
  - I Thessalonians 1:2-3
  - 2 Timothy 1:3
- B. We are to minister to each other.
  - 1. Materially
    - Galatians 6:10
    - Romans 12:13
  - 2. Spiritually
    - Acts 11:27-30
    - Galatians 6:1 -2
    - Romans 15:1-2
    - Hebrews. 13:3
- C. To those in our immediate family. Domestic relationships become a priority to the believer.
  - Ephesians 5:21 - 6:4
- D. We are to encourage and edify one another.
  - I Thessalonians 5:11
- E. We are to serve one another with humility.
  - Philippians 2:3-4
  - Matthew 20:25-28

### **III WHAT SHOULD BE MY ATTITUDE TOWARD OTHER CHRISTIANS?**

**A. The governing attitude must be to love them.**

- John 8:14~16
- I Peter 4:8

**B. Be patient with them.**

- Romans 15:5-7

**C. Be sensitive to their needs.**

- I John 3:17-18
- James 2:15-16

**D. Be forgiving of each other.**

- Ephesians 4:32
- Colossians 8:13

### **IV. WHAT IS FELLOWSHIP?**

“Fellowship” is a biblical term first used in Acts after the Day of Pentecost. When God made the church He created fellowship. Fellowship refers to believers sharing or having common interests, joys, sorrows, ministries, beliefs all centered around or in the person and work of Jesus Christ among them. Fellowship is not simply sharing a meal. True fellowship goes far beyond just a meal or an activity. It is the sharing of life through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ with another believer. Philippians 1:3-6; 2:1-2.

The essential elements of true biblical fellowship are not natural matters, such as, social status, friendship, or common interests.

- A. True fellowship is spiritual with any and all God’s children and requires:
  1. Humility:
    - Philippians 2:3-8
  2. Honesty
    - Ephesians 4:25
    - 2 Corinthians 4:2
  3. Love
    - John 13:35
    - Galatians 5:13-15
  4. Caring
    - Acts 2:42, 46-47
- B. The areas of true fellowship include
  1. Prayer
    - 2 Corinthians 1:11
  2. Faith
    - Romans 1:12
  3. Ministry
    - 2 Corinthians 8:4
    - Galatians 2:9

4. Suffering

- Philippians 3:10
- I Peter 4:13; 5:1
- I Corinthians 12:26

C Although doctrinal beliefs are vitally important, true biblical fellowship is not based on exactly doctrinal agreement but in the person of Jesus Christ.

- I John 1:3-7
- I Corinthians 1:9-10

## ***Basic Questions***

A. What if another Christian offends me?

Unfortunately, this will happen. There are many reasons for this: Personality and doctrinal clashes, as well as a lingering selfishness that wants its own way instead of Christ's way; a general problem with relationships — to name but a few. There will be times of offense, hurt, and disagreement within the body of Christ, just as in your natural family. When this happens, the Bible gives a definite progression of principles to deal with the matter. How should you respond in such a case?

1. Take the offense directly to the other person first, privately, and try to settle it between yourselves. You must go with a desire to reconcile. Remember, every offense is a two way street. Ask yourself, 'What did I do to contribute to this break in our fellowship?'
  - Don't go to them to 'tell them off' or share your feelings only. Go to reconcile.
  - Don't become an analyst and tell them everything you think you see wrong in their life. Go in Christian love.
  - Matthew 18:15
2. If the matter is not resolved privately, take it to the pastor or a deacon or deaconess to mediate the situation.
  - Matthew 18:16
  - I Corinthians 6:1-5
3. Do NOT go to the world to settle a problem within the body of Christ. (DO not go to the grapevine with it)

- I Corinthians 6:6
- 4. If this matter still cannot be resolved:
  - a. Personally accept the wrong.
    - I Corinthians 6:7-8
  - b. Commit the situation to the Lord Jesus Christ. He will handle it justly.
    - I Peter 2:19-23
  - c. Forgive your brother or sister.
    - Colossians 3:1
  - d. Pray for your brother or sister.
    - Matthew 5:48
    - Romans 12:14

**Review**

- A. Name a couple reasons God has called us together as believers.
  - 1.
  - 2.
- B. List some things that a church is NOT:
  - 1.
  - 2.
- C. Define the following terms:
  - 1. a local church
  - 2. 'The Church'
- D. In I Corinthians 12:14-27 Paul teaches that in many ways the church body is similar to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- E. List three parts of the body that are mentioned in the above passage of the Bible.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- F. List three basic similarities between the church body and the human body.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- G. The first local church in the Bible was at Jerusalem. From Acts 2:41-47, list some of the characteristics of this community.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

- H. What are some qualities a Christian should look for in a local church ?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- I. List three attitudes you should have toward other Christians.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- J. What does the term 'fellowship' mean?
- K. List three character qualities needed in the Christian's life in order to participate in true fellowship with other believers:
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- L. In the event another Christian offends you, list three principles which should govern your actions in attempting to resolve the matter.
- M. In the event your brother refuses to help resolve a problem, what should you do?

