

**NEW
LIFE
FOR
ADULTS**

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WELCOME TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE!

Your decision to receive and confess Christ as your personal Savior has brought you into a wonderful new experience and relationship. Yes, by Christ you have entered through the gateway of salvation into the Christian life. On the other side of the gateway of salvation spiritual joys await you.

! There is the joy of life.

You, as a new Christian, will soon realize, if you have not already, that before you became a Christian you merely existed. But now there is a new life throbbing in your soul. When Christ enters a life, as He does on invitation, life truly begins and takes on new meaning.

! There is a new joy of purpose.

Becoming a Christian and entering the Christian life causes a person to have direction and purpose in his life. It is almost like a horse that has wandered aimlessly without direction and now feels a firm hand holding the reins, guiding him in the direction he should go. You also will sense God's hand upon your life to give it aim and purpose.

! There is the joy of the awakening of spiritual understanding.

Much you have desired to know about God, His Word, and His way has been hidden to you. But now, because you have come to Christ for salvation, you begin to have spiritual understanding. You see, God reveals truths of Himself, His Word, and His way only to those who have entered a spiritual relationship with Him.

! There is the joy of divine fellowship.

When you made your decision to receive Christ as your Savior, you entered into a unique relationship. This is the relationship between a just and loving God and a sinner saved by divine grace. It is an intimate relationship wherein you became His and He became yours, locked together in an eternal fellowship.

These are some of the new truths that are yours. The depth and extent of what this new experience and relationship means cannot be fathomed at one time, but you will find that it will be revealed to you step by step as you walk in the Christian life. As you go along you will better understand what is involved in this second birth of yours and how to walk the glorious life that follows.

Enter into this new experience fully. Study these lessons diligently with your Bible at hand. Look up every reference; it is there for a purpose. Complete every written assignment; this will help your understanding. Learn every scripture passage given for memorization; when it is learned, write it down in the spaces provided. Learn to use your Bible with ease; make it your closest companion.

Beginning Your New Life - Lesson 1

THE SALVATION EXPERIENCE

Have you personally placed your faith in Jesus Christ? If so, are you now a member of God's family? This family is made up of everyone who has received Christ as his Savior in the past, the present, and those who will be born again into His family in the future. Don't ever forget the details of your experience in coming to Christ to acknowledge Him as your Savior and Lord. This is such an important event in your life that all the details concerning it should be committed to memory: the place where it happened, the persons involved, and even the feelings and reactions you had. The Apostle Paul recounted the details of his salvation experience many times (see Acts 22:3-21 and Acts 26:1-29). You too will have opportunity to recount the events of your salvation, to tell others of what has taken place in your life. This is called *your testimony*.

As you think of your testimony it is good to make sure that everything has been included in your salvation experience that God through His Word, the Bible, says should be included. Like the baker preparing the cake batter checks to make sure the eggs and seasoning and everything that should be in the batter are there, you need to make sure you have followed the *recipe* for salvation mentioned in the Bible. There are *three key ingredients to this recipe*.

1. Did you come to Jesus with the *acknowledgment of being a sinner*?

The Bible distinctly tells us that we are all sinners (see Romans 3:23), and only by acknowledging this do we have a right to salvation. For in Luke 19:10 we read that "the Son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (that is, lost in sin). Not until one comes to the true realization of his spiritual plight before God, that he is undone and in need of a Savior to lift him from his spiritual dilemma, is he ready to be saved from his sin through Christ's death on the cross in his place. In this connection consider the following Scriptures: Luke 5:31, 32 and 1 Timothy 1:15.

2. Did you come to Him in *genuine repentance*?

To repent means *to have a change of heart*. This involves a godly sorrow for the sins of one's past life and a desire for a turnabout face to take place. There must be repentance before one can properly call upon the Savior for salvation. One must be like the tax collector in the Bible who asked that God be merciful to him a sinner (Luke 18:9-14). Why is repentance so important? It is a command of God's Word. Relating to this subject, read the following scriptures: Mark 1:14,15; Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 17:30-31.

3. As you called upon the Savior for salvation did you *commit your life, your will, your future and your complete personality to Him?*

The Bible says that we are to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and we will be saved (Acts 16:31). The word *believe*, however, in this connection suggests the idea of *believing to the extent of complete committal of oneself to that belief*. You must be mindful of the price which has been paid for your redemption (*see 1 Peter 1:18, 19*), and then you will realize that any committal will seem small in the light of what He has done for you.

YOUR ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

With these three ingredients of God's recipe for salvation being present in your experience, there is one truth which you must settle in your mind. Christ has bought your salvation for you. He has given it to you and you have placed your trust in Him and received it by faith. Therefore you are saved. You are saved right now. You are saved for all eternity to come.

Many people after receiving Christ still do not have this assurance of their salvation. Their lives lack spiritual progression. Rather than consider the future with God, their minds are still clouded with the past without God. It is of necessity, therefore, that you have this assurance of a present salvation. Where do you get this assurance? *From the Word of God*, of course

! You will not have assurance if you live life in the past.

It is a sin to keep bringing up the sins of your life which took place before you repented and took Christ as your Savior. When you repented, God forgave you of every sin. *If you are still wondering about this, in essence you are saying that you doubt God's ability to furnish a complete forgiveness*. The Bible tells us that God forgives all our sins no matter how great they may seem to us or to society. Forget the past. It is *all* under the atoning blood which has washed you from all your sins and has made your heart clean. Consider these scriptures: Isaiah 1:18; John 1:29; John 8:11; Revelation 1:5.

! You will not have assurance if you wonder whether or not God received you.

If you came to Him with a heart of repentance and faith He did receive you. You can depend upon that. You need never doubt that you belong to Him. You need only *take His word as your promise that He did receive you to Himself*. Read John 6:37

! You will not have assurance in you base your salvation upon feeling or emotion.

Salvation is based upon *faith* and *trust*. Naturally, when you came to the Savior

with the desire for Him to cleanse and justify you, and you realized the death He had to assent to in order to effect this justification, there was emotion involved. But this emotion was not necessarily a sign of your salvation. *One's feelings change*, but faith is unchanging. Therefore, never base your salvation upon your emotional condition, but strictly upon faith in the truth. In the light of this statement consider Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1.

! **You will have assurance if you realize that your eternal life began the moment you believed and put your trust in Jesus Christ.**

Jesus Himself said, "He who hears my word, and believes in Him who sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed out of death unto life" (John 5:24). Notice the "has everlasting life" and "has passed out of death unto life." Jesus Christ did not leave us to wonder whether or not our faith was strong enough to last. He said of those who put their trust in Him. 'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give to them eternal life, and they shall *never* perish, neither shall anyone snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:27, 28; see also 1 John 5:13). How thankful we can be that our salvation rests securely in the hands of the almighty God, our Savior Jesus Christ.

The Christian life is happier than any other.

The Christian life is holier than any other.

The Christian life is more hopeful than any other.

Questions For Lesson 1

1. How does a person become a member of God's family?
2. What is it called when you share the events of your conversion with others?
3. List three ingredients of Bible salvation ("recipe").
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
4. What does the word "repentance" mean?
5. What does the word "believe" mean?
6. According to 1 Peter 1:18-19, what price has been paid for your redemption?

7. Where do we get assurance of our salvation?
8. If we still wonder if God really forgave us of our sins, what are we really saying?
9. What is under the atoning blood of Christ?
10. What should we take as our assurance that Christ received us to Himself?
11. Salvation is not based upon feelings or emotions, but rather on _____ and _____.
12. Why are emotions not dependable?
13. Memorize 1 John 1:9
14. Start memorizing the names of the books of the New Testament.

"I have studied God's word and by it I am growing in Christ!"

Start reading Gospel of John. John 20:30:31 says that this record of Jesus= life was designed to give evidence which leads to belief.

Your Responsibilities - Lesson 2

Now, with the sure knowledge that your testimony contains all the ingredients in God's recipe or plan of salvation, and you have the assurance that your salvation is secure for all eternity, there are certain activities to enter into as you begin to live the Christian life. When one has known the grace, forgiveness of sin, and love of God in salvation there is a desire to show one's love and appreciation for these blessings. We do this by our obedience to God's Word. Following are some of the ways we show our love to God and desire to be faithful Christians.

BAPTISM

! **Showing obedience to and testimony of Christ by being baptized.**

Since the beginning of the first church, believers have given an evidence of belief in Christ and identity with His death, burial and resurrection by being baptized in water.

When we speak of being baptized we mean by immersion, the placing of the believer under the water as a symbol of death and burial and bringing him up out of the water as a symbol of resurrection to new life. The term baptize literally means to *place into* or to *immerse*. This is the mode used by God's servants in the Bible and by the churches for the first several hundred years after they began.

