

## **WELCOME TO THE GAME OF LIFE SERIES - "THE PRACTICE"**

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about how to grow in the Lord. This class is a basic introduction to your walk of faith. **The PRACTICE** is divided in seven sessions of 45 minutes each or a four-hour class and is taught by one of our spiritual leaders.

### **THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS:**

#### **1. God wants you to be \_\_\_\_\_!**

*"As newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby." 1 Peter 2:2*

*"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18*

#### **2. God wants you to be spiritually \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"And this also we pray, that you may be made complete." 2 Corinthians. 13:9*

#### **3. God wants you to understand what it means to be spiritually mature:**

Maturity is not \_\_\_\_\_.

Maturity is not simply \_\_\_\_\_.

Maturity is not simply \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **4. Here are three measures of spiritual maturity:**

a. My \_\_\_\_\_ - LOOK UP - to know Him

*"And this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent." John 17:3*

b. My \_\_\_\_\_ - LOOK OUT - to be used by Him

*"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies; that in all things God may be gloried through Jesus Christ..." 1 Peter 4:10-11*

c. My \_\_\_\_\_ - LOOK WITHIN - to become like Him

*"For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to Him - and all along He knew who would - should become like His Son, so that His Son would be the First, with many brothers." Romans 8:29*

*"But we Christians... can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him." 2 Corinthians 3:18 (LB)*

*"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." 1 John 3:2*

#### **5. Important facts about spiritual maturity:**

It is not \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Dear brothers, I have been talking to you as though you were still just babies in the Christian life who are not following the Lord but your own desires; I cannot talk to you as I would to healthy Christians who are filled with the Spirit... For you are still only baby Christians, controlled by your own desires, not God's... In fact, you are acting like people who don't belong to the Lord at all." 1 Corinthians 3:1,3 (LB)*

It is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own." Philippians 3:12-14*

It takes personal \_\_\_\_\_.

*"...disciple yourself for the purpose of godliness..." 1 Timothy 4: 7*

*"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, of self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:7*

### **DEVELOPING THE HABITS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

T \_\_\_\_\_: To think is to hold as a belief or opinion; judge; consider; form a mental concept of; imagine; reflect upon; meditate, to ponder. (Webster's)

*"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."— Jesus  
John 8:32*

H\_\_\_\_\_ : A pattern of action that is acquired through regular repetition and which has become so

automatic that it is difficult to break; an established disposition of character; a customary practice (Webster's).

*"You have put off the old self with its habits, and have put on the new self... which God is continually renewing in His own image, to bring you to a full knowledge of Himself." Colossians 3:9-10*

D\_\_\_\_\_ : Personal training or development through the deliberate control of your desired, actions, habits (Webster's)

*"For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant. Later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."  
Hebrews 12:11*

#### **To Grow in the Lord you will learn 7 truths:**

- Who Is The Lord
- How To Speak To Him
- How To Study His Word
- Who Are You
- How To Be A Giver
- How To Share Your Faith
- How To Encourage Others

#### **WHO IS THE LORD?**

Imagine a do-it-yourself "god-making kit." Included in the kit is everything you need to create your very own god. After you finish making him, you'll have to live with him, worship him and obey him.

What kind of god would you create? One that is soft and kind or one that is so big that it would have to live out beyond the stars. We smile at this concept of

creating your own god but many people become involved in their own god-making.

People have thought up gods that looked like people, birds, animals and snakes. This religious zoo begins in the minds of people who reject the True God of creation. Wrong thinking about God leads to wrong living before God. William Temple warned, "If your conception of God is radically false, then the more devout you are, the worse it will be for you."

We must consider carefully what the Scriptures reveal about God, because our lives will not be greater than our concept of God. So let us look and see, "Who is the Lord?"

The Lord God Almighty is the Sovereign Majesty of the universe. He is the absolute Ruler over His entire creation - everyone, everything, everywhere.

So you can see why the Scriptures say, "*The fear (awesome respect) of God is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*" Proverbs 1:7. It is important that we begin with this understanding of the Lord God.

### **Wrong thinking about God leads to wrong living before God.**

When you deeply respect someone, what are some things you would do and think about that person? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 1:7 will be your Scripture to memorize today. "*The fear of God is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*" Commit this verse to memory and apply it in your life as you begin to dwell on the things of God.

You will begin to respect God more and more as you look at who He really is. God is absolute in all His ways. He is totally sovereign.

God's sovereignty always seems to raise some questions. Have you ever asked, "Why does a Sovereign God allow evil, pain and death to exist in the world? Why does He allow bad things to happen?"

No one really knows the answer to this question because God has chosen not to fully reveal His plans to us. We know that He does allow evil to exist in restricted areas of His creation. But evil is like a fugitive trapped in a building; his actions are limited and his time will run out. God has told us that there is a day coming when there will be no pain or death. (1 Corinthians 15:24-26)

Another question raised by the sovereignty of God is, "If God rules the universe, how can men and women exercise free choice? Aren't we merely puppets who act when the great Director pulls the strings?"

The Bible clearly asserts that God is absolutely Sovereign **AND** that we are responsible for our choices.

**Sovereignty vs. Freewill**

An illustration of these two great truths:

A jumbo jet flies from Vancouver to New York. Its destination and flight plan are determined. This represents God's Sovereignty. On board the aircraft are 300 passengers who exercise limited freedom. How they pass their time is largely up to them. They can read, watch a movie, stroll the aisles, talk or sleep. Yet, at the same time, the plane is carrying all of them to New York. This represents free choice.

God has decreed that we should make moral choices. We fulfill God's degree whenever we decide between wrong and right. Our freedom, like that of the passengers on the airplane, is limited, but determination and choice do co-exist.

Perhaps the world's deepest quarrel with God's sovereignty is that it does not want a Sovereign God. The world does not like a God who cannot be told what to do. Yet for a Christian this teaching is such a blessing. We serve a God who cannot be tricked or bought off. He will see to it that justice and righteousness will be rewarded someday.

Isaiah wrote about the sovereignty of God in Isaiah.

**Read these verses now: Isaiah 40:12-17:**

How big is God? (vs.12) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who has directed or counselled God? (vs.13 - 14) \_\_\_\_\_

How mighty are all the nations before God? (vs.15, 17) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How much would we have to sacrifice to have God notice? (vs.16)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who is like or equal with God? (vs.25) \_\_\_\_\_

Who made the stars? (vs.26) \_\_\_\_\_

How does He know and keep them all in place? (vs.26) \_\_\_\_\_

When we look at the Scriptures we see that God is an awesome God. He is bigger than the whole creation! No one has counselled God about anything. By Himself He sets forth the foundation of the universe. Even all the nations are insignificant before Him. If everyone got together to fight against God, He would still win because of His greatness.

There is no one His equal in power and might. He is Almighty God! It is out of this power, that He creates and holds all things together. He is the Sovereign God!

### **He is also Creator!**

Every blade of grass, every drop of water, every flower and shrub, every planet and star, every person and angel, was once a thought in the mind of God. When we come to realize that God is our Creator it gives us a sense of purpose and responsibility.

Look around you and see if you can find the purpose why things were made...

Why was a pencil made?

Why was a cup made?

Why was a house made?

Each item that man has made has been for a purpose. The pencil was made to write, the cup was made to hold liquids so that we could drink out of it, and the house was made to live in and shelter us from the elements. Each item has a purpose.

Now we can use these items for others things but what ends up happening is the product gets destroyed because it was not made for that purpose. As an example, I could use my pencil to pry open a cupboard door or the cup to carry rocks inside of it or the house to keep a cow inside. I can use these items for these purposes but it ends up destroying the product.

God creates man when He says in *Genesis 1:26 - 27*, "*Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over*

*every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."*

Now when God created man, He created him for a purpose. What is the purpose of man? Why were you made?

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**The answer is found in 1 Corinthians 10:31!**

The Westminster Shorter Catechism of 1648 stated it this way:

**Question:** What is the chief end of man?

**Answer:** Man's chief end is to glorify God, and enjoy Him forever.

**What is the purpose of man?**

To live to the glory of God! Man is made to glorify the Lord. But instead of living for why we were made, we substitute our purpose for a high moral ideal, or object.

Remember if you live for the wrong purpose in life you are setting yourself up to be frustrated and angry in life.

If being a good father or mother is your main purpose for living, ask yourself what could stop you from reaching your purpose?