***Key Memory Verses***

Ephesians 4:32; I John 3:14-15; I John 1:7; Ephesians 4:11-12;  
I Corinthians 12:27

**NOTES**

The following attitudes do not encourage Christian community.

1. We are not to associate with Christians who do not believe exactly as we do.
2. 'Fellowship' must be centered around a meal or an activity. The local church is primarily for weddings, funerals and religious holidays.
3. Only the 'leadership' of the church is charged with any responsibility for meeting people's spiritual needs.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong, and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

## **Discovering Ministry**

With a proper understanding of Christian relationships, we are ready to talk ministry to one another.

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. — Romans 12:6*

## ***Introduction***

Spiritual growth takes a believer through a number of different but necessary stages. We had to first learn to recognize God's unconditional love for us. The second stage was learning through His Word the new way of life He was calling us to. The Holy Spirit then works in us to make this message a reality in our own lives. It is then that we are better able to develop more fully our various Christian relationships with our families and in Christian fellowship. Now we are ready for ministry, the next step.

When we look at ministries, we must also point out the importance of the Fruit and Gifts of the Spirit and their relation to ministry. It is important to see the relation that exists between the Gifts (1 Co 12:7-10) and the Ministries (Romans 12:3-8) and the Fruit (Galatians 5:21-22). The fruit of the Spirit are the development of Christian character necessary for the ministry. The Gifts are the specific ways in which the ministries are expressed.

### ***The Gifts***

As we learn to show love in definite ways (a hug, a kind word, etc.) we must be able to minister in definite ways. God has not left this up to chance. The prophet needs the gift of prophecy. The teacher needs knowledge and wisdom. The exhorter needs discernment. Those who minister mercy need the gift of healing. In order to minister appropriately, God has sent His Holy Spirit and the gifts.

Another way of looking at this might be to say that as the carpenter needs his hammer and saw or the doctor his stethoscope. In like manner, the minister needs the move of the Spirit through his life in certain definite ways to minister.

## ***The Fruit***

*Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

What we are saying is that it is critically important to develop the fruit of the Spirit in our lives and in our relationships. This is the foundation upon which God builds every ministry. (1 Corinthians 13:1, 2). In this manner, our ministries toward one another become the expression of our christian love.

We have already looked at the fruit of the Spirit in "Discovering A New Me." It is important to remember that these fruit are traits or aspects of Christian character and that these are terms of relationship. If we were hermits living alone or separate in different caves detached or isolated from one another, we would not need *love* and harmony (*peace*), faithfulness (*faith*) and longsuffering (*patience* with one another). *Goodness* which is a devotion to Truth would lose much of its meaning as well, since much of New Testament truth deals with our relationship with one another. Even *joy* is gone, because it too comes with Christian fellowship.

In short if we do not intend to be a part of the Body of Christ or to minister to one another, we do not need the fruit. They will probably remain underdeveloped in our experience.

## **Lesson Six: Ministry**

The ministries are listed in Romans 12:3-8

*Romans 12:6-8 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

### **I. TO MEET MATERIAL AND PHYSICAL NEEDS:**

#### **A. RULERS**

Rulers are motivated by vision, able to see the finished product and utilize resources, challenged and willing to endure stress and hardship.

vs. 8 "...diligence..."

Called to organize the distribution of resources to care for the needs of the Christian

Community.

1 Co. 12:28 NKJ "administrations"

Leading in: (Rom 12:12) "patient in tribulation."

#### **B. MINISTERS (Deacons)**

Ministers are blessed with physical stamina, sense of urgency, and a great desire to serve others. Called to visit the sick and tend to their needs, to be occupied especially with the care of the poor.

I Co 12:28 "helps"

Leading in: (Rom 12:13) "given to hospitality."

### **C. GIVERS**

Givers are wholehearted, spontaneous, but also wise investors and sensitive to financial need.

vs. 8 "...liberality..."

Called to communicate love through sharing their own resources.