Our union with Christ is described in Romans 6:3-5. We are baptized into or placed into His body, the church, by the act of the Holy Spirit. Our baptism by immersion beautifully pictures this union and identification with Christ. When we are

immersed in the water, our baptism illustrates our death to our old way of life. When we are raised from the water, it illustrates our resurrection to a new life which has been given to us. Baptism is also an act of consecration, saying to others that we are leaving a temporal centered focus behind and are going to live for Christ.

We find that baptism is mentioned in the Bible always of believers, following their act of faith in the Lord Christ for salvation. There are numerous instances of this in the book of Acts, which is a record of the acts of the apostles and the pattern for us to follow in our churches today. Some of these are recorded in Acts 2:41; 8:12; 8:37, 38.

May you too be desirous of obedience to this ordinance of the church and arrange to be baptized.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

! Identifying ourselves with a local group of believers, a local established church, by membership.

When you received Christ as your Savior, you were born again and became a child of God. The Bible also speaks of this spiritual act as becoming a part of Christ's body, which is composed of all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. At the time you believed the Holy Spirit baptized you into, or united you the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13), which Christ also calls His church. Therefore, all who belong to Christ and are a part of His body, the church universal, should express that unity by working together for Him in a local assembly.

A New Testament church is a local assembly of believers united in organization to practice New Testament ordinances, to meet together for worship, prayer, fellowship, teaching and a united testimony, and to actively engage in carrying out the Great Commission given by Christ to His followers in Matthew 28:19. Thus it is the believer's responsibility to identify himself actively with this kind of local assembly, or church.

We find in Acts 2:41 that immediately after their salvation and baptism believers were added to the local assembly, which was the church in Jerusalem. With membership in a Bible believing and Christ-honoring church in your community, you have the inspiration of fellowship with other believers and an opportunity to do your part in the propagation of the Christian faith. Regarding the service God expects of His children, read Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:2.

It is also your responsibility, as a believer, to make certain that the local assembly with which you unite believes and acts in accordance with the independence and autonomy of the local church. This means that each church is free to govern itself without ecclesiastical interference, and should cooperate with other believing churches as the Holy Spirit leads. Each local church is responsible to follow the pattern of the church of the New Testament and is directly accountable to Christ as its Head. This kind of church will also believe in and take a stand for the separation of Church and State, with each having definite and distinct spheres of responsibility.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

! **Attending church services regularly and actively participating in church activities.**

The Bible tells us in Hebrews 10:25 that we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together in the church, And that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Therefore, as a new Christian you will find faithful, consistent church attendance is necessary for advancing in your Christian life.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

! **Observing the Lord's Supper.**

The Bible teaches two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper. Like baptism, the Lord's Supper observance carries with it no merit toward salvation. Both are ordinances for the believer after salvation. The Lord's Supper is the way established by the Savior for believers to remember Him (read Luke 22:19,20). The emblems which are partaken of-the broken bread and the fruit of the vine-are reminders of His broken body and shed blood. As Christians we need to be reminded of the price Christ paid for our redemption. In partaking of the Lord's Supper, we are so reminded.

In I Corinthians 10, in the teaching to the local church about this ordinance, the ordinance is called a "communion" in verse 16 and "the Lord's table" in verse 21. It is referred to as "to break bread" in Acts 20:7 and in I Corinthians 11:20 as "the Lord's supper." Any of these terms may be used in speaking of this ordinance because all of them are scriptural.

It is called "the Eucharist" in a number of churches, from the word meaning prayer of consecration or thanksgiving. Early in the history of the church, even before A.D. 300, the unscriptural teaching began that this prayer, prayed by the bishop, changed the elements of the Lord's Supper into the actual body of Christ. Then applying Christ's words in John 6:51-57 to mean that the way of salvation is in eating His body and drinking His blood, they made the Eucharist to be a sacrament. This means that this act has saving merit. Therefore, in the Roman mass, they believe that by partaking of the elements which have been made the actual body of Christ by the Eucharist or consecration prayer by the priest, one can cause the sins of both living and dead to be forgiven. In the Roman church both baptism and the Eucharist are called sacraments and are believed to have saving power.

The Bible, however, teaches something quite different. In fact, the very thought of offering Christ again and again as a sacrifice for sin is repugnant to the believer and approaches blasphemy. He died for sin once (Romans 6:10; Hebrews 10:11-12). The new believer should be aware of similar teaching also in some Protestant churches and know the simple teaching of God's Word regarding the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We must remember, also, the warning and exhortation of 1 Corinthians 11:27-32. We should come to the Lord's table to partake of this commemoration of what He has done for us only after careful self-examination, even self-judgment, and prepare ourselves by confession to God of any known sin on the basis of 1 John 1:9.

GIVING TO THE LORD

! **Giving to the Lord that which He asks of our monetary gifts.**

The Israelites were told by God in Malachi 3:8-10 to bring their offerings into God's storehouse of blessing so that they might experience the windows of heaven opening in blessing. In the New Testament this pattern of systematic faithful giving is confirmed in 1 Corinthians 16:2 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. As a new Christian, you would do well to start immediately in regular giving to your church and to other needs to which God prompts you to respond. The longer you wait to obey this request of God, the more difficult it will become. All the way through the Bible God promises that His blessings given to you will be proportionate to your faithfulness in giving to Him.

These suggestions for obedience to God's Word will be happily carried out if your heart is sincerely set on doing God's will as you begin your Christian life.

Questions For Lesson 2

1. How can we show our appreciation for the blessings of Christ?
2. Baptism by immersion symbolizes our Lord's _____ and _____ to new life.
3. What method of baptism was used in the early Church as recorded in the New Testament?
4. What Bible reference describes our union with Christ?
5. What does our baptism by immersion say to others?
6. How many times do we find unbelievers being baptized in the New Testament?
7. What book in the New Testament records many instances of believers being baptized?
8. What does 1 Corinthians 12:13 tell us?
9. In your own words, what is a New Testament Church?
10. What is meant by the "autonomy" of the local church?
11. What is necessary for proper growth in your Christian life?

12. How many ordinances did the Lord Jesus give to the Christ to observe? ____ Name them.

13. Which ordinance must we keep to be saved?

14. When we partake of the Lord's Supper we are _____ Him. (Luke 22:19, 20).

15. Do the elements of the Lord's supper literally become His body and blood?

16. What should we do before we partake of this ordinance?

17. What principles of giving do we learn from 1 Corinthians 16:2 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8?

18. Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9

God's Word is a "lamp to my feet, and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

What the Bible Is All About - Lesson 3

As a new believer, you may be wondering what part the Bible should have in your life. Some people would tell you that it is merely a collection of myths; others hail it as the very Word of God. Many ascribe a minimal degree of worth to the Bible; some

declare it is totally infallible; others view it as a good piece of literature and no more. With so many views about the Bible being put forth, what should you take as your own view? Should you ignore the Bible? Should you read it as you would read a novel? Or should you make it an important part of your life? You need to know just what the Bible has to say to you, if anything, and if it is valuable to you as a new Christian.

The way to discover the quality of anything is to study the item itself. And the Bible is no exception to this. It does not stand or fall on what others may say about it, but on what it says and does. There is no doubt that the Bible claims to be, in its entirety, the inspired Word of God. Paul affirms this in II Timothy 3:16 - All scripture is inspired by God." "Inspiration" does not speak of some spark of creativity, such as when an artist, musician or poet is "inspired." Rather, the Greek word *theopneustos* translated "inspired by God" in II Timothy 3 :16 should be rendered "God-breathed." The words of Scripture were literally "breathed out" by God.

Just how did God "breathe" out Scripture so that it could be recorded for us to read centuries later? Peter tells us that "holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:21). God guided the men who wrote Scripture to use the exact words He wanted recorded. So, then, they wrote His Words. We call this verbal plenary inspiration - every word of Scripture in all its parts was breathed out by God.

When any book is so bold as to make such a claim as this, we have to come to one of two conclusions about it: either (1) the book is a fraud, of little or no value, or (2) it tells the truth-it is the Word of God. And we should honor and obey it as the Word of God.

If the Bible truly is the Word of God, it should be special-different from other books. And indeed it is. The Bible is an enduring book-more enduring than the Koran, more enduring than the sayings of Confucius. *A* For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven@ we read in Psalm 119:89. And Jesus Christ Himself declared that "Until heaven and earth pass, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the law until all is accomplished" (Matthew 5:18). Not even one *part* of a letter in God's Word will pass away. That's a pretty awesome thought, isn't it? But when we think that the Author is eternal, it follows that His Words would also be eternal.