No money? No job? No home? No marriage? No children? These are **roadblocks**. Each time you experience a roadblock in the path to your purpose you will experience frustration and anger. If you continue and it looks like you will never reach your purpose, this can lead to depression and even suicide!

**A** \_\_\_\_\_ comes from having something block my purpose. It is in direct path to my "perceived" happiness.

**F** \_\_\_\_\_ comes after I attempt to bring down this roadblock and it isn't working. A "throwing up of the hands" attitude.

**D** \_\_\_\_\_ comes when it looks like the roadblock will remain. I can not seem to get around this roadblock to my purpose.

**G** \_\_\_\_\_ comes from believing that what God provides is not enough and then you go out of God's will to secure what He has not provided.

**R** \_\_\_\_\_ comes from believing that my needs are threatened by something which He allowed to happen to me.

A \_\_\_\_\_ is the fear that something I need will not be provided.

Only a Christian who knows that his needs are sustained in Christ will be content in any circumstance. Our distinguishing mark should be love.

### **So how do we glorify God?**

*In Jeremiah 9:23 - 24 it says, "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight." says the LORD.*

Our Creator God wants us to bring honour and glory to Him by listening and doing what He wants to accomplish in our lives. He wants us to love Him as we care for this earth, and the people and animals upon it, while enjoying Him.

If we live for the purpose of bringing glory to Him, than there is nothing that can stop us from fulfilling our purpose. Sometimes it may be hard to keep focus on our fulfilling purpose but it not impossible to live for the glory of God no matter what you are going through.

Points of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord.

Can you still live to the glory of God even if you have no money?

Yes! It may be more difficult but it can be done.

Can you still live to the glory of God even if you have no job?

Yes! This also might be difficult but it can be done.

Can you still live to the glory of God even if you have no home?

Yes!

Can you still live to the glory of God even if you have no marriage?

Yes!

Can you still live to the glory of God even if you have no children?

Yes!

You see there is nothing that can come into your life experience which will not allow you to live to the glory of God, if you desire to do it. Nothing!

You and I were made to glorify our Creator the Sovereign God of the Universe! This and this alone is our purpose and our destiny. As we learn to put our full

trust in our Sovereign God we experience the peace of God which surpasses all understanding.

The glory of God is the most valuable purpose in the universe. We could not have a higher purpose. If we were to do some great project or to build some great building eventually it would be completed and we would be a people without a purpose. But to give glory to our Creator is an eternal experience and a higher, nobler cause cannot be found. Praise the LORD!

In Session 3 we will look at spending time with our Creator so that we can get to know Him.

### **THE HABIT OF DAILY QUIET TIME**

Read: 1 John 3:1 - 3

You are about to experience some very exciting times. Our prayer is that you will look back at this time in seven weeks and be astonished at the growth that is happening in your life.

First things first, I would like you to imagine that you are going to be trained for the Olympics. The Coach has seen potential in you since you became a new person. His first command is going to be, *“Athlete, if you are serious about developing muscles and strength to take part in the Olympics then you need to meet with me every day. I have some great things to show you which will improve your mind, heart and skills. You need to be here!”*

Can you imagine a coach trying to teach the skills that he knew if his pupils never showed up to meet with him? It would be impossible. Spending time together is the only way his skills can be taught to you. Christianity is much the same. Your strength depends on getting to know your Lord. This time is known as a person’s **“Quiet Time”**. This is a time where you can get together alone with God. As you do this, you will be pleased with the results.

Since a daily Quiet Time is all-important because it is your regular contact with your Source of spiritual life, Jesus Christ Himself, the Evil One is going to try to do all he can to stop you from being serious about this time.

If you are going to win this battle say so, out loud, right now! *“By the power of Christ, I commit myself to spend time with God in a Quiet Time each day.”*

### **WHY DO WE NEED TO SPEND DAILY QUIET TIME WITH THE LORD?**

Spending daily time with God in His Word and prayer is not just a good idea - it is vital to growing as a Christian. God has given us many good reasons for spending daily time in the Word and prayer:

1. To \_\_\_\_\_.

*"I don't want your sacrifices; I want your love. I don't want your offerings; I want you to know Me!" Hosea 6:6*

2. For \_\_\_\_\_ **Nourishment**

*"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4*

*"Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, that by it your may grow in respect to your salvation." 1 Peter 2:2*

3. For Daily \_\_\_\_\_.

*"How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your Word... I have stored up your Word that I might not sin against You." Psalm 119:9,11*

4. For Daily \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Ps. 119:105*

### **GODLY EXAMPLES**

**Jesus:** *"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed." Mark 1:35*

**Abraham:** *"now Abraham arose early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before the Lord." Genesis 19:27*

**David:** *"In the morning, O Lord, YOU will hear my voice; in the morning I will order my prayer to You and early watch." Psalm 5:3*

Here are some suggestions for starting your Quiet Time:

1. **HAVE A SPECIFIC \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ FOR IT.**

It's important to have a regular place to meet your Lord but ***DON'T GUILT YOURSELF!*** This is supposed to be like meeting a friend. You could meet the Lord at a desk, a table, or even the side of your bed will do. It is very important that you schedule at least fifteen minutes for your Quiet Time. If it is possible, schedule your Quiet Time at the start of your day. Your day will be different because you met **Christ** first!



**2. BE \_\_\_\_\_.**

A hit-and-miss pattern is an indication that you are developing new habits and disciplines. Stick with it! If this happens to you, ask a friend to motivate you by calling on you or asking you about your Quiet Time. Go to bed on time!

**3. HAVE A \_\_\_\_\_ AND A \_\_\_\_\_ HANDY.**

Believe that God will talk with you in your Quiet Time. Be prepared to listen and obey. Have your Bible so you can see His mind. If you are systematically reading, start at the Book of James, then the Gospel of John, Mark, Acts, Ephesians, Philippians and Romans. Later, you will learn how to do personal Bible study.

**4. BEGIN WITH \_\_\_\_\_.**

Open your heart to Christ, offering Him the right to teach, to discipline, or to direct you as you study. Tell Him of your love for Him.

**5. RELATE TO WHAT YOU HAVE \_\_\_\_\_.**

Before you stop, decide how you can specifically live out the truth you have learned in your Quiet Time. This practical expression of truths grasped will make a very down-to-earth Christian out of you!

**Psalm 1**

- 1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked  
or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.
- 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditated day and night.
- 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither.  
Whatever he does prospers.
- 4 Not so the wicked!  
They are like chaff that the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous,
- 6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

## HABIT OF PRAYER

Prayer is a vital part of an effective Quiet Time. The Scriptures and prayer are like the "wings" of Quiet Time: you won't really get off the ground unless they are both attached to your time!

Remember that the purpose of our time is to hear the Lord and deepen our relationship with Him. The key to any relationship is communication. In our relationship with the Lord, He speaks to us through His Word and we speak to Him through prayer.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

We need to pray because:

**1. It is \_\_\_\_\_ by God.**

*"Pray continually." 1 Thessalonians 5:17*

*"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." Colossians 4:2*

**2. It is the solution for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7*

## HOW TO PRAY (FACTSS)

We will look at prayer by using an acronym.

**FACTSS** stands for:

**F** - \_\_\_\_\_  
**A** - \_\_\_\_\_  
**C** - \_\_\_\_\_  
**T** - \_\_\_\_\_  
**S** - \_\_\_\_\_  
**S** - \_\_\_\_\_

## **Faith**

Faith is trusting what you ask for will happen. It is believing in it strongly, even beyond external evidence.

Every true prayer begins in faith and is grounded in truth. Otherwise it is just a wish. Our first lesson we looked at was who is the Lord. This was to give us needed confidence and faith as we come to Him in prayer.

### **Our faith is increased by:**

1. Spending time in the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ men and women's lives who walked by faith.
3. Seeing our \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of fellow Christians come to pass.
4. Seizing every opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_

## **Adoration**

Definition: Praise is communicating to God appreciation for who He is, what He is like, and His character.

### **Why Praise Is So Important:**

1. We are \_\_\_\_\_ by God. Psalm 113:1
2. It helps us \_\_\_\_\_ God. Psalm 106:1
3. It shows our \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord. Psalm 70:4

We can praise God for His: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Confession**

Definition: To \_\_\_\_\_.