Leading in: (Rom 12:13) "distributing to the needs of the saints."

### **D. THE MERCIFUL**

The merciful are gifted with sensitivity, understanding, and the ability to perceive real need.

vs. 8 "...with cheerfulness..."

Called to lessen another's pain, hurt, distress.

I Corinthians 12:28 "merciful"

Leading in: (Rom 12:15) "Weep with those who weep."

## **II. TO MEET INTERNAL NEEDS (SPIRITUAL & EMOTIONAL)**

(This is Pastoral Ministry.)

Ephesians 4:11-14

*11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

*14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching*

*and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.*

## **A. PROPHETS**

Prophets are frank, emphatic, bold, & intolerant. They must be careful to proclaim only the message God gives them.

vs. 6 "...according to the proportion of faith..."

Called to affirm, motivate, call to accountability.

I Corinthians 12:29 "prophets"

Leading in: (Rom 12:11) "fervent in ...serving"

## **B. TEACHERS**

Teachers are detailed, objective, noted for strict adherence to Scripture.

I Co 12:29 "teachers"

Called to teach the Word and create a greater interest in and hunger for the Word, apply the Word to real life situations.

Leading in: (Rom 12: 16) "same mind."

## **C. EXHORTERS**

Exhorters have a positive & simple message (seem naive, no depth) because they are:

Called to uplift the heart (emotions), encourage, bring hope, instill faith, offer positive assurance (and not the odds for recovery).

Leading in: (Rom 12:12) "rejoicing in hope."

## **D. EVANGELISTS**

Evangelists have a clear and absolute message and appropriately tend to interpret all scripture in terms of this one message. Their ministry is to the unsaved not the believer.

## **E. APOSTLES**

Apostles are early church missionaries. Though many Christians believe that there are no more apostles (the original twelve which included Paul were the only apostles), others maintain that this leadership is still represented in today's pioneering missionary. Apostles are the first to reach the field and begin to establish a church or ministry.

**Part 2: The Gifts of the Spirit**

**PART TWO: THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

The Gifts support what God wants to do through us with our various ministries. Study the enclosed chart. Does it help you to make some comparisons between the ministries given above and Biblical ways of expressing those ministries?

**THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT IS A MANIFESTATION OF LOVE.**

The Gift	Resource	Applied to our	Need to be	Example
Wisdom	Counsel	Walk	Guided	Acts 13:1-4
Knowledge	Insight	Understanding	Taught	Acts 18:24-26
Faith	Confirmation	Service	Assured	Acts 18:9-11
Healings	Healing	Frailty	Restored	Acts 3:1-7
Miracles	Opportunity	Opposition	Fulfilled	Acts 19:11-20
Prophecy	Inspiration	Will	Motivation	Acts 15:22-32
Discernment	Direction	Leadership	Led	Acts 5:1-5
Tongues w/ Interpretation	Encouragement	Feelings	Supported	Acts 10:44-46

## **Review**

It is inappropriate to second guess God or to assume that God must use a certain gift with a certain ministry. Note also that there is no absolute or clear matching even though we see nine ministries and nine gifts. God can use more than one gift in any one ministry.

What ministry, however, do you think might more naturally be expressed with which gifts?

A. Apostles	1. Wisdom
B. Evangelists	2. Knowledge
C. Exhorters	3. Faith
D. Givers	4. Healings
E. The Merciful	5. Miracles
F. Ministers	6. Prophecy
G. Prophets	7. Discernment
H. Rulers	8. Glossolalia
i. Teachers	

## ***Basic Questions***

The following questions are designed to cause you to think about your own ministry or the ministry or ministries you may possibly want at some future time.

Paul wrote to Timothy in 1 Timothy 3:1 "Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task." And I Corinthians 14:1 says "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy"

1. Be thinking about the possibilities IN PRAYER.
2. Talk about it to the Lord.
3. You must also ask yourself the following kinds of questions:
  - a. What ministry do I desire?
  - b. Is it to be found in one of the ministries listed in the Bible? (A songleader may be an exhorter, for example.)
  - c. What do I know about this ministry? Do I know what it involves?
  - d. Am I mature enough in the Lord to handle the ministry I desire?
  - e. Am I qualified according to Bible guidelines?
  - f. In all honesty: is the Lord directing me or am I directing myself? Am I just following a popular idea or the Lord?