You may be thinking, "You've shown me that the Bible is God's eternal Word. But I'd like to know something about the Bible's substance." The Bible consists of sixty-six books, divided into two major groups, the Old and New Testaments. At the rate of four chapters per day, you could read the entire Bible in a year. Or if you decided to read nonstop, your time would be somewhere around eighty hours. In your reading, you would discover that each of the Testaments, Old and New is divided into several smaller groups. In the Old Testament you would first find the five Books of Moses-often referred to as *the law*. The next twelve books make up *the historical section*. The following five books make up *the poetical section*. Then come *the major and minor prophets*, having five and twelve books respectively. The major and minor prophets are referred to as such not because of their relative importance, but because of their size. All of these prophets ministered at various periods of time recorded in the historical books.

The New Testament begins with the four Gospels and Acts, forming the *historical*

section. The next twenty-one books are *epistles or letters*. And Revelation, the last book in the Bible, is *prophetical*.

These sixty-six books, written by about 40 writers over a period of 1500 years, are as diversified as the people who inscribed them. Yet they all have a common theme ---Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament we see Him as the coming Savior. In the New Testament He is the risen Savior. And in Revelation He is the coming King. This common theme is another affirmation of the inspiration of Scripture, for only God could keep such unity over so many years and through the works of so many writers.

Just what did all these writers have to say? Are the things they wrote down reliable? Can we prove that the Bible is God's Word? Actually, the inspiration of the Bible cannot be "proved" in the common sense of the word. Only faith in Christ can convince a person of the Bible's infallibility. But we can see the reliability of the Bible in many areas.

In 1522 Ferdinand Magellan's crew completed their historic journey, proving one thing the Bible had said all along-- the earth is round. For in Isaiah 40:22 we read that God "sits upon the circle of the earth." Geography is only one of the areas the Bible touches upon.

The Bible is also reliable in the area of astronomy. Only within the past few decades have men realized the extent of space. Before the advent of our high-powered telescopes, men actually thought they could count all the stars--the few thousand they could see were all that existed, as far as they were concerned. But over 3800 years ago God indicated to Abraham that there were too many stars to count (Genesis 15:).

There are many examples to prove the Bible's accuracy in the area of prophecy, but two of them are especially impressive. In Ezekiel 26 the Lord pronounces judgment on the ancient city of Tyre. In verses 1 and 5 He is very explicit: "They shall destroy the walls of Tyre, and break down her towers : I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for the spreading of nets." In 332 B.C., 250 years after this prophecy was uttered, Alexander the Great attacked the city of Tyre. By the time he was able to enter the city, the inhabitants had escaped to an island a few miles offshore. Alexander was so intent upon capturing the people of Tyre that he tore down every building and wall in the city, throwing the debris into the sea, just as Ezekiel had prophesied in verse 12, to form a roadway out to the island. Tyre was made as flat and as desolate as "the top of a rock," and soon became a place for the fishermen to spread their nets. It remains this way today. 2300 years later.

Another fascinating prophecy was recorded by Isaiah the prophet in approximately 700 B.C. In Isaiah 45:1-7 God spoke prophetically to a man named Cyrus, whom he would use to deliver His people Israel out of captivity to the Babylonians. Approximately 165 years later, it was King Cyrus of the Medo-Persian Empire who overthrew the Babylonians and subsequently released the Jewish people to return to their homeland. God specifically called a man by his name even before he was born, in order to give His people the encouragement that He was still in control.

These few illustrations from the world of geography, science and fulfilled prophecies

are just a scant few of the examples that could be given in support of the credibility of the Bible. As a believer, you should honor the Bible as God's Word. And you may confidently apply it to your life, taking its principles as yours, and obeying its commands. The Bible gives several reasons for making it your Guide for life:

- (1) God's Word brought us life (John 6:63)
- (2) Believers grow spiritually through "the sincere milk of the word" (1 Peter 2:2).
- (3) Hebrews 4:12 shows us that the Bible reveals sin in the believer's life.
- (4) In Ephesians 6:17 we see that God's Word is our sword to use in defeating Satan. Jesus illustrated this in Matthew 4 :4,7,10 when He withstood Satan's temptations.
- (5) Psalm 119:105 tells us that God's Word is a "lamp to my feet," to show the believer which way to go.

Certainly no believer can deny that the Bible is "profitable," as Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 3:16. If we read God's Word, studying, meditating, and applying it to our life, we will indeed be prosperous and have "good success" (Joshua 1:8).

Questions For Lesson 3

1. What does the Bible claim to be?
2. What do we mean when we say that the Bible is "inspired by God"?
3. What New Testament verses explain how God gave His Word?
4. How much of God's Word is fallible?
5. How can a person be totally convinced of the Bible's infallibility?
6. How many writers did God use to write the Bible and over a period of how many years?
7. True science contradicts the Bible. True or False
8. The Bible divides into_____ main parts. What are they?

9. What is a believers source of spiritual growth?
10. Why did Paul say that the Word of God is "profitable" in 2 Timothy 3:16-17?
11. There are no prophecies in the Bible left to be fulfilled. True or False
12. The Old Testament divides into five sections. Name them.

13. What five books make up the historical section of the New Testament?

14. What does the unity of the Bible's 66 books prove?

15. Memorize Psalm 119:11

"SIN CAN KEEP YOU FROM THE BIBLE, BUT THE BIBLE CAN KEEP YOU FROM SIN"

Your Spiritual Growth - Lesson 4

In relation to growth, a believer in Jesus Christ is compared to a baby in the Bible. The Apostle Peter tells us that just as a baby longs for its mother's milk, so the believer is to desire the pure milk of the Word of God that he may grow thereby (I Peter 2:2). You should purpose in your heart right now that you will do your part to develop into a mature adult Christian. Read Ephesians 4:13-15 and II Timothy 3:17 in this regard.

As you partake of this spiritual food and exercise your spiritual muscles through Christian activity you can expect to pass out of babyhood, through the juvenile and adolescent stages of spiritual development until you become a mature Christian. Consider the following suggestions which will help your spiritual growth.

! Study the Bible at every opportunity.

Such opportunities are offered in the regular church services, Sunday school classes, the midweek services, as well as the Christian's own private Bible study. We must study if we are going to be approved of God and have wisdom to interpret the Scriptures (see II Timothy 2:15).

! Seek qualified spiritual help.

Do not try to begin your Christian life and activity without help from a qualified Christian who is older in the faith. As a young child needs the assistance of parents in learning to walk, you, a spiritual babe, need to have help in learning to walk in the Christian faith. Ask your pastor or a qualified counselor (whom he may suggest) to show you some portion of the Bible to study and give you guidance in how to study it with profit. Remember, however, now that you are a child of God the Holy Spirit dwells in you. One of your privileges as a Christian is to have the Holy Spirit as your own personal teacher. Allow Him to direct you.

! Establish daily devotions.

When we become Christians we enter into a personal and private relationship with Christ. The Bible describes it as becoming spiritually married to Christ (see Romans 7:4). We realize that for a wholesome and healthy marriage there must be a mutual exchange of thoughts, words and activities between husband and wife. Likewise, in the

relationship between the believer and his Lord there must be a close fellowship and communication. This is done through (1) reading the Bible (the Lord speaking to the believer), (2) prayer (the believer talking to the Lord), and (3) meditation (the believer thinking about the Lord and their communication one with the other).

Preferably your devotional time should be in the morning when your body is strong from the night's rest and the mind is clear. In this quiet time first let the Lord speak to you from His Word. Then meditate upon what you have read and what confronts you during the next few hours, what your life in Christ means to you, what your relationship to the church you have become identified with means to you, and related thoughts. Then speak to God. Thank Him for the rest of the night, assure Him of your love and desire to serve Him during the day about to begin; ask Him for strength, wisdom and understanding as well as guidance for the coming day, so that you might be a faithful representative of Christ and the Christian life.

Then before retiring at night there should be another time of devotion. Thank the Lord for His provisions during the day, confess any sins or failures that might have resulted from the day's activities, and then assure Him of your love and devotion.

Now as a word of warning, you will never have a convenient time for your devotions-you must take the time. This time with your Lord is so important to your spiritual growth that your greatest enemy Satan will put in your way all kinds of hindrances. You will need to be persuaded that this devotional time is so important to you that your life will be disciplined to include it in spite of hindrances.

! **Memorize scripture.**

Make the Bible, God's voice to us today, a vital part of your life and thinking. Here are some simple hints for helping you memorize scripture. Write a verse or two that you want to keep in your memory on something where you can refer to it often, whether at home, on the job or at leisure. A small card or notebook may serve this purpose. Don't try to memorize too much at a time. The secret of scripture memorizing is to repeat it often, to yourself silently, aloud, and to others. Then review and review and review. As soon as you have learned a new verse, repeat all the verses you can recall and then add this new one to it. Then review and review and review. The psalmist said, "Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11).