1. I must admit that I have sinned. I'm wrong, regardless of the other person's problems. Accepting responsibility for my actions and attitudes. John 3:19 - 21
2. I need to say to God: "I am sorry. I have sinned." No excuses. This is my sin. Be genuinely sorrowful that I sinned against God. 2 Corinthians 7:9 - 11
3. I need to ask: "God, forgive me of my sins." 1 John 1:9

4. I need to ask: "God, cleanse me of my sins." I know that I can't clean up my act. I know that there is no human remedy for sin.

5. I need to ask: "Empower me." This is a new realization that I am dependent on God for my walk in the Spirit. Philippians 4:19; Ephesians 5:18

### **Why Confession Is So Important:**

1. It is essential to \_\_\_\_\_ with God. Isaiah 59:1,2

2. It is essential to \_\_\_\_\_. 1 John 1:9

3. It is essential to \_\_\_\_\_ prayer. Proverbs 28:9

### **Suggestions:**

1. Be specific
2. Deal with issues quickly
3. Use Psalms 32 & 51 as a guide.

### **Thanksgiving**

A grateful acknowledgment for something received by or done for someone; appreciating the work of God - what He has done and is doing for us; acknowledging that all the good we are constantly experiencing is from God. (James 1:17)

#### **Why Being Thankful Is So Important**

1. It is \_\_\_\_\_ by God. Colossians 3:15

2. It is essential to \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Thessalonians 5:15-16; Deuteronomy 28:47

3. It is essential to \_\_\_\_\_. Philippians 4:6,7

4. It characterized the life of \_\_\_\_\_. John 6:11,23, 11:41, Luke 22:17, 19

We should be thankful for: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Supplication**

Definition: Bringing to God requests concerning the needs of others or myself.

## Why Supplication Is So Important

1. Because God \_\_\_\_\_ to pray. 1 Timothy 2:1,2
2. Because it shows our \_\_\_\_\_ for others. Romans 10:1
3. Because we can \_\_\_\_\_ others anywhere. Ephesians 6:18
4. Because prayer is \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ in people's lives.  
James 5:16

Jesus' Example:

*"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you Simon that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." Luke 22:31,32*

*Such a high priest meets our need, one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Hebrews 7:26*

## Silence

Definition: To remain \_\_\_\_\_.

## Why is silence so important?

1. God wants to \_\_\_\_\_ to you.
2. What God says to you is \_\_\_\_\_ than what you say to God.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ of an answer to your prayers is always evident.
4. Daily instruction and guidance is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## LET'S HAVE TODAY'S QUIET TIME RIGHT NOW...

**PRAY:** *"Father, open up my mind and heart to Your truth. Thank You for loving me. I love You. Please reveal to me what You would have me learn today. In Jesus' name. Amen"*

Pick up your Bible and read the verses for today.

**1 John 3:1 - 3:** *"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know*

*us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."*

As you read the Bible, God's Word, you're getting spiritual nourishment. But are you "digesting" what you read? One way to help you "digest" the thoughts in Scripture verses is ask God what He wants to tell you through these verses. Try doing this now, with the verses above which you have just read. Shut your eyes and silently ask God to show you what He wants you to know about Him or yourself. **Now open your eyes and write down what you believe He said to you in your mind.**

What did He say? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Remember, God will say things which are positive and encouraging to your growth.

Let me write down what I believe He told me as I did this.

*"Alan, you are My child. I love you. I am pleased you have chosen a time to purify yourself. I am a Holy God. Be honest with Me when you speak with Me. Tell me the things which are real to you, open up your heart before Me. Alan remember, I am the Father and you are the child. I am responsible for you. I will keep you secure."*

Can you see the joy of talking with God? Did He speak to you about similar things?

***"Tell me the things which are real to you, open up your heart before Me."***

In your Quiet Time you will begin to learn that prayer is not so much a discipline as a communication between two beings that care for each other. Love must always communicate to the one who is loved. God will communicate with you because He loves you very much.

Now in what ways can you live out the truths of what you're being told? Can you see the difference this will make with your attitudes? In your actions?

End today's Quiet Time by writing at least one specific way you will put the truths of 1 John 3:1 - 3 to work in your life today.

**Some examples of application might be:**

Could you visit someone who needs some encouragement?

Could you bake some cookies for a homebound person?

Could you take someone out for coffee at a restaurant?

What one thing could you do, **today**? \_\_\_\_\_

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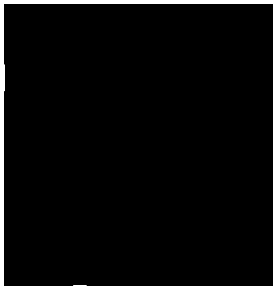
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**Now... go do it!**

### **HOW TO STUDY HIS WORD**

The way to study the Scriptures and apply them to life is something every Christian should know. The word of God will be your guide throughout your life. It is very important that you know the basics of Bible study.

The five basic ways to understand the Word of God can be illustrated by using the five fingers on your hand.



In Romans 12:1 - 2, how does it tell us to be transformed?

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For us to receive a new mind with new thoughts we are going to have to go through these five basics of studying and applying the word of God.

The acrostic, HEART is used for your easy remembrance to apply the Scriptures that move your heart in obedience to the Lord.

**1. H\_\_\_\_\_ The Word**

This is the first way that we can receive the word. We do not need to be scholars. We may not even know how to read but someone can speak the words of truth to us.

a. What kind of heart will best hear and use the Word? (Luke 8:15)

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b. Whom did Jesus say would be blessed? (Luke 11:28) \_\_\_\_\_

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c. What did the people of God do once they heard the Scriptures being taught to them? (Acts 17:11-12)

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## 2. E \_\_\_\_\_ The Word

Examining and reading the word is critical to our growth. When we get out of the Word of God, when trials come, we often end up on the bottom of the heap. We become defeated by life. But as we spend consistent time in the Bible it keeps us focused and ready to face the difficulty of life.

a. Why should you read the Bible according to Deuteronomy 6:4-9?

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b. What does Galatians 1:6-9 tell us about the gospel we have received?

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A daily reading program which will take you systematically through the Bible is something many Christians use as a regular part of the daily devotional time.

On the following pages is some sample Bible Reading guides:

### Reading Through The New Testament In One Month

Day 1	Matt 1 - 9	Day 2	Matt 10 - 15
Day 3	Matt 16 - 22	Day 4	Matt 23 - 28

Day 5	Mark 1 - 8	Day 6	Mark 9 - 16
Day 7	Luke 1 - 6	Day 8	Luke 7 - 11
Day 9	Luke 12 - 18	Day 10	Luke 19 - 24
Day 11	John 1 - 7	Day 12	John 8 - 3
Day 13	John 14 - 21	Day 14	Acts 1 - 7
Day 15	Acts 8 - 13	Day 16	Acts 14 - 21
Day 17	Acts 22 - 28	Day 18	Rom. 1 - 8
Day 19	Rom. 9 - 16	Day 20	1 Cor 1 - 9
Day 21	1 Cor 10 - 16	Day 22	2 Corinthians
Day 23	Gal., Eph.	Day 24	Phil., Col., 1&2 Thess
Day 25	1&2 Tim., Titus, Phil.	Day 26	Hebrews
Day 27	James, 1 & 2 Peter	Day 28	1, 2, & 3 John, Jude
Day 29	Revelations 1 - 11	Day 30	Revelations 12 - 22
Day 31	(This can be used for a spare day, just in case...)		