## **The Allelous Principle**

### **The "One another" Principal of Scripture.**

#### **LOVE:**

*John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (15:12) 'My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.'*

#### **COUNSEL:**

*Colossians 3:16 " Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."*

#### **ACGEPTANCE:**

*Romans 14:13 "Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister."*

#### **FELLOWSHIP:**

*Romans 15:5 "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you **the same attitude of mind toward each other** that Christ Jesus had,"*

#### **SUPPORT:**

*Romans 15:14 " I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to **instruct one another.**"*

#### **COMPASSION:**

*1 Corinthians 12:25 "so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal **concern for each other.**"*

**ADJUSTMENT:**

*Ephesians 4:2 "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."*

**OPENNESS:**

*Ephesians 4:25 "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all **members of one body.**"*

**RECONCILIATION:**

*Ephesians 4:32 " Be kind and compassionate to one another, **forgiving each other**, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

**WORSHIP:**

*Ephesians 5:19 "**speaking to one another** with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,"*

**SUBMISSION:**

*Ephesians 5:21 "**Submit to one another** out of reverence for Christ."*

**UNITY:**

*Romans 12:5 "so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."*

***Key Memory Verses***

ROMANS 12:3-8, 1 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10, EPHESIANS  
4:11 -14.

**NOTES**

Some popular teachings which we are NOT taught in this booklet are:

1. The gifts are not for today.  
Tongues are never to be spoken without an
2. interpretation.  
God will not use us until we are spiritually mature.
3. A believer must also be Spirit filled with speaking in
4. Speaking in tongues [glossolalia] in order to receive any of the gifts.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

## Discovering True Spirituality

True Spirituality is not some esoteric mystery but a well-defined path from faith to holy living. We are now prepared to talk about it.

*His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. — 2 Peter 1:3-4*

## ***Introduction***

The ultimate desire of God for our lives is to bring us to a place of total obedience to His Will and to the guidance of His Holy Spirit. We call this spirituality.

Spirituality has been interpreted in different way. To some it is faithful adherence to church culture, liturgy or doctrine. It is possible, however, to hold to the form of a given church (to be religious) for reasons other than a love for God. (The terms "godly" and "religious" even in Biblical days became confused.)

James was quick to point out that religion is no substitute for true spirituality

*James 1:26-27 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

## **Lesson Seven: Spirituality**

The Bible's definition of spirituality is best represented in Peter's Second Epistle, the first chapter. Certain words and their meanings here best define "spirituality."

### **2Peter 1:3-11**

*3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.*

*4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

*5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;*

*6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;*

*7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.*

*8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*9 But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.*

*10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble,*

*11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

## ***The Context***

Note the following conditions that are part of a true understanding of spirituality:

- A. Our ability to live for the Lord is NOT accomplished in our own strength.
  - *According as his divine power*
- B. This new life in Christ is a GIFT of God's Grace.
  - *has given unto us*
- C. We have no excuses for continuing to live in sin. We have
  - *all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness,*
- D. Our relationship with Jesus provides us with the strength and knowledge to best serve and follow Him.
  - *through the knowledge of him*
- E. This was His plan (Ephesians 3:10)
  - *that has called us*
- F. That He would be glorified in our lives, that is, others would see how great and wonderful He really is.
  - *to glory*
- G. by looking at what He has done in and through us.
  - *and virtue:*
- H. This is what He has promised. The Lord did not promise to make us materially rich but spiritually rich.
  - *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious (We should cherish these above all else) promises:*

- I. What has He promised? To make us Christ-like. (Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18)
- *that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature,*
- J. God's plan was to free us from sin.
- *having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*
- K. This is sanctification. This is spirituality. The precise process is an eight step process. We are not saying that it is as simple as one through eight. What we are saying is that the development of virtue is dependent on the development of faith, and the development of knowledge is dependent on the development of virtue and faith, etc.
- Note that the ultimate expression of the Spirit's guidance in our lives is our ability to love. What we have failed to realize is the dependence this quality has on the other seven traits.

*And beside this, giving all diligence, **add** to your faith virtue; **and to** virtue knowledge; **And to** knowledge temperance; **and to** temperance patience; **and to** patience godliness; **And to** godliness brotherly kindness; **and to** brotherly kindness love.*

- L. These eight characteristics developed in our lives are linked to our assurance.
- *If these things be in you, and abound (in superabundance. More love than we really need to love our worst enemy, etc.),*
- M. They are not works producing faith but faith producing works. Their biggest accomplishment is in our developing relationship with and growing knowledge of our Lord.