! **Understand yourself.**

To understand yourself properly you need to realize that as a Christian you now have two natures. You have the nature you were born with, the nature of sin, and now at your new birth you received a new nature, the nature of the indwelling Holy Spirit who wishes to form Christ-like character into your life. Thus you now have competing loyalties in the sense that these two natures are present in you and affect your thinking and actions.

You will find, if you have not already, that on the one hand the old nature you

were born with tries to get you away from God and Christian activities. It tries to get you to continue in the old sinful habits you practiced before you were saved. It tries to make you and your activities self-centered and to squelch all spiritual activities, such as praying, reading your Bible, talking to others about Christ and going to church.

On the other hand you will become aware that your new nature is tugging at your thoughts and urging you to let your life and activities be Christ-centered. The Holy Spirit invites you to fill your life with Christian activities and gives you a desire to grow spiritually and live for Christ.

This conflict of nature is explained in Galatians 5:17. It is well for you to recognize that these two natures will be present in your life until death or until the second coming of Jesus Christ. It is for you to determine which nature will have the control over you. In many homes there is but one faucet handle at the kitchen sink. It controls whether cold or hot water will come from the faucet by the direction it is pushed. The potential for both is always there, but by one's hand the temperature of the water coming forth is controlled.

By your spiritual hand you likewise control the activities of your life. You can cause spiritual graces and Christian actions to come forth as the handle of your life is turned in the direction of the new nature. Or you can cause unwholesome, selfish and sinful actions to come as you move the handle of your life in the direction of the old nature. You control which of these natures will dominate your life.

The activities connected with the old nature are mentioned in Galatians 5:19-21; the character of the new nature is mentioned in Galatians 5:22. 23. As a new Christian, let the new nature of the Holy Spirit take over the controls of your life right now. Remember, God is ever present to help you live this new life of yours.

Questions For Lesson 4

1. What is a believer compared to in 1 Peter 2:2?

2. What will the "milk of the word" do for us?

3. How do we exercise our spiritual muscles?

4. List five things you can do to help your spiritual growth.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)

5)

5. Which Bible verse tells us to do our best to know God's word.

6. Explain the following:
Reading the Bible

Prayer

Meditation

7. When will we have a convenient time for devotions?

8. What is the secret to memorizing Scripture?

9. According to Psalm 119:11, why did the Psalmist hide God's word in his heart?

10. In your own words explain the conflict between the two natures within the Christian.

11. What must we determine concerning the two natures within us?

12. Carefully read over Romans chapter 7. Be prepared to discuss it and answer questions concerning it.

13. Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:13

PRAISE THE LORD, I'M LEARNING ABOUT HIM!

Privileges That Are Yours - Lesson 5

Traveling through the mountains one finds with every turn in the road a new scene and a new vista opened. This is much like the Christian life. As one travels along the road of spiritual progress, the Christian finds new privileges and new duties greet him with each turn.

Let us consider together some of the privileges that are yours since you have entered into the wonderful relationship of being a child of God.

! To be honored as a friend and relative of Christ.

Read John 15:15 and Matthew 12:50. What a privilege it is to know that although we are sinful and unlovely Christ is not ashamed to claim us as His spiritual friends and relatives! Listen to the Savior's beautiful words as He describes this intimacy in John 15, speaking to His disciples - and to us also who believe and abide in Him. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you . . . Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves but I have called you friends."

! To be recognized by God as a son.

Read I John 3:1-3. Not all of us have had the privilege of having a father who is a Christian, or was a Christian before he passed away. But every believer has a Father

who is interested in his spiritual welfare and is not ashamed to acknowledge him as His son. This is the Heavenly Father, God Himself! What a joy this becomes as a new Christian realizes all the potential that is his in this privilege!

! **To be in God's family and related to all the Christians of the world.**

Read Ephesians 2:19. What a special family we belong to. We are "fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God." Who are the saints with whom you are a fellow-citizen? All other believers in Christ like yourself. Therefore you too are a saint. Even though you are a new Christian you are spiritually a brother or sister of every other Christian. Many times this spiritual family means more to us and loves us more than our own earthly family of flesh and blood. This is because of the peculiar bonds of love we have in Christ.

! **To have the Holy Spirit as your personal teacher.**

Read 1 John 2:27. Now that you are a Christian, the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, has given Himself to you to help you, not only as you read God=s Word, but also from the experiences of life which you encounter. You have the Teacher of all teachers as your own personal tutor!

! **To be a member of a royal priesthood.**

The Bible teaches the priesthood of all believers. Read 1 Peter 2:5, 9. Christ is our Great High Priest (Hebrews 3:1; 4:14-16) and through Him every born again person has direct access into God's presence without the need of a human priest. Every believer has the privilege of praying directly to his heavenly Father. Read Hebrews 10:19; Matthew 6:6; Ephesians 3:12. God is waiting at any hour of the day or night to hear even the faintest prayer from your lips. You do not need to-cannot-pray to anyone else except God Himself through His Son Jesus Christ. In 1 Timothy 2:5 we read, ^AFor there is one God and one mediator also between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.©

! **To have personal promises from God.**

Read 2 Peter 1:2-4. We as Christians have personal promises from God which those who do not belong to His family cannot claim. The best part about these promises is that after you think you have found them all, there are still just as many awaiting you. The important thing is to take them as your own.

It would be impossible to list all of God=s promises here, but ponder these seven that you might rest upon and claim them as your very own.

- (1) His continual presence. 'I am with you always, even unto the end of the age' (Matthew 28:20).

- (2) His sustaining power in temptation. "God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also that you may be able to endure it." (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- (3) His sufficient grace for every need. "Our sufficiency is of God" (2 Corinthians 3:2-5 and 12:9).
- (4) His promise of daily victory. "Now thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ ..." (2 Corinthians 2:14)
- (5) His promise to ever hold us in His hand. "And I give to them eternal life: and they shall never perish, neither shall any man snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:28).
- (6) His promise that everything which takes place in our lives is work together by Him for our good. "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good for those who love God, for those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).
- (7) His promise that He will never stop working in our lives. "Being confident of this very thing, that who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

As you read your Bible keep looking for God's promises to you. Mark them and claim them for your own. If you will be faithful to trust His promises He will give you rest and unending peace in your heart.

! To know that we have an advocate to plead our cause to God when we fail in our Christian walk.

Read I John 2:1, 2. You, even though now a Christian, will continue to stumble in your daily walk from time to time. Don't be fooled about this. It is true, as much as we would wish it otherwise, The things you desire not to do, these you will find yourself doing. Even the Apostle Paul had this same struggle. He said, "For what I want to do, I do not do; but what I hate, that I do . . ." (read Romans 7:15-25). This is due to the two natures struggling for supremacy in a Christian's life. Do not let these failures when they occur, be a source of discouragement. For the Lord was also tempted as you and I are (Hebrews 4:15). But since He did not sin though tempted, He is an able representative before our Heavenly Father for us today.

If you should sin and falter in your Christian walk, do not be defeated, but confess your sin at once to the Lord (I John 1:9). And don't forget that you have a faithful intercessor, an advocate (or lawyer) to go before God on your behalf, "Jesus Christ the righteous." He can do this because He Himself paid the penalty for your sin.

! To have a burden-bearer for every trial.

Read I Peter 5:7. Life gets rugged and oftentimes the trials get great, but never forget that Christ wants to bear each burden for you. Somehow it seems as though

new Christians often have the most trials. Perhaps it is the spiritual enemy testing them to see if they really mean business for the Lord, no matter what might come. When these trials and problems come, don't shoulder the load, for you won't be able to bear it. Commit every care to the Lord and leave it there.

! **To know that our present day labor is not in vain, and that there will come a day of reward.**

Read I Corinthians 15:58 and Colossians 3:23, 24. Christian, every work that you do in the name of the Lord and for His sake someday will be rewarded! Though perhaps you don't feel as if you are accomplishing much in the way of your Christian service, the Lord knows your heart, and according to His Word your spiritual paycheck is coming.

Before the Great Depression in the thirties many were working hard and had put all their savings in the bank, But when the depression came and banks failed, their money was all gone and they had no recompense for their years of labor. We Christians can take heart in the fact that the spiritual bank of Heaven will never run dry, for the Lord has promised that He will reward each work we have done for His glory.