**If you want a real challenge, read through  
the complete Bible in 13 weeks:**

**DATE BEGUN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 1**

Sun	Mark 1 - 10
Mon	Mark 11 - 16; Matt 1 - 4
Tues	Matt 5 - 15
Wed	Matt 16 - 26
Thurs	Matt 27 to Luke 6
Fri	Luke 7 - 15
Sat	Luke 16 - 24

**WEEK 2**

Sun	John 1 - 10
Mon	John 11 - 21
Tues	Gen 1 - 16
Wed	Gen 17 - 28
Thurs	Gen 29 - 40
Fri	Gen 41 - Ex 2
Sat	Ex 3 - 14

**WEEK 3**

Sun	Ex 15 - 27
Mon	Ex 28 - 40
Tues	Lev 1 - 13
Wed	Lev 14 - 24
Thurs	Lev 25 to Num 5
Fri	Num 6 - 15
Sat	Num 16 - 26

**WEEK 4**

Sun	Num 27 to Deut 2
Mon	Deut 3 - 13
Tues	Deut 14 - 27
Wed	Deut 28 to Joshua 3
Thurs	Joshua 4 - 14
Fri	Joshua 15 to Judges 2
Sat	Judges 3 - 12

**WEEK 5**

Sun	Judges 13 - 21
Mon	1 Sam 1 - 14
Tues	1 Sam 15 - 25

**WEEK 6**

Sun	1 Kings 13 - 22
Mon	2 Kings 1 - 10
Tues	2 Kings 11 - 25

Wed 1 Sam 26 to 2 Sam 8  
Thurs 2 Sam 9 - 19  
Fri 2 Sam 20 to 1 Kings 4  
Sat 1 Kings 5 - 12

### WEEK 7

Sun Isaiah 49 - 60  
Mon Isaiah 61 to Jer 3  
Tues Jeremiah 4 - 13  
Wed Jeremiah 14 - 25  
Thurs Jeremiah 26 - 36  
Fri Jeremiah 37 - 47  
Sat Jeremiah 48 - 52

### WEEK 9

Sun Haggai 1 to Malachi 4  
Mon Ps 1 - 26  
Tues Ps 27 - 51  
Wed Ps 52 - 77  
Thurs Ps 78 - 98  
Fri Ps 99 - 117  
Sat Ps 118 - 142

### WEEK 11

Sun Esther 5 - 10; Dan 1 - 7  
Mon Dan 8 - 12; Ezra  
Tues Nehemiah  
Wed 1 Chronicles 1 - 7  
Thurs 1 Chronicles 8 - 21  
Fri 1 Chr. 22 to 2 Chr. 6  
Sat 2 Chronicles 7 - 22

### WEEK 13

Sun Phil 1 to 2 Thessalonians 3  
Mon 1 Tim 1 to Heb 6  
Tues Heb 7 to 1 Peter 2  
Wed 1 Peter 3 to 3 John  
Thurs Jude to Revelations 12  
Fri Revelations 13 - 22

Wed Isaiah 1 - 12  
Thurs Isaiah 13 - 26  
Fri Isaiah 27 - 38  
Sat Isaiah 39 - 48

### WEEK 8

Sun Ezek 1 - 14  
Mon Ezek 15 - 23  
Tues Ezek 24 - 34  
Wed Ezek 35 - 45  
Thurs Ezek 46-48; Hosea-Joel  
Fri Amos 1 to Micah 7  
Sat Nahum 1 to Zephaniah 3

### WEEK 10

Sun Ps 143 to Proverbs 11  
Mon Proverbs 12 - 25  
Tues Proverbs 26 - 31; Job 1- 9  
Wed Job 10 - 27  
Thurs Job 28 - 42  
Fri Ruth; Solomon; Lam.  
Sat Eccles; Esther 1 - 4

### WEEK 12

Sun 2 Chronicles 23 - 36  
Mon Acts 1 - 12  
Tues Acts 13 - 24  
Wed Acts 25 to Romans 7  
Thurs Romans 8 to 1 Corinthians 7  
Fri 1 Corinthians 8 to 2 Cor 9  
Sat 2 Corinthians 10 to Eph 6

**DATE COMPLETED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**...Or You Could Read Through The Bible  
In Twenty-five Weeks!**

**WEEK 1**

Sun Mark 1 - 5  
Mon Mark 6 - 10  
Tues Mark 11 - 16  
Wed Matt 1 - 7  
Thurs Matt 8 - 13  
Fri Matt 14 - 20  
Sat Matt 21 - 28

**WEEK 2**

Sun Luke 1 - 5  
Mon Luke 6 - 12  
Tues Luke 13 - 21  
Wed Luke 22 to John 2  
Thurs John 3 - 8  
Fri John 9 - 14  
Sat John 15—21

**WEEK 3**

Sun Gen 1 - 9  
Mon Gen 10 - 19  
Tues Gen 20 - 25  
Wed Gen 26 - 30  
Thurs Gen 31 - 36  
Fri Gen 37 - 45  
Sat Gen 46 - 50

**WEEK 4**

Sun Exodus 1 - 7  
Mon Exodus 8 - 13  
Tues Exodus 14 - 18  
Wed Exodus 19 - 28  
Thurs Exodus 29 - 34  
Fri Exodus 35 - 40  
Sat Leviticus 1 - 7

**WEEK 5**

Sun Leviticus 8 - 15  
Mon Leviticus 16 - 25  
Tues Lev. 26 to Numbers 4  
Wed Numbers 5 - 10  
Thurs Numbers 11 - 14  
Fri Number 15 - 21  
Sat Numbers 22 - 29

**WEEK 6**

Sun Numbers 30 - 36  
Mon Deuteronomy 1 - 6  
Tues Deuteronomy 7 - 14  
Wed Deuteronomy 15 - 22  
Thurs Deuteronomy 23 - 34  
Fri Joshua 1 - 5  
Sat Joshua 6 - 15

**WEEK 7**

Sun Joshua 16 - 24  
Mon Judges 1 - 8  
Tues Judges 9 - 16  
Wed Judges 17 - 21  
Thurs 1 Samuel 1 - 8  
Fri 1 Samuel 8 - 13  
Sat 1 Samuel 14 - 17

**WEEK 8**

Sun 1 Samuel 18 - 24  
Mon 1 Samuel 25 - 31  
Tues 2 Samuel 1 - 6  
Wed 2 Samuel 7 - 12  
Thurs 2 Samuel 13 - 19  
Fri 2 Samuel 20 - 24  
Sat 1 Kings 1 - 7

**WEEK 9**

Sun 1 Kings 8 - 13  
 Mon 1 Kings 14 - 22  
 Tues 2 Kings 1 - 5  
 Wed 2 Kings 6 - 11  
 Thurs 2 Kings 12 - 19  
 Fri 2 Kings 20 - 25  
 Sat Isaiah 1 - 6

**WEEK 11**

Sun Jeremiah 1 - 6  
 Mon Jeremiah 7 - 13  
 Tues Jeremiah 14 - 19  
 Wed Jeremiah 20 - 26  
 Thurs Jeremiah 27 - 31  
 Fri Jeremiah 32 - 38  
 Sat Jeremiah 39 - 45

**WEEK 13**

Sun Ezekiel 41 - 48  
 Mon Hosea 1 - 7  
 Tues Hosea 8 - 14  
 Wed Joel 1 - 3  
 Thurs Amos 1 - 9  
 Fri Micah 1 - 7  
 Sat Day off

**WEEK 15**

Sun Psalm 16 - 27  
 Mon Psalm 28 - 36  
 Tues Psalm 37 - 44  
 Wed Psalm 45 - 54  
 Thurs Psalm 55 - 64  
 Fri Psalm 65 - 72  
 Sat Psalm 73 - 78

**WEEK 17**

Sun Psalm 141 - 150

**WEEK 10**

Sun Isaiah 7 - 14  
 Mon Isaiah 15 - 24  
 Tues Isaiah 25 - 30  
 Wed Isaiah 31 - 39  
 Thurs Isaiah 40 - 46  
 Fri Isaiah 47 - 53  
 Sat Isaiah 54 - 66

**WEEK 12**

Sun Jeremiah 46 - 52  
 Mon Ezekiel 1 - 6  
 Tues Ezekiel 7 - 13  
 Wed Ezekiel 14 - 19  
 Thurs Ezekiel 20 - 25  
 Fri Ezekiel 26 - 32  
 Sat Ezekiel 33 - 40

**WEEK 14**

Sun Jonah 1 - 4  
 Mon Nah. 1 - 3; Habakkuk 1 - 3  
 Tues Zephaniah. 1 - 3; Hag. 1 - 2  
 Wed Zechariah 1 - 6  
 Thurs Zechariah 7 - 14  
 Fri Malachi 1 - 4  
 Sat Psalm 1 - 15

**WEEK 16**

Sun Psalm 79 - 88  
 Mon Psalm 89 - 100  
 Tues Psalm 101 - 106  
 Wed Psalm 107 - 117  
 Thurs Psalm 118 - 119  
 Fri Psalm 120 - 130  
 Sat Psalm 131 - 140

**WEEK 18**

Sun Job 8 - 14

Mon Proverbs 1 - 6  
Tues Proverbs 7 - 12  
Wed Proverbs 13 - 18  
Thurs Proverbs 19 - 24  
Fri Proverbs 25 - 31  
Sat Job 1 - 7

Mon Job 15 - 22  
Tues Job 23 - 31  
Wed Job 32 - 42  
Thurs Ruth 1 - 4  
Fri Song of Solomon 1 - 8  
Sat Lamentations 1 - 5