- *They make [you that you shall] neither [be] barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- N. Living the Christian life or living out the provision of Christ's death, freedom from sin, is impossible any other way.
- *But he that lacks these things is blind, and cannot see afar oft and has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*
- O. Are we truly born again? We declare it so not just verbally but in our living.
- *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, you shall never fall:*
- P. Ultimately the knowledge of our salvation and assurance of our position in Christ must come this way No one should claim salvation who does not live it.
- *For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

## **Part 2: God's Eight Steps**

We refer to this as an eight step plan of God because one is added to another. Again, it is important to note that we are continually adding virtue to faith and knowledge to virtue, etc. in effect growth, maturity, spirituality (Ephesians 4:12) is the process of getting more and more adapt at expressing these eight qualities. We start with:

### **I. FAITH.**

This is God's gift to us. (2 Peter 1:1) that every believer receives alike. This is not the faith or affirmation of ministry (the gift of faith). This is the ability to trust God to fulfill His promise to give to us everything we need to live a godly life (2 Peter 1:3). As such it is the ability to faithfully and consistently live that life. It is spiritual stability.

Living for Jesus is a step of faith. No person takes credit for strength to live the new life. Spirituality and pride are opposites.

*Habakkuk 2:4 See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness*

### **II. VIRTUE**

Virtue is *excellence*. It refers to those small but meaningful ways we all can serve the Lord. It means doing what we know we can and should do now to serve the Lord.

Note the general and almost insignificant wording of the following verse:

*Matthew 10:42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.*

Virtue is living NOW in the light of the Truth you have. It is doing small almost insignificant things that may appear irrelevant or of no consequence. While others are preaching to millions, you are at home hugging your small child. While they are telling the world --so it seems-- of Jesus's love, you are at home showing it.

**THE STEP: Faith without works is dead (James 2:26). Faith is always a step of obedience; it is always trusting God to do His part while we do ours. Faith "naturally" produces virtue.**

### III. KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge is not book knowledge or mere intellectual pursuit. It is not four years at a Bible college. This word speaks of a knowledge gained through experience.

Not just experience, but the learning experience the results from virtue. As we DO, we LEARN.. I would not want a surgeon to operate on me if his knowledge were only from books.

What knowledge specifically are we talking about? It is knowing JESUS according to this first chapter. This is the same as a developing RELATIONSHIP with our Savior or a growing understanding of Who He really is.

It is also correct to say that the Living Word, Jesus, and the written Word, the Bible, are going to bring the same message with the same emphasis. As we develop that closeness with Jesus and learn to follow Him more closely and with fewer sidetracks, we learn the written Word --The Bible makes more and more sense.

**A.. Many of our experiences as a Christian are no different from the experiences of our Savior when He was incarnate.**

*Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.*

**B. Many things that happen to us, actually happening to or for Him.**

*Matthew 25:40 The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

**C. Our knowledge of Him grows in two areas:**

1. How powerful He is in us, sanctifying US and helping us to live for Him and
2. What He suffered (persecution and inconvenience) for us.

*Philippians 3:10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,*

**THE STEP: Learning (KNOWLEDGE) is the results of doing (VIRTUE).**

#### **IV. TEMPERANCE**

**Temperance is self-control. It is saying "No!" to temptation. Temperance is not the result of personal resolve or New Year's resolutions or will-power. Temperance is a fruit of the Spirit. The strength to say "No" comes from God.**

Many Christians struggle with this issue not because they cannot say No but because they do not KNOW WHEN to say no. Sin has not been defined for them. They are doing things that are wrong according to the Bible but there has been no clear instruction of that to them.

**The Step: We already see the connection between KNOWLEDGE and temperance and why knowledge must come first. Learning through a relationship with Him and His written Word what is right from wrong tells us when we should say, No and when something is clearly a temptation.**

*Hebrews 5:13-14* **13** *Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14* *But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. (know what is right from wrong, know when to say, No.)*

What is sin? There are three areas of sin according to the Scripture: *pride*, an *abusive tongue*, and *lust* or undisciplined passion. A detailed study reveals that the Bible is quite clear and definite about sin, what it is and its consequences.

## V. PATIENCE

Patience is being faithful in exercising the control of Temperance. The tempter will never mind an occasional, No. He returns often looking for a "Yes" response. Patience denies him that and frustrates him into leaving.

*James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*

*Luke 21:19 Stand firm, and you will win life.*

*Revelation 14:12 This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.*

**The Step between temperance and patience is evident. We know that yielding to temptation strengthens the temptation while saying no, inevitably weakens it.**

Note: If someone is struggling with patience, perhaps, it is because they do not know in what area of their life they need to have that control. Perhaps, they do not know what it is about their own life that needs to be corrected or disciplined in order to give patience meaning to them. Can you begin to see the relation between these steps?