We serve Him because we love Him, and our gracious and loving Heavenly Father rewards us for it (I Corinthians 3:14). What will we do with our rewards? One day when we stand before the throne of Christ we will cast our crowns (rewards) at His feet (Revelation 4:10). What a privilege that will be. But what would you do, Christian friend, if you had no crown to present to Him that day? What if your life had been self-centered and you had been controlled by your "old nature"? Instead of a reward, your works like wood, hay and stubble would be burned, even though your soul would be saved (I Corinthians 3:11-15). It is a privilege to serve our Lord with faithfulness.

! **To know that He has promised to return and take us to Himself.**

Read John 14:1-3 and 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17. Today our Lord is in Heaven interceding for us (Hebrews 7:25) and preparing a place for us (John 14:2). Think of it, our Savior is building a home for us, getting ready for the day when He can reunite us in His presence. Physical death should have no terror for the Christian. The Bible gives us this assurance. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (II Corinthians 5:1; see also verses 3-9; Philippians 1:21-23). But the Christian has the ever-present hope of going into Christ's presence without going through physical death. It may be that the time in God's plan will come during our lifetime when Christ will come personally to catch up from this earth all living believers, as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. It could be today! Can you think of any greater event to look forward to?

Some go to God in prayer

**As though they would be heard
By merit of their earnestness
Or power of their word;
As though God did not want to bless,
Or to their crying heed,
But might be influenced to hear
If they could prove their need.**

**Some humbly talk with God;
Confess their helplessness;
And having laid their burdens down
Trust Him to do the rest.
Such go away in peace,
And with the victor's shout
To watch with interest, and see
How He will work things out.**

- Barbara Ryberg-

Questions For Lesson 5

1. Because we are sinful, Jesus Christ is ashamed to call us His spiritual friends and relatives.

TRUE _____ FALSE _____

2. Explain 1 John 3:1-3 in your own words.

3. What verse in the Bible teaches us that we are related through Christ to all the Christians in the world?

4. Define the term "saint."

5. How does the Holy Spirit help us?

6. Who is the only mediator between you and God?

7. What is a mediator?

8. In the New Testament sense of the word, what is a priest?

9. Name at least two promises from the Bible you are claiming.

1)

2)

10. Name one promise not in this book that you have found on your own. (Give the reference.)

11. What does the Bible mean when it says that Jesus is our Advocate?

12. Why is it possible for Jesus to go before God the Father on our behalf?

13. How many of our burdens should we turn over to Christ?

14. Will some Christians go to heaven without rewards?

15. What is the ever present hope of the believer?

16. Explain the meaning of 2 Corinthians 5:1.

17. Memorize Romans 8:28

Your Christian Duties - Lesson 6

In every realm of life, when one has privileges he also has duties which are required of him. Let us consider now some duties which became yours when you became a child of God.

! To be filled with the Spirit.

You must realize that as a Christian you are the abiding place of God the Holy Spirit. At your new birth the Holy Spirit came to dwell in you. The Biblical expression "be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18) means that you are to allow the Holy Spirit to possess your heart and life to the extent that God has full control over your life.

If we are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit, there is the implication then that we might not be "filled" with Him. It is as if someone has moved into our home and dwells with us but we have put up limitations. He cannot have possession of all our home because we have allowed others to occupy certain areas of it. When we allow self and sin to have a place in our lives we find that the Spirit of God is quenched and grieved. He does not have liberty to work with and through us as He wants to do. The power He would like to give us is curtailed and we are weak Christians.

Therefore, learn the secret right now of giving your heart completely over to the abiding Spirit that He might live His life through you with power and effectiveness.

! To pray.

Throughout the scriptures, we find prayer not only a privilege but a duty as well. The Lord has exhorted us, yes, commanded us to pray. "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). We should always pray (Luke 18:1). People everywhere should pray (1 Timothy 2:8).

Perhaps you are asking [what is prayer?](#) It is simply conversation with God. It may be hard for you to understand just how to pray. But the simplest and best way to pray is to just talk to the Lord as you talk to the people around you. God is real. He is a person just as are your friends and loved ones. Remember, it isn't the quality of the vocabulary you use or the quantity of words that counts, it is the attitude of the heart in which you pray that is important.

To start praying privately, simply imagine God as a person who is your friend and start your prayer by addressing Him as [A Heavenly Father](#) or [ADear God](#) and then just tell Him what is on your heart. It perhaps will help you express what is on your heart if you remember what someone has called the five steps in a prayer. These are: (1) adoration, simply adoring or telling God of your love for Him; (2) confession acknowledging before God your sins and shortcomings, your areas of need, your weaknesses and unworthiness to be in His presence apart from the shed blood of his Son, and asking His forgiveness; (3) petition, asking God for things that are upon your heart, for your own needs, needs in His program and needs of others both physical and spiritual; (4) intercession, praying for your loved ones, friends, your church, pastor,

Sunday School teacher missionaries and others as the Lord lays them upon your heart and calls them to mind; (5) thanksgiving, being careful to give God thanks for hearing and answering your prayer in His own way, which is best for you, for what He did in making your salvation possible and for many other blessings He has given you.

After talking to Him until you feel as though your heart has been expressed, simply close your prayer ^AIn Jesus' name, amen,[@] for we come to the Father through Jesus Christ (John 14:13)

Not every prayer must have all of these parts, of course. Prayers are not to be mechanical, but sincere expressions of the heart. But this is an excellent pattern to follow as you are learning to pray.

As intercessors it is a great privilege to be able to go before our Heavenly Father to represent someone that has a need and in so doing help to bear his burden. Why don't you, as many others have, start a prayer list? This is just a list of persons and needs that have come to your attention and for whom you wish to pray. Then when you pray you refer to this list to refresh your memory. You may wish to make your list in seven parts, one for each day in the week. God wants us to be specific in prayer; for specific answers we must pray for specific things.

One thing to remember is that prayer does not have to be audible. God can pick the prayer you silently have on your heart right off your heartstrings. Also, you may pray at any time or any place, while walking down the street, driving your car or talking with your neighbor. This is quite possibly what the apostle had in mind when he said "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Remember also, God likes to talk to you once in a while, too. Make silent meditation a part of your prayer time, so that instead of your doing all the talking He has opportunity to communicate to you too by guiding your thoughts. It is also a good practice to read a portion of God's Word before you pray, for this gets your heart prepared to enter into His presence.

What about praying with others, you may ask. The time will come when you no doubt will want to take part in audible prayer in a group prayer meeting, and you should. This is not as hard as you might think and will grow naturally out of your experiences of private prayer. When you pray with others, remember that it is still God you are addressing. Your public prayers may not be as personal and intimate, but they should be sincere nonetheless.

You will find that prayer will help you to grow spiritually. It will give you more confidence in the Savior. Do not be discouraged if your prayers do not seem to be answered right away. Sometimes we have a fixed conception as to how we want God to answer our prayers, but we must remember He knows best. The Lord may answer your prayers in one of three ways: ^Ayes," no, or "wait a while." Don't forget that each of these is an answer. Therefore we should always pray that His will be done.

! **To study God's Word the Bible.**

God speaks to His children through His Word. There is a way of course in which He speaks in other ways through circumstances, perhaps through the automobile accident, the death of a loved one, or an experience in which we sense the hand of God working in our lives. In the days of old God spoke to Moses, the prophets and other leaders of His people to reveal to them His will. Through them He gave us the God-inspired Scriptures that it might be our guide and rule of faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3:14-16). Today God does not normally reveal Himself to Christians in visions and mystical ways. Guidance from visions and dreams that some claim are apt to lead people away from God's will. Only His Word can be fully trusted. Therefore you should read and study the Scriptures (2 Timothy 2:15) in order that you might grow in the knowledge of Christ and know what His will is for your life.

There are three definite purposes for which one should read the Bible. The first is to study or analyze the scripture to learn who God is, what He has done and how He has dealt with people and circumstances in the past and His plans and purposes for now and the future. To do this properly, scrutiny must be given to each word in order that the full beauty and depth of the precious Word might be grasped. The second purpose is for devotion, using the scripture as an application to your present spiritual life. This is simply reading a portion and asking yourself, "How does this apply to me in my daily life?" The third purpose is for information, historical or spiritual, when you want to know what the Bible says in regard to a certain Biblical person, place or thing.

Try to keep a continuity in your reading for devotion. Make sure that it has purpose. For instance, take one book of the Bible and complete it. Some books that are good to start with are Luke or John, followed by Acts and on through the New Testament. Genesis, the book of beginnings, is fascinating to read, followed for historical continuity by Exodus, Deuteronomy and Joshua, Judges and the Kings. For short passages, the Psalms are a blessing and each psalm is quite complete in itself. Proverbs provides good advice for a young Christian, as also does James in the New Testament.

Once you have read this much of God's Word for your own spiritual enjoyment, you will probably be intrigued to make a specific study of certain portions. Keep in mind that, although the Bible was written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit by at least forty writers and over a period of some 1400 years it is God's Word to His children and reveals His plan and purpose for them as one unit from beginning to end. All parts fit into the over-all plan of God for the universe and all beings He created, including mankind.

Some things may not be clear to us in our reading and we may think one portion disputes another. But if we are patient and sincerely study to seek out an answer, we find that the Bible as a whole beautifully fits together as only a book from the hand of God could. The Old Testament needs the New Testament to reveal truths concealed in the Old and to fulfill prophecies made in the Old. The New Testament needs the Old Testament as a background for the coming of Christ and the establishing of the church and all the future dealings of God with man. So we can depend upon the Bible as the very Word of God. The more we read and study it, the more wonderful and precious it becomes to us.

Don't think you will understand all of this amazing book through brief, casual readings, picking up a verse here and another there. You wouldn't expect to understand any other book with that kind of reading, would you? Yet this is the only kind of Bible reading some Christians do and as a result they remain as babes and show little spiritual growth. Like in the physical life, there can be no growth without the eating of proper food. Food to the Christian is the Word of God, and spiritual growth comes by proper daily nourishment from it.

You cannot expect to understand all that you read in the Bible while you are a spiritual babe. Be thankful for that which is clear to you, and in due time you will find that you have a greater grasp of the Word of God and will marvel how new truths open up to you as your knowledge of the Bible increases. This thrill of discovery will never fade. For after reading and studying the Bible for a lifetime you will ever find new and thrilling promises and truths that apply to your particular situation. That is the kind of God we have and the kind of guide for our life that He has given us.

Above all, don't forget that, as a Christian, it is your duty to study the Word of God, so set a little time aside each day for that purpose. Do not let anything or anyone keep you from it.

! **To be a witness and testimony to the grace of God; that is to be a soul winner.**

There is no greater weakness among Christians today than that of not being a faithful witness to what Jesus Christ has done for them. Read Daniel 12:3; Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:17;16:15; John 15:16 to discover God's will regarding this duty.

What is a soul-winner? A soul-winner is an individual who witnesses and exemplifies Christ in his life to the extent that those whom he contacts from time to time want to become Christians too. His life is such that people want Christ as their Savior because of his example. The soul-winner is possessed of a hunger for others to know Christ in the same way he does, a belief that God can save and meet the need of any individual, a realization that such a person is a prospect for eternity either in happiness with God or in torment separated forever from God's blessing. He is unashamed to represent the Christ who has done so much for him. If you don't have these characteristics in your spiritual life, take inventory, Christian friend, for something might be wrong. If you are weak in any of these points, pray that God might strengthen you. One of the reasons for the Holy Spirit to dwell in you is to furnish you with the power to be a faithful witness and soul-winner for Christ (Acts 1:8).

For the Christian, witnessing is a duty. Even as a young Christian you must realize that you have the immediate responsibility to testify to others what God has done for you. You are to confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus (see Romans 10:9). Naturally, you won't win all those to whom you witness. The percentage may be small. But don't let that discourage you, for all the time you will be sowing the seed and God alone knows how much increase it will bring forth. What is more, God keeps the record of your faithfulness to this duty and someday He will give you your reward.

! **To be faithful.**

One thing that God holds us to account for perhaps more than anything else is our faithfulness. Read I Corinthians 4:2; 2 Timothy 2:2. Christ said to believers, "Be faithful to death, and I will give you a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10). And we read that in the end times those who will be with the overcoming Christ are they who are called and chosen, and faithful (Revelation 17:14).

What does it mean to be faithful? It means to be devoted, loyal, constant in our allegiance to God and give Him first place in our lives. As a Christian you have the duty to be faithful in all areas of your life. This means in church attendance, in prayer, in deed, in your daily to walk, in your family relationships, and in the vocation wherein you have been called. There is no excuse for unfaithfulness in a Christian. Make sure that, right now, you develop the habit of being faithful.

! **To rejoice in the Lord always.**

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16. Joy is a sign of victory and strength in our Christian lives. The Bible says in Nehemiah 8:10 that the joy of the Lord is our strength. A Christian only has joy when everything is well in his Christian life.

Now, let us warn you that this joy won't always be present. You will have "down" times when discouragement and doubt enter in. These times have nothing to do with salvation, for your salvation was settled for eternity when you received Christ. Remember, your salvation is not based upon your feeling, but on faith in the Word of God. God did not give us eternal life only to take it back from us each time we sin. There would be nothing eternal about that. Salvation is never depicted in the Bible as a gamble. Therefore, our eternal situation is not altered, nor our salvation lost or in doubt, when we have those "down" periods.

When the joy of the Lord is not present, as it is not during such "down" times, there must be a reason. It could be due to simple physical condition. When the body or mind or both become weary or encumbered, or under great pressure it shows up many times in our spiritual lives. Or it might be that sin in the life has produced this time when joy in Christ is not present. Joy is produced in the Christian's life by the indwelling Holy Spirit. When we sin or quench or retard His ministry through us joy cannot be produced. Or it could be our joy is lost because our viewpoint is misguided and we are looking at our situation instead of our Savior. A vivid example of this is found in Matthew 14:22-31. We see Peter able to walk in response to Christ's word, but when he got his eyes on his situation instead of his Savior, he fell.

Therefore, Christian friend, realize that there will be times when the joy is not present, when the path seems dark and the Lord seems distant. But realize that this is not God's plan for you. Search your heart to see what is wrong in your life. Then confess it to the Lord and receive His forgiveness and the return of the joy of your salvation. In Psalm 51 David confessed his sin and acknowledged his transgressions, then asked for the Lord to give him a clean heart and a right spirit and to restore to him the original joy of his salvation. There will be times when you too will have to do this same thing. When the reason is understood, remedied and forgotten, the joy and

strength of the Lord will return.

To keep the joy and strength of your salvation it is necessary for you to (1) keep a close fellowship and relationship with God, as 1 John 1:7 suggests; (2) confess sin as soon as it is realized in your heart, as in I John 1:9, so that the producer of joy, the Holy Spirit, can have full sway in your life; (3) never look at your immediate situation from the human standpoint, but keep your eyes upon Christ who gives us the ability to conquer situations of life, keeping in mind Philippians 4:13. By doing this, the joy representing your spiritual strength will continue to dominate your life.

As you have read about the privileges and duties a Christian has in these lessons, we trust that you will know the joy you had when you first received Christ as your Savior - when you realized that your sin was forgiven, and Christ had entered in to become your partner for life, and Heaven is now your promised residence for eternity. May you, believing in Jesus Christ, continue to rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory (I Peter 1:8).

Questions For Lesson 6

1. What follows privileges?
2. Explain what it means to be "filled with the Spirit."
3. What happens to the Holy Spirit when we allow sin and self to dominate our lives?
4. What is true prayer?
5. What is intercession?
6. What do you think Paul meant when he said, "pray without ceasing?"
7. Explain, "Prayer is a two way conversation."
8. Why should we pray for God's will to be done?
9. Today, God often reveals Himself in visions and dreams. TRUE FALSE
10. Through what means does God most clearly reveal Himself?
11. As you read the Word of God this week in your devotions, find a thought, verse or

promise that encourages you.

12. Who helps us to be faithful witnesses and evangelists?

13. What does it mean to be faithful?

14. Give some reasons why joy might not be present in a Christian's life.

15. The Lord may answer our prayers in three ways. He may say _____,
_____ or _____.

16. Memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

I HAVE TALKED TO _____ PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS CHRIST THIS WEEK.

Know What You Believe - Lesson 7

Now that you are advancing in your study of the Christian life, let us consider together some important doctrines in the Bible. Doctrine means "teaching." When you study the doctrine of any subject you study the teaching on that subject. Your pastor or a deacon may have given you a Doctrinal Statement in which is stated briefly the beliefs upon which your church stands on certain basic doctrines of the Bible. It is important that every Christian has real convictions on these subjects. Knowing these will help to stabilize you in basic Bible teaching.

Acquaint yourself thoroughly with the following statements of what the Bible teaches concerning these important subjects.

! Relative to the Bible.

The statement of doctrine: "We believe in the holy scripture, accepting fully the writings of the Old and New Testaments as the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all parts and therefore wholly without error as originally given of God, altogether sufficient in themselves as our only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and

practice." Scripture that this doctrine is based upon is II Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21, as well as many others.

Simply stated, we believe that the Bible does not merely "contain the Word of God," as some may say. But it is in every chapter, word and letter the very Word of God. We believe it to be without error, as originally given of God.

We believe that the Bible as given is the complete will of God and revelation to man, and that nothing is to be added or subtracted from its contents. We base this belief on Revelation 22:18, 19.

! **Relative to God.**

The statement of doctrine: "We believe in the one Triune God; who is personal, spirit, and sovereign; perfect, infinite, and eternal in His being, holiness and love, wisdom and power; absolutely separate and above the world as its Creator, yet everywhere present in the world as the Upholder of all things; self-existent and self-revealing in three distinct persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, each having a distinct ministry in God's relation to His creation and people." Scriptures which give evidence of the Trinity are Matthew 3:16, 17; John 14:26; 15:26; 1 Peter 1:2, and many others.

The doctrine of the Triune God, or the Trinity, is one of the most difficult of all to understand. If you do not comprehend it in complete detail at present do not be dismayed. With increased spiritual understanding it will be more easily understood. This doctrine is one of the deepest studies in the Bible, yet if the chemical substance known as H₂O can be understood to be a liquid (water), solid (ice) and gas (vapor), why should we question that one God can exist in three persons?

! **Regarding Jesus Christ.**

The statement of doctrine; "We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the second Person of the Triune God, the eternal Word and Only unique Son, that without any change in His divine Person He became man by miracle of the Virgin Birth, thus to continue forever as both true God and true Man, one Person with two natures, that as Man he was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin; that as the perfect Lamb of God He gave Himself in death upon the cross, becoming there the sin of the world, and suffering its full penalty of divine wrath in our stead; that He arose bodily from the grave and was glorified; that as our great High Priest He ascended into Heaven, there to appear before the face of God as our Advocate and Intercessor. The entire New Testament supports this doctrine, as well as many prophetic scriptures in the Old Testament. Among these are Isaiah 7:14 with Matthew 1:18 and Luke 2:7: Micah 5:2: Luke 1 :31-33; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Revelation 21:6.

! **Regarding man.**

Statement of doctrine of man outside of Christ: "We believe all men are by nature and choice sinful and that man was the direct creation of God made in His image and likeness, that by personal disobedience to the revelation of God (Adam and Eve's sin in eating of the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden) man became a sinful creature, the father of a fallen race which is universally sinful in both nature and practice, thus alienated from the life and family of God, under the righteous judgment and wrath of God, and has within himself no possible means of salvation." Some of the scriptures which reveal this doctrine are. Psalm 51:5; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23; 5:12.

! **Regarding salvation.**

Statement of doctrine: "We believe in salvation by grace through faith; that salvation is the free gift of God, neither merited nor secured in part or in whole by any virtue or work of man, but received only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, in Whom all true believers have as a present possession the gift of eternal life, a perfect righteousness, son-ship in the family of God, deliverance and security from all condemnation, every spiritual resource needed for life and godliness, and the divine guarantee that they shall never perish; that this salvation affects the whole person; that apart from Christ there is no possible salvation." Among the many scriptures that show this doctrine are, John 1:12; 3:36; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5; 1 John 5:13.

! **Regarding the Holy Spirit.**

Statement of doctrine: "We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is the third Person of the Trinity, and the divine Agent in nature, revelation, and redemption; that He convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment; that He regenerates, indwells, baptizes, seals and anoints all who become children of God through Christ; that He further empowers, guides, teaches, sanctifies and fills all believers who daily surrender to Him." Scriptures on this subject also are numerous and only a representative few can be given, John 3:5, 6 with I John 5:4; John 14:17; Acts 1:8; 20:28; Hebrews 10:15.

As Christ had a definite ministry to mankind, so does the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not just an influence or feeling, He is a real person. As a real person He has a definite ministry.

Before a person is saved it is the Holy Spirit who (1) applies the Word of God to his heart; (2) convicts a person of his sin and of the fact that he is unsaved.

Then at the very time a person believes, the Holy Spirit has another job to do which is fourfold: (1) He regenerates him or causes him to experience the new birth; (2) He baptizes him (not to be confused with water baptism), placing him into the spiritual body of Christ which is made up of all believers (I Corinthians 12:13); (3) He seals him eternally in the body of Christ, preserving him as God's child waiting to be revealed in Heaven one day; (4) then He indwells him, or takes up an abiding and perpetual residence in him.

In the believer the Holy Spirit (1) empowers, gives strength to live and witness concerning the Christian life; (2) teaches, takes the Word of God and spiritual truth, and

10. What does it mean to be "baptized by the Holy Spirit?"
11. What does the Holy Spirit do to a person before he or she is saved?
12. What grieves the Holy Spirit and causes His ministry to be minimized?
13. What quenches the Holy Spirit and shuts off His ministry through us?
14. What does the Holy Spirit desire to produce in the life of every believer?
15. What Christ-like trait would you like the Holy Spirit to produce in you?
16. Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16-17

I'M MORE THAN HALF WAY THROUGH THIS COURSE!

Watch These Dangers -Lesson 8

There are certain dangers a new Christian is apt to encounter on the highway of his new life. If you are aware of these you will know what to do when you come upon them. Therefore we give you four special warnings about the road ahead. We are something like the man who in traveling a road and noticing some washouts and

detours calls back to warn the next traveler of these dangers so he can avoid them. As we have traveled the Christian road we have seen certain obstacles that can throw a new Christian off course. Hence, these four warnings.

! You will know persecution.

After a person becomes a Christian, there are always some of the family or friends who stand on the sidelines and make fun of his decision to follow Christ. You can feel compassion for these people for they have never known the joy of salvation. They do not understand what has happened to you.

Derision is nothing new, of course. Columbus was laughed at for his belief that the world was round, but today one hears of no ridicule. The Wright brothers were laughed at for their interest in aviation, but now as the hundreds of planes fill the sky each day one hears no scoffing in their direction. It is through lack of understanding that such criticism and persecution takes place. Therefore, never let the persecution of friends or relatives discourage or defeat you.

Christ Himself has promised that because of your stand for Him you will be persecuted (John 15:20). But after all He has done for us, are we unwilling to take a little persecution from friends and loved ones for Him? When loved ones and friends do persecute you for your faith in Christ, your reaction should be two-fold: (1) you should exhibit love and understanding at all times to them, whatever they say or do: and (2) you should have a definite concern and burden for them because of their lack of understanding to the extent that you will speak with wisdom to them concerning their spiritual needs and pray for them daily. Such an attitude usually results in their regretting the way they have treated you because of your love for the Savior.

! You cannot always trust in others.

Many a young Christian has been disillusioned by discovering that he could not rely on some people, even fellow-Christians. Perhaps you ask why people, even Christians, cannot be trusted completely! The reason we would give is that, as long as we are in this house of flesh and blood, we are subject to making sinful choices. Therefore, no matter how wonderful someone may seem to you, do not lean completely upon him, for if he were to fail you there would be a hard adjustment to follow.

Lest this be misunderstood, let us hasten to say that most people are trustworthy. But some of those who would seem to be the best to put your confidence in could be the ones who would stumble and cause you the most discouragement. Yes, even preachers, Christian leaders, and faithful friends have been known to fall because of human weakness in the flesh. Therefore make sure your confidence is supremely in the Lord.

If someone you have placed upon a pedestal should fail and stumble, do not let this make you despair in your own Christian life. Rather, by the grace of God, try harder to determine that you will never make the same mistake. Yes, make sure that your confidence is primarily in the Lord, for He will never fail you or discourage you. You'll find no disappointment in Him.

! You will have expert opposition.

Since you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you also believe in a personal devil, for in the Bible the Lord gave many references to him, even calling him by a distinct name. One enemy that you are going to have to the grave is Satan, and this warning is given so you might be aware of him in such a way that he will not defeat you.

The doctrinal teaching regarding Satan is: "We believe in the existence of Satan; who originally was created a holy and perfect being, but through pride and wicked ambition rebelled against God, thus becoming utterly depraved in character, the great adversary of God and His people, leader of all other evil angels and spirits, and deceiver and god of this present world; that his powers are vast, but strictly limited by the permissive will of God who overrules all his wicked devices for good: that he was defeated and judged at the cross, and therefore his final doom is certain: that we are able to resist and overcome him only in the armor of God, by the blood of the Lamb and through the power of the Holy Spirit." Some of the many scriptures for this doctrine are: Matthew 13:19; Luke 10:18; 22:31; John 14:30; Ephesians 2:2; 6:11; I John 1:8; II Peter 2:4; Jude 6: Revelation 20:10.

Satan fought your every move to become a Christian, and now that you are a child of God, he will do everything in his power to keep you from following Christ and having a testimony for Him. If you have a constant realization of the truth you will be able to see him work against you and thus can defeat him.

Satan, the enemy of your soul, will play many of his devious cards to defeat you. The Bible warns us that he is: (1) a liar to confuse (Genesis 3:4); (2) the devil to deceive (Revelation 20:10); (3) the adversary to accuse (Revelation 12:10); (4) an angel of light to misrepresent (II Corinthians 11:14); (5) the god of the age to blind (II Corinthians 4:4); (6) the enemy to oppose (Matthew 13:39); (7) the tempter to allure (I Thessalonians 3:5).

What should you do when you realize that Satan is trying to defeat your Christian testimony: Do exactly as James 4:7 suggests. You will find that a complete submission to God and a firm resistance to Satan will bring a quick relief from Satan's workings for the present.

! You will meet with trials and temptations.

Although you are a Christian now, that does not mean that life will be easy for you. Even as the rain falls on the just and the unjust, so do the hailstones. There are going to be trials which will confront you along with the blessings as you travel God's road. But never let your trials, temptations and tribulations cause you to turn your back on the Lord.

Christ said that in this world we would have tribulation, but to be of good cheer (John 16:33). Thus, when the trials, burdens and problems confront you as a Christian, don't feel as though you are forsaken by Him. Rather, spiritually lay them all at His feet to work out in His own way. Remember this, all things work together for good to the Christian (Romans 8:28). Not some things, but all things. Just because you have tests, it doesn't mean that God has forsaken you; it may mean that He wants you to realize

His presence in even a greater way. Do not think that you can reason out the workings of God. They are above our ways and understanding (Isaiah 55:9). Determine in your heart that you will follow Him through the valleys as well as over the mountains. As spiritual sheep, it is our job to follow the Good Shepherd wherever He might choose to lead us.

Questions for Lesson 8

1. A Christian will find persecution in this life. TRUE or FALSE
2. What causes the unsaved to criticize and persecute Christians?
3. Explain John 15:20.
4. When others persecute you, what should your reaction be?
5. All Christians are absolutely trustworthy. TRUE or FALSE

Explain:

6. It is a good idea for new Christians to have complete confidence in their pastor.
TRUE or FALSE Explain:

7. Name one enemy you will have to the grave.
8. What caused Satan to rebel against God?
9. Satan is ALL-POWERFUL. TRUE or FALSE
10. The Christian can only hope that one day Satan will be defeated. TRUE or FALSE
11. Read Ephesians 6:10-20 carefully and on the back of this paper list the armor which God has provided for the believer's spiritual battles.
12. How can we resist Satan?
 - 1)
 - 2)

3)

13. List seven things Satan does to try to defeat the Christian.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

14. What should you do when trials, burdens, and problems confront you?

15. Memorize James 4:7

IN JESUS I HAVE THE VICTORY!

Claim Your Victories - Lesson 9

Athletic activity has been a part of life down through history. From the early manuscripts of by-gone empires we find sports mentioned. Perhaps the most prominent record we have is connected with the Greeks, who were extremely active along this line, with their marathons, discus hurlers, wrestlers and other types of athletes. Thus, down through the centuries of time there have been winners and losers.

Why are sports activities so entertaining? The main reason is that the public itself enters into the activity. When a football team wins, the entire group that the team represents says, "We won.!" Actually, only a few participated in the sports activity, but in heart all the group did, so there is a feeling of personal accomplishment on the part of all.

How good it is to be on the winning side. Winning causes an unexplainable satisfaction in having been resent. Contrast the feelings and expressions that are in evidence sometimes at the conclusion of a sports activity. yes, it is good to be the victor!

Christian friend, you are on the winning side. In the greatest contest ever waged, we as Christians were represented by Christ. It matched all the forces of good and righteousness against all the forces of evil and wickedness, and our representative, the Lord Jesus Christ, came out victorious on the cross. It was on the cross that the forces of sin, death, hell, and the grave were defeated. Today, because of Christ's victory, we can say, "We won," for we are on His side and therefore share His victory.

To look at some Christians, however, you would think that they were on the losing side. They have no victory in their lives, and they lack an enthusiasm for the Lord. What a tragedy! God's people should be a victorious overcoming people. Make sure now, early in your Christian life, that you will never be guilty of lacking enthusiasm for the Lord.

How do we have this life of victory in Christ? What will its result be? Why should we exercise it? Let's consider the subject and find the answers.

! How do we get this life of victory in Christ?

A victorious life is realized through our position in Christ, and not through our present circumstance. Victory in an athletic contest is not realized through a portion of the game, but through the contest as a whole. Sometimes we Christians would almost

feel as though we were on the losing side as we see the advances being made by those who do not know the Lord. But then we realize that because of Christ we have already won the battle. No matter how dark your circumstance or environment may be, you can rejoice, for you belong to the winner's side.

The Apostle Paul gives us the example in Philippians 4:4 of Christian victory. Even though he was in prison when he penned the words under the inspiration of God, he says to rejoice in the Lord always; not only when everything is going well, but during trials and adversities as well. You remember the apostle gave this admonition also to the Thessalonian Christians in Thessalonians 5:16. It was an important principle of the Christian life to him.

Remember, because you belong to Christ you can always rejoice in the Lord. Therefore, no matter how you feel, or what your immediate plight may be, if you will only stop and realize what Christ has done for you, and what you have through Him, you will rejoice and have victory in your heart.

! **What will be the result of a victorious Christian life?**

It will mean personal contentment. You, as an individual, will have a more pleasing personality and you will feel better. The one who is not realizing victory in Christ usually is unhappy with himself and with society, and thus has an inward battle which results in personal discomfort and a maladjusted personality.

You will be a source of challenge and blessing to other Christians. A feeling of victory is something which is contagious. If you exercise a life of victory in Christ, you will find it will challenge and inspire other Christians to the same life.

You will be exemplifying the life that the Lord Jesus would have you live. In the personal prayer of Christ to His Father in John 17, we read in verse 13 he desires that His joy be fulfilled in us as Christians. It pleases God when He sees those who represent Him here upon this earth availing themselves of the victory He already has provided. The victorious life is the life Christ has ordained for every Christian.

! **Why should we exercise a victorious life in Christ?**

We have already considered a number of reasons, but the main one is that it makes us a better testimony for Christ to those who are not Christians. The success of the early churches was primarily due to the fact that the individuals who composed them had the quality of victory in Christ, and the resulting expression of joy. In Acts 13:52 we read that the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. It was the testimony of victory in Christ that caused many to know that what they possessed in their hearts was real and something to be desired.

The life of victory is what Christ would have you live, and anything else makes you fall short of His best. May you begin today to walk the path of victory and claim your victories day by day in honor of the One who has purchased full victory for you. Yes, because of Christ, we can say, "We won!"

Questions For Lesson 9

1. What is one reason why we should seek to live a victorious life in Christ?
2. Does enthusiasm deserve a place in the Christian's life? Why?
3. What are some of the results of a victorious Christian life?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
4. What should we do when we begin to feel blue and sorry for ourselves?
5. How is it possible for a Christian to rejoice even in the middle of adversity and trial?
6. Where was the Apostle Paul when he wrote Philippians 4:4?
7. Is a victorious Christian life dependent upon our present circumstances?
8. God's people should be a _____ people.
9. Why is it possible for a Christian to say, "We won."?
10. What forces were defeated when Christ died on the cross?
11. What will our living a victorious Christian life in Christ help do for others?
12. What does Acts 13:52 tell us about the disciples in the early church?
13. Read over the entire book of Philippians carefully and list all the references where Paul _____ speaks of joy or rejoicing.
14. Memorize Philippians 4:13
VICTORY IS OURS FOR THE TAKING; IT IS IN THE SON OF GOD, JESUS CHRIST!

Others See You - Lesson 10

To others, the Christian's life is inseparably identified with God. People see God as they see Him in your life. As our beautiful moon which illuminates a summer night or rises orange in the fall to herald the harvest season has no light of itself, but merely reflects the sunlight, so we as Christians are to reflect the light of the Son of God.

It is true, therefore, that a Christian life that is God-like is one that attracts people to the Lord. A Christian life that is poorly lived drives people away from God. The expression sometimes quoted, "You are the only Bible that some people will ever read," is very true. That is what it is so important that you and I live so as to glorify the One whom we reflect and represent in this world.

The doctrinal teaching regarding a godly life is: "We believe in righteous living and godly works: not as a means of salvation in any sense, but as its proper evidence and fruit; and therefore as Christians we should obey the Word of our Lord, seek the things which are above, walk as He walked, accept as our solemn responsibility the duty and privilege of bearing the gospel to a lost world; remembering