### WEEK 19

Sun Ecclesiastes 1 - 12  
Mon Esther 1 - 10  
Tues Daniel 1 - 6  
Wed Daniel 7 - 12  
Thurs Ezra 1 - 10  
Fri Nehemiah 1 - 6  
Sat Nehemiah 7 - 13

### WEEK 20

Sun 1 Chronicles 1 - 7  
Mon 1 Chronicles 8 - 14  
Tues 1 Chronicles 15 - 21  
Wed 1 Chronicles 22 - 29  
Thurs 2 Chronicles 1 - 6  
Fri 2 Chronicles 7 - 11  
Sat 2 Chronicles 12 - 19

### WEEK 21

Sun 2 Chronicles 20 - 25  
Mon 2 Chronicles 26 - 31  
Tues 2 Chronicles 32 - 36  
Wed Acts 1 - 5  
Thurs Acts 6 - 9  
Fri Acts 10 - 14  
Sat Acts 15 - 20

### WEEK 22

Sun Acts 21 - 28  
Mon Romans 1 - 8  
Tues Romans 9 - 16  
Wed 1 Corinthians 1 - 5  
Thurs 1 Corinthians 6 - 12  
Fri 1 Corinthians 13 - 16  
Sat 2 Corinthians 1 - 7

### WEEK 23

Sun 2 Corinthians 8 - 13  
Mon Galatians 1 - 6  
Tues Ephesians 1 - 6  
Wed Philippians 1 - 4  
Thurs Colossians 1 - 4  
Fri 1 Thessalonians 1 - 5  
Sat 2 Thessalonians 1 - 3

### WEEK 24

Sun 1 Timothy 1 - 6  
Mon 2 Timothy 1 - 4  
Tues Titus 1 - 3; Philemon  
Wed Hebrews 1 - 6  
Thurs Hebrews 7 - 13  
Fri James 1 - 5  
Sat 1 Peter 1 - 5

### WEEK 25

Sun 2 Peter 1 - 3  
Mon 1 John 1 - 5  
Tues 2 John; 3 John; Jude  
Wed Revelation 1 - 3  
Thurs Revelation 4 - 10

Fri Revelation 11 - 17  
Sat Revelation 18 - 22

**3. A \_\_\_\_\_ The Word**

a. How does Proverbs 2:4 indicate we should study the Word?

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b. What should be our goal in studying the Bible? (2 Timothy 2:15)

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To analyze something, you take your time looking at it and studying it. It is more like careful reading. Slowing down and seeing what each chapter, verse or word is saying. This helps you remember the passage.

**4. R \_\_\_\_\_ The Word.**

a. Why should we memorize the Bible? (Psalm 119:9, 11) \_\_\_\_\_

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b. How did Jesus overcome Satan's temptations? (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10)

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c. In Colossians 3:16, what do you think "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly" means?

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**Did You Know:**

After 24 hours you may accurately remember  
\_\_\_\_\_ % of what you hear.

\_\_\_\_\_ % of what you read.  
\_\_\_\_\_ % of what you study.  
\_\_\_\_\_ % of what you see and hear.  
**But you can remember \_\_\_\_\_ % of what you memorize.**

**You must have a memory plan and follow it.**

1. Read aloud the verse 10 times a day to imprint it in your mind. Five times in the morning, and 5 times in the evening just before retiring.
2. Visualize the verse(s). Look closely at the verse in the Bible so you will get a visual picture of it in your mind.
3. Repeat this procedure 7 days.
4. If you can't seem to retain the verse then write it out on a piece of paper.
5. Each time before reading the verse(s) repeat the book, chapter and verse so you will know the location of the text.
6. Meet with a partner for review and encouragement.

**5. T \_\_\_\_\_ Through The Word**

Mediating on the Word of God is prayerful reflection with a view to understanding and applying what you have discovered. It is the process of conforming your mind and will to the things of God.

Asking these four questions will help you know and apply the Scriptures to your situation:

- I**s there a... **L** \_\_\_\_\_ that is exposed?
- I** \_\_\_\_\_ that needs to change?
- F** \_\_\_\_\_ promise to hold on to?
- E** \_\_\_\_\_ for me to follow?

What are the promises to those who continually meditate on the Word of God?  
(Psalm 1:2 - 3; Joshua 1:8)

***"The Scriptures were not given to increase our knowledge but to \_\_\_\_\_ our lives."***  
Dwight L. Moody

**Aids to Personal Bible Study**

1. Personal Bible Study

2. My Bible Reading Record
3. My Personal Goals
4. Scripture Memory Record
5. Scriptures To Memorize

### **The Bible At A Glance (66 Books)**

#### **Old Testament (39 Books)**

#### **New Testament (27 Books)**

God used 40 different men over a period of 1,500 years to write the Bible

**READY! SET! GO!**

**Make a realistic Bible Study plan and stick with it!  
YOU CAN DO IT!**

#### **6. A \_\_\_\_\_ THE WORD**

Read Luke 6:46 - 49

Getting the Word of God into our hearts is essential, but we don't really abide in the Word until we have applied it into our lives. Up to this point it is just head knowledge not heart knowledge.

1. See how the verse applied to the people in its culture and setting.
2. Seek to apply it in a practical manner where you live.
3. Share your finding with others, to encourage them to apply the Scriptures in their lives.

***"God is THE maker and builder  
of men and women of God,  
be one and become one!"***

Pastor Alan Braun

#### **WHO YOU ARE**

Did you know that you are a \_\_\_\_\_ person since you became a Christian?

Your first birth sought to exalt self; the new birth seeks to exalt God and have the love of God flow through you.

To begin this journey into the depths of God, we must first ask ourselves, "What really happened to us when God the Father accepted us into His Son by the Holy Spirit?"

**Read Romans 6:6.**

Do you notice the terminology Paul used to talk about our life **before** we accepted Christ as our Lord?

The term he used was, “\_\_\_\_\_”.

Think of the “old man” as who you were \_\_\_\_\_ you became a Christian. You were one **who was totally independent of God**.  
*You were a \_\_\_\_\_!*

The definition of sin could be: “the never ending struggle of man to find “\_\_\_\_\_” or meaning to his existence outside of a relationship with his God.”  
Sin is \_\_\_\_\_ from God.

In Genesis 3:22, after the sin of Adam, God speaks and says, “Behold, the man has become as one of us, to know good and evil.” What God is saying is that Adam was now like God in the sense he was independent to decide. Adam had actually become his own \_\_\_\_\_.

Since death or separation from God entered into this world by one man, Adam; then it also could be removed by a second Adam, Christ. Romans 5:17, tells us that death reigned by one, but life comes from another, Jesus Christ.

*Romans 5:19, says “For as by one man’s disobedience many **were** made \_\_\_\_\_, so by the obedience of one shall many **be made** \_\_\_\_\_.”*

***I am no longer a \_\_\_\_\_!***

My identity has been changed into a \_\_\_\_\_, in Christ!

The “old man” is \_\_\_\_\_, the “old you” is \_\_\_\_\_, crucified, totally done away with, never to arise from the dead again. You are not a sinner any longer because God has killed that “me” on the cross.

You cannot be an “\_\_\_\_\_ man” and a “\_\_\_\_\_ man” at the same time.

To fully understand this, we must not see this as if this only happened “positionally”, only in the mind of God. We must see this as Romans 6:6 tells us, “*Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him...*”

“Is crucified with him...”, this is something which we **MUST** believe by faith. We are never told to crucify our old man. Why? Because it has already \_\_\_\_\_.

We are not Christians because of what we do or don’t do. We are Christians only because of what \_\_\_\_\_ has done!

Romans 6:6,7 gives us the explanation of why the “old man” was crucified and what that means to us now. According to verse 6, two results happen because of our “old man” being crucified, what are they?

The results are:

- 1) ...that the \_\_\_\_\_ might be destroyed
- 2) ...that henceforth we should not \_\_\_\_\_ sin

In order to understand this first part we will have to examine the word, “*destroyed*”. This word does not mean destroy in the strictest sense. Its meaning is found in the words: rendered inert, rendered ineffective. So our translation would read - “that the body of sin might be rendered inert, rendered ineffective.

### **What is the body of sin?**

The body of sin is another term which Paul has used for the word, “\_\_\_\_\_”. The body of sin is his way of describing those whose physical bodies are still being used as the seat, or instrument of sin.

This does not mean our bodies are essentially evil, it means that our bodies can be used by sin for evil.

This verse could be translated like this, “The old man is crucified and buried with Him, so that the corrupt desires or lusts of the flesh may no more reign in us.”

Remember, the body in and of itself is not essentially and inherently sinful, it is only used now by sin. Sin can only use its power of control on your body, not any longer on who you truly are as a spirit being. This is why Scripture says, “we are dead to sin”. The man himself is delivered, but his body is not yet delivered. That is why the Apostle also says, “We are longing for the \_\_\_\_\_ of our body” (Romans 8:23).

What could be more frustrating than being a Christian who thinks himself to be primarily a self-centred sinner, yet whose purpose in life is to produce God-centred holiness?

There are two views which exist today to explain what God has done with us.

Are you able to tell which view is the true one? A: \_\_\_\_\_ B: \_\_\_\_\_

A: THE CHRIST FILTER  
(Positional righteousness)

GOD in His absolute holiness

God sees  
Jesus  
&  
His righteousness instead of me

A filter is needed  
The filter is Christ

To help my walk God gave me:  
1 ...the Holy Spirit to come alongside  
2 ...and a New Nature

SINNER

**I am a SINNER with a new nature & the Holy Spirit.**

A Christian is not simply a person who gets forgiveness, who gets to go to heaven, who gets the Holy Spirit, who gets a new nature.

***A CHRISTIAN IS A PERSON WHO HAS BECOME SOMEONE HE WAS NOT BEFORE!***

A Christian, in terms of his deepest identity, is a \_\_\_\_\_, a born child of God, a divine masterpiece, a child of light, and a citizen of heaven. Not positionally (true only in the mind of God, but not true in actuality here on earth), not judicially (a matter of God's moral bookkeeping), but \_\_\_\_\_!

Becoming a Christian is not just getting something, no matter how wonderful that something may be. It is becoming \_\_\_\_\_.

**B: NO FILTER - MADE RIGHTEOUS**

GOD in His absolute holiness

God sees me, made righteous because of the death and resurrection of His Son.

No filter is needed because Jesus made us righteous

To help my walk God gave me:

- 1 ...the Holy Spirit to come alongside.
- 2 ...and since I am new, I display a New Nature, it is the God given righteousness working

**Holy, righteous  
child of God**

out in my performance.

***I am a RIGHTEOUS BEING who displays a new nature & is guided by the Holy Spirit.***

Only saints can go to heaven.

*I am a \_\_\_\_\_.*

We are not sinners trying to be righteous; we are righteous beings that sin in the flesh.

Since you have received Christ, you simply are not the same person you were before. You are a new \_\_\_\_\_!

You will never become more righteous than you are right now, you will only now \_\_\_\_\_ in your righteousness. The same as a little baby will never become any more human than he is at the moment of his birth, but now he will mature in his humanness.

Can you see the falsehood and weakness that these slogans make presenting a Christian to the world?

“Christians aren’t perfect, they’re just forgiven.”  
“A Christian is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread”

**Look at these verses on your own:**

***Who you were when you did not know Christ:***

<i>1 Corinthians 15:22</i>	<i>Dead</i>
<i>2 Corinthians 4:4</i>	<i>Blinded mind</i>
<i>Ephesians 2:3</i>	<i>By nature a child of wrath</i>
<i>Ephesians 5:8</i>	<i>Darkness</i>
<i>Colossians 1:21</i>	<i>Alienated and hostile in mind</i>

***Who you are now that you know Christ:***

<i>Romans 3:24</i>	<i>Justified and redeemed (already)</i>
<i>Romans 6:6</i>	<i>Old “self” was killed (crucified)</i>
<i>Romans 8:1</i>	<i>Not condemned</i>
<i>Romans 8:2</i>	<i>Free from law (of sin and death)</i>
<i>Romans 8:9</i>	<i>In the Spirit</i>
<i>Romans 8:14</i>	<i>Sons of God</i>
<i>Romans 8:16</i>	<i>Spirit witnesses that we are children of God</i>
<i>Romans 8:17</i>	<i>Heirs of God</i>
<i>Romans 8:26</i>	<i>Spirit prays for us</i>
<i>Romans 8:29-30</i>	<i>Foreknew, predestined, called, justified</i>

<i>Romans 8:33</i>	<i>God's elect</i>
<i>Romans 8:34</i>	<i>Christ intercedes for us</i>
<i>Romans 8:37</i>	<i>Conquerors through Him</i>
<i>Romans 8:38 - 39</i>	<i>Nothing can separate us from the love of God</i>
<i>Romans 9:16</i>	<i>It all depends on God</i>
<i>Romans 15:7</i>	<i>Accepted</i>
<i>1 Cor 1:2</i>	<i>Sanctified (holy, set apart)</i>
<i>1 Cor 6:11</i>	<i>Washed, sanctified and justified</i>
<i>2 Cor 2:14</i>	<i>Always leads us in His triumph</i>
<i>2 Cor 3:14</i>	<i>My hardened mind is removed</i>
<i>2 Cor 5:17</i>	<i>A new creature</i>
<i>2 Cor 5:21</i>	<i>The righteousness of God</i>
<i>Galatians 2:4</i>	<i>Have liberty</i>
<i>Galatians 4:7</i>	<i>A son and an heir</i>
<i>Ephesians 1:3</i>	<i>Blessed with every spiritual blessing in Heaven</i>
<i>Ephesians 1:4</i>	<i>Chosen, holy and blameless before God</i>
<i>Ephesians 1:7</i>	<i>Redeemed, forgiven</i>
<i>Eph 1:10 - 11</i>	<i>Have obtained an inheritance</i>
<i>Ephesians 1:13</i>	<i>Sealed with the Spirit</i>
<i>Ephesians 2:10</i>	<i>Created for good performance</i>
<i>Ephesians 2:13</i>	<i>Have been brought near (to God)</i>
<i>Ephesians 2:19</i>	<i>Fellow-citizen with the saints</i>
<i>Ephesians 3:12</i>	<i>Have bold and confident access to God</i>
<i>Colossians 2:10</i>	<i>Complete</i>
<i>Colossians 3:3</i>	<i>My life is hidden with Christ in God</i>
<i>2 Peter 1:4</i>	<i>Partaker of the divine nature</i>

**If God has called you holy, what are you?**  
**If God has called you accepted, what are you?**  
**If God has called you a saint, what are you?**  
**If God has called you complete, what are you?**  
**If God has called you not condemned, what are you?**  
**If God says this is how you are, then how are you?**

*"I am \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 \_\_\_\_\_ of God.  
 God has said so; this is how it is!"*

## **STEWARDSHIP FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE**

### **Purpose & Objectives**

1. What is the world's view of the purpose of money, finances?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What's God's view?

Philippians 4:19 - to meet our \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 6:17 - to enjoy God's \_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 4:14 - to \_\_\_\_\_ with others

Matthew 6:19-21 - to invest in \_\_\_\_\_

### **Contentment & Submission**

1. What factors make my life-style, my standard of living, as a follower of Christ?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How do I determine my life-style, my standard of living, as a follower of Christ?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 6:6-8 - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 4:11-13 - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Values & Priorities**

1. How do your finances indicate what is really important to you?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What can we learn from the following passages about money & our priorities?

1 Timothy 6:18,19; Luke 12:15-21; Matthew 6:19-21

A. What is important to me? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. What am I investing in? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. What am I exchanging my life for? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **TITHE: BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF GIVING**

### **Why Does God Want Me To Give?**

**1. Giving makes me more like \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give His life for many.” Mark 10:45*

**2. Giving draws me \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord.**

*“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matthew 6:21*

**3. Giving is an investment in \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” Matthew 6:19-20*

**4. Giving is an antidote for \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*

*1 Timothy 6:17-18*

**5. Giving results in \_\_\_\_\_ giving to me.**

*“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38*

**6. Giving allows us to invest in the lives of \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.”*

*2 Corinthians 8:3-5*

**7. Giving results in \_\_\_\_\_ for the giver.**

*"Then the people rejoiced because they have offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the LORD with a whole heart, and King David also rejoiced greatly." 1 Chronicles 29:9*

## **HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?**

### **OLD TESTAMENT GUIDELINES**

*Malachi 3:8-10*

*"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob Me. But you ask 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse-the whole nation of you-because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe in to the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. "Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."*

There are 2 primary terms used in the Old Testament that relate to giving:

**T**\_\_\_\_\_ — is giving 10% of my income to the Lord.

**O**\_\_\_\_\_ — is anything I give to the Lord in addition to my tithe.

There are about 30 references to "tithing" to the Lord in the Old Testament. God's instruction to His people were very clear:

*"A tithe everything for the land ["everything you produce"], whether grain of everything from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD." Leviticus 27:30*

*"Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always. Deuteronomy 14:22-23.*

These verses come from the Old Testament law that was given to Moses. But even before this time, Abraham gave 10% to the Lord. (*Genesis 14:20 & Hebrew 7:2-4*)

### **NEW TESTAMENT GUIDELINES**

In the New Testament, there are very few references to the tithe (Matthew 23:23, Luke 18:12, and Hebrews 7:2-8). Jesus never told His disciples to tithe although He did commend the Pharisees for tithing (one of the few things they did right!)

There is no reference to tithing in any of Paul's letters or in any of the other New Testament books.

Instead of emphasizing how much to give, New Testament teaching stresses \_\_\_\_\_ to give - that is, the heart attitudes the Lord wants us to have. Consider the attitudes mentioned in these two passages:

*"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up..." 1 Corinthians 16:2*

**1. We should give \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"1 And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. 5 And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord & then to us in keeping with God's will... 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though his poverty might becomes rich." 2 Corinthians 8:1-5,9*

- A. We should give generously and sacrificially. (v. 2-3)
- B. We should take the initiative in giving without waiting. (v. 3-4)
- C. We should give according to God's will for us. (v. 5)
- D. We should give the way God gave to us. (v. 9)

**Remember this:**

*"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver... 11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 12 This service that you perform in not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, 11-13*

- i. We should give \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 6, 11, 13)

ii. We should give \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 7)]

iii. We should give to \_\_\_\_\_ people and to \_\_\_\_\_ God. (v.11-13)

### **Application:**

The historical guideline of Scripture is 10%.

As disciples, we should see 10% as a starting point. Following Christ's example means giving generously and sacrificially. We need to be committed to giving as much as we can, not just as much as we have to.

### **PROMISES TO GOOD STEWARDS**

God has given many promises in His Word to serve as encouragement to us to give generously:

*"One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." Proverbs 11:24-25*

*"A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor." Proverbs 22:9*

*"He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses." Proverbs 28:27*

*"Cast your bread upon the water, for after many days you will find it again." Ecclesiastes 11:1*

*"You are under a curse-the whole nation of you-because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe in to the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. "Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out of much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." Malachi 3:9-10*

*Matthew 6:19-21*

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

*"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38*

*“But just as your excel in everything-in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us-see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” 2 Corinthians 8:7*

*“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work... You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and though us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.” 2 Corinthians 8:7*

## GOD IS PURSUING A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS PEOPLE

We often want to do the work of God before we have to relationship with God.

God knows you can't do it. But He wants to do it Himself through you. We are the servants. The servants obey their master.

Know the Lord and who He is.

If you were standing before God could you say, “I love You with all my heart and all my soul and all my mind and all my strength?”

Some of us can say, “I obey Him, I serve Him, I worship Him, and I fear Him. But we cannot say that we \_\_\_\_\_ Him.”

A lot of things compete for our love and attention.

### **Listen to a song by George Beverly Shea:**

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold,  
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;  
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands,  
I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand.

I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause,  
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause,  
I'd rather have Jesus than world-wide fame,  
I'd rather be true to His holy name.

He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom,  
He's sweeter than honey from out the comb;  
He's all that my hungering spirit needs,

I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead.

**Refrain:** Than to be the king of a vast domain  
Or be held in sin's dread sway;  
I'd rather have Jesus than anything  
This world affords today.

## **2 CORINTHIANS 5:10-21**

*"10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. 11 Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. 12 We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. 13 If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. 21 God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."*

### **Why Share Christ With Others:**

**1. Because We Take God \_\_\_\_\_** (v. 10-11)

Romans 14:12 — each of us (Christian & non-Christian)

**2. Because We Are Compelled by Christ's \_\_\_\_\_** (v. 14-15)

Romans 9:1-3; Romans 10:1

**3. Because We See \_\_\_\_\_ From God's Perspective** (v. 16-17)

Matthew 9:36; John 4:34

**4. Because We Are God's \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 18-20)**

Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8

**5. Because Jesus Is Man's Only Hope (v. 21)**

John 14:6; Acts 4:32;1 Timothy 2:5

**How You Can Know You Are Saved  
or  
The Eternal Security of the Believer**

Is it possible to believe that I am truly saved by God?  
Can I say that I know where I will go when I die?  
Can I be sure on these things?

Frank Barnes gathered together 101 Scriptures proving the Eternal Security of the Believer. If you would like a copy of these Scriptures please just write us. (Abundant Life Christian Fellowship, Penticton, BC; [alcf@telus.net](mailto:alcf@telus.net))

**101 Verses on Eternal Security**

Eternal security is not a license to sin, nor is it a man-made doctrine. God wants us to know we are His forever once we have trusted in Him.

**What is Eternal Security based upon?**

- ...God's promise of eternal life.
- ...God's keeping power.
- ...Upon the new birth.
- ...Upon the intercession of Jesus Christ.
- ...Upon God's chastisement.
- ...On the power of the blood of Christ.
- ...Upon the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
- ...Upon our relationship with Christ.
- ...Upon the Imputed righteousness of Christ.
- ...Upon the unfailing Power of God's love.

If God has said it then surely we should preach and shout it from the rooftops!

*"And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. "1 John 2:25*

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. “Ephesians 2:8-9*

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. “John 3:16*

*“He that believes on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believes not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him. “John 3:36*

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that hears my word, and believes on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. “John 5:24*

*“All that the Father gives me shall come to me; and him that comes to me I will in no way cast out.” John 6:37*

*“For the LORD loves judgment, and forsakes not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.” Psalms 37:28*

*“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. “ Isaiah 41:10*

*“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16*

*“For which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” 2 Timothy 1:12*

*Jude 24-25*

*“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.”*

*1 Corinthians 10:13*

*“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. “*

*“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Romans 8:1*

*“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand. I and my Father are one.”*

John 10:27-30

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17*

*"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:20*

*"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. "1 John 4:4*

*"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. "Colossians 3:3*

I hope that these verses will have you put your complete trust in the finish work of Christ. May you live confidently before God knowing for sure **you are saved! Saved! ...Saved!**

### **To Encourage Others**

#### **1. I need \_\_\_\_\_ to some family of believers.**

*"Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:10*

*"You are a member of God's very own family ... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." (LB) Ephesians 2:19*

*"In Christ, we who are many form one Body, and each member belongs to all the others!" Romans 12:5*

#### **2. I need \_\_\_\_\_ to grow spiritually.**

*"Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and to do good deeds." (Phillips) Hebrews 10:24*

*"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up... " 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

#### **3. I need \_\_\_\_\_ to grow spiritually.**

*"People learn from one another just as iron sharpens iron."  
(Good News) Proverbs 27:17*

*"Therefore, encourage one another... lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitful of sin." Hebrew 3:13*

**4. There is great power when believers \_\_\_\_\_ together.**

*"Whenever two of you agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by My father in heaven." (Good News) Matthew 18:19*

**5. \_\_\_\_\_ is present when we fellowship together.**

*"For wherever to people have come together in my name, I am there, right among them!" (Philips) Matthew 18:20*

**6. Fellowship is dynamic with \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"[Jesus prayed] that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in Me, I am in you. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that you have sent Me." John 17:21*

**7. You have significant contributions to make to other \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"God has given you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other..." 1 Peter 4:10*

**THE "ONE ANOTHERS" OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**

1. *"Be at peace with each other" (Mark 9:50)*
2. *"Wash one another's feet" (John 13:14)*
3. *"Love one another..." (John 13:34)*
4. *"Love one another" (John 13:34)*
5. *"Love one another" (John 13:35)*
6. *"Love each other" (John 15:12)*
7. *"Love each other" (John 15:12)*
8. *"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love" (Romans 12:10)*
9. *"Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10)*
10. *"Live in harmony with one another" (Romans 12:16)*
11. *"Love one another" (Romans 15:14)*
12. *"Stop passing judgment on one another" (Romans 14:13)*
13. *"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you" (Romans 15:7)*
14. *"Instruct one another" (Romans 15:14)*
15. *"Greet one another with a holy kiss" (Romans 16:16)*
16. *"When you come together to eat, wait for each other" (1 Cor. 11:33)*
17. *"Have equal concern for each other" (1 Corinthians 12:25)*
18. *"Greet one another with a holy kiss" (1 Corinthians 16:20)*
19. *"Greet one another with a holy kiss" (2 Corinthians 13:12)*
20. *"Serve one another in love" (Galatians 5:13)*

21. *"If you keep on biting and devouring each other... you will be destroyed by each other. (Galatians 5:15)*
22. *"Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other." (Galatians 5:26)*
23. *"Carry each other's burdens" (Galatians 6:2)*
24. *"Be patient, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2)*
25. *"Be kind and compassionate to one another" (Ephesians 4:32)*
27. *"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs" (Ephesians 5:19)*
28. *"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21)*
29. *"In humility consider others better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3)*
30. *"Do not lie to each other" (Colossians 3:9)*
31. *"Bear with each other" (Colossians 3:13)*
32. *"Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another" (Colossians 3:13)*
33. *"Teach... (one another)" (Colossians 3:16)*
34. *"Admonish one another" (Colossians 3:16)*
35. *"Make your love increase and overflow for each other" (1 Thessalonians 3:12)*
36. *"Love each other" (1 Thessalonians 4:9)*
37. *"Encourage each other" (1 Thessalonians 4:18)*
38. *"Encourage one another" (1 Thessalonians 5:11)*
39. *"Build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11)*
40. *"Encourage one another daily" (Hebrews 3:13)*
41. *"Spur one another on toward love and a good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24)*
42. *"Encourage one another" (Hebrews 10:25)*
43. *"Do not slander one another" (James 4:11)*
44. *"Don't grumble against each other" (James 5:9)*
45. *"Confess your sins to each other" (James 5:16)*
46. *"Pray for each other" (James 5:16)*
47. *"Love one another deeply, for the heart" (1 Peter 1:22)*
48. *"Live in harmony with one another" (1 Peter 3:8)*
49. *"Love each other deeply" (1 Peter 4:8)*
50. *"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling" (1 Peter 4:9)*
51. *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve the other" (1 Peter 4:10)*
52. *"Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another" (1 Peter 5:5)*
53. *"Greet one another with a kiss of love" (1 Peter 5:14)*
54. *"Love one another" (1 John 3:11)*
55. *"Love one another" (1 John 3:23)*
56. *"Love one another" (1 John 4:7)*
57. *"Love one another" (1 John 4:11-12)*
58. *"Love one another" (2 John 5)*

Twenty-one of the fifty-eight, or fully one third, call for Christians to love!

**Making Application:**

- 1. Plug into a Bible Study class. Choosing the class that's right for you.
- 2. Participate in a L.I.F.E. group.

**FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS:**

**1. I belong to God.**

*“For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone, If we live, we live to the Lord: and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, where we live or die, we belong to the Lord.” Romans 14:7-8*

*“Do you not know that your body is temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received for God? You are not your own: you were brought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.” 1 Corinthians. 6:19-20*

**2. Everything I have comes from God.**

*“What are you so puffed up about? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if all you have is from God, why act as though you are so great, and as though you have accomplished something on your own?” (LB) 1 Cor. 4:7*

*“...Good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” 1 Peter 4:10*

**3. I am answerable to God for what I do with what He has given me.**

*“So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.” Romans 14:12*

The parable of the talents. Matthew 25:14-30

**TIME: TAKING CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE**

List each of the commands given in Ephesians 5:15-17. Then write down some possible applications of that command to our use of time.

"You have all the time you need to do God's will for you each day."

Commands	Applications Re: Our Use of Time
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**Practical Suggestions:**

1. Pray through your day ("forwards & backwards"), Proverbs 16:3
2. Take inventory from time to time. Psalms 139:23,24
3. Major on what is really important. 1 Kings 20:39, 40
4. Focus on pleasing the Lord. Galatians 1:10
5. Make habits out of the important things of life. 1 Corinthians 15:58

**Three Ways To Live A Wasted Life:**

1. Do nothing.
2. Do the wrong thing.
3. Do so many things that what you do counts for nothing.

**TALENTS: MAKING THE MOST OF HOW GOD MADE YOU**

God can use you! God wants to use you! Your contribution to your church, to the ministry of the Lord is both significant and greatly needed. Every one of us has an important contribution to make. In the Scriptures we are compared to the parts of the human body. Some parts may be more visible than others, but every part must be functioning in order for the body to be healthy.

1. What are some excuses or rationalizations people use for not taking on some ministry responsibility in the church?

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2. How did each of the following people use their abilities to serve God?

<b>Passage</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>How Did They Serve?</b>
Luke 10:38	Martha	Organized
Acts 4:34-37	Barnabas	Encouraged
Acts 8:5, 29	Philip	Evangelized
Acts 9:36-39	Tabitha	Disciple
Acts 16:14	Lydia	Invited apostles to stay in her home.

3. Aquila and Priscilla were a godly couple whom the Lord greatly used. They had a job and family which they used as a means of serving the Lord, not an excuse. **List different ways they served the Lord and others by giving of themselves:**

(Acts 18:2-3; Acts 18:24-28; Romans 16:3-5)

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**Application:** Take CLASS 301!

Who we are is a combination of how God has made us and the circumstances He has put us in. I need to be careful that I don't focus only on what I can't do. God expects us to do the best with what we have.

Don't let what you can't do keep you from doing what you can.

What are some ways you can serve other believes? Reach out to the lost?

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## **HOW TO START AND MAINTAIN GOOD HABITS**

We've spent most of these lessons talking about habits. We've examined seven truths that are essential to growing to spiritual maturity:

**To Grow in the Lord you have learned 7 truths:**

- Who Is The Lord
- How To Speak To Him
- How To Study His Word
- Who You Are
- How To Be A Giver
- How To Share Your Faith
- How To Encourage Others

But how do you build these new truths into your life? Here are seven steps that you can apply to each of these truths to successfully root them in your daily living, so that they will become godly habits in your life:

### **Step #1 Desire**

You need to start with a strong desire. You must be internally motivated. If you start only half-heartedly, you'll never stick with it later on.

*"But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown gives birth to death." James 1:14-15*



## **Step #2 Decision**

Begin right now! Don't wait for the "right time." Remember, putting off decisions can also become a habit! The best time to begin a good habit or to start breaking a bad habit is today.

*"If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done."  
Ecclesiastes 11:4*

## **Step #3 Declaration**

Announce your intentions publicly. Make a covenant or a resolution. The power of a vow is awesome. It can be particularly powerful if you put your commitment in writing.

*"Make your vows before the Lord and fulfill them." Psalms 76:11*

*"If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9*

## **Step #4 Determination**

Never allow an exception until the new truth is securely rooted in your life. A single slip unwinds many turns at first. Never be swayed by "just this once." The act of yielding weakens the will and reinforces your lack of self-control. It takes about 3 weeks to become comfortable with a new habit. It takes another 3 - 4 weeks (doing it daily) for a habit to become a part of your life.

## **Step #5 Do It**

Whenever you feel the "want to" to do your new behaviour, do it right then. Don't wait. Seize every moment to reinforce your habit. You won't always "feel" like doing the right thing but when you do, strengthen that desire in your life by doing.

## **Step #6 Double Up**

Find someone who will support you and encourage you. It should be someone who is willing to hold you accountable and check up on you, especially in the early days before the habit is firmly rooted in your life.

*"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!"  
Ecclesiastes 4:9 - 10*

*"But encourage one another daily, as long as it called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness." Hebrews 3:13*

## **Step #7 Depend On God**

What we're talking about here is establishing the habit of obedience in some area of your life so that you are becoming more and more like Jesus. We need God's help every step of the way. We need to prayerfully rely on Him and believe Him to work within us.

*"For it is God who is at work within you, giving you the desire and the power to achieve His purpose. "(Phillips) Philippians 2:13*

*"Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the latter, but of the Spirit; for the latter kills, but the Spirit gives life." 2 Corinthians 3:5 - 6*

### **WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?**

1. Prayerfully commit to building these godly habits into your life.
2. Prayerfully pick one to work on first.

Write it down here: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Follow the 7 steps to establish this truth as a habit in your daily living.
4. If you haven't already done so, make a commitment today to join a LIFE Development Bible Study class.
5. Plan now to attend "The Game of LIFE" Class: The POSITION and "The GAME" as soon as possible!