## VI. GODLINESS

Godliness, one scholar defined, is “*living our lives with one eye on God.*” It is living out the holiness God has worked into our lives. God has given us love (that’s holiness within), we must now show it (that is godliness).

*Philippians 2:12-13 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

It is this word that is confused with “*being religion,*” as we have already discussed.

**The Step: Godly living is faithful living. Patience is a necessary quality in the meaning of godliness. If we would live godly lives, we must first learn to discipline ourselves under the guidance of the Spirit and in that act of discipline not only learn to say NO to the tempter but also learn how to more consistently and faithfully live out the changes God is making and has made within.**

Godliness is God's way of replacing each "No" we say to the tempter with a "Yes" from His store of promises. Temperance and patience with godliness is the process of putting off the old habits and developing new ones. One part of this process does not work without the other.

## VII. BROTHERLY KINDNESS

This is fellowship at its best. This is the Christian community that we spoke of in the fourth booklet.

**The Step: Here, however, we are pointing out that the quality of our fellowship and love for one another is clearly related to how godly we are.**

At this point in our discovery, we can learn some very important lessons:

1. If I am unable to fellowship properly with you, perhaps, my problem is that I am saying NO to what the Lord wants me to do (godliness).
2. This may be so because I am involved in some ongoing temptation. I may have said No once or twice, but without patience, I decided to do it.
3. Perhaps, this is so because I have not been following Jesus as closely as I ought. My knowledge of Truth is less than it ought to be,
4. Perhaps because I just have not been doing the little things I know already can do in serving Him.

### III. LOVE

Love (God's love) is the ultimate sign of obedience and maturity or spirituality.

This is love for our worst enemy.. This is unconditional love. This is 1 Corinthians 13 love.

*3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

*4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

*8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.*

**The Step: We deceive ourselves if we think we can love the unsaved, witness to them, and care about their spiritual needs and not love other believers. It is not true that it is easier to get along with the unbeliever. True Christian fellowship provides us with the strength to maintain a healthy witness in the world even under persecution.**

(These eight steps are part of an ongoing process. Don't be discouraged --just informed. Let's work together to develop true spirituality.)

<p align="center"><b>Booklet One</b> <i>Discovering God's Love</i> It is important to reaffirm the dynamic that is God's Love as Our Heavenly Father. Discovering (establishing) how great and unconditional God's love is a first step. [Adoption]</p>	<p align="center"><b>Booklet Five</b> <i>Discovering Christian Community</i> Realizing the change in us, as we grow, and understanding the basic message of the Cross, brings us to a common understanding with other believers who are on the same spiritual journey and encourages fellowship and proper christian relationships. [The Early Church in fellowship]</p>
<p align="center"><b>Booklet Two</b> <i>Discovering God's Word</i> After the message of God's unconditional love is clear, we are more prepared to face the more demanding truth in God's Word as it encourages change and growth. [Water Baptism]</p>	<p align="center"><b>Booklet Six</b> <i>Discovering Ministry</i> With a proper understanding of Christian relationships, we are ready to talk ministry to one another, the 'allelous' principle. [allelous is Greek for "one another"] [The gifts of ministry and the charismata]</p>
<p align="center"><b>Booklet Three</b> <i>Discovering A New Me</i> As we begin to develop a love for God's Word to instruct and correct, the change in us becomes more evident: we are being conformed to the image of Christ. [The Fruit of the Spirit]</p>	<p align="center"><b>Booklet Seven</b> <i>Discovering True Spirituality</i> True Spirituality is not some esoteric mystery but a well-defined path from faith to holy living. We are now prepared to talk about it. [2 Peter 1]</p>
<p align="center"><b>Booklet Four</b> <i>Discovering Basic Truth</i> There are basic truths which are important we as believers to know. We cannot escape the need to learn some fundamental theological truths which gives reason to faith. [Soteriology: The Message of the Cross]</p>	<p>Seven Booklets in One Manual designed to encourage the early development of a young believer in Christ. Along with a daily devotional time in the Word and prayer, "Biblical Discipleship" should ask and answer the most basic and frequent inquiries young believers are likely to have. It is for this reason we refer to this series as a discovery. These are the seven steps of growth as a young believer begins to discover the change God has made in her or his life.</p>

*We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. – Romans 6:4 (NIV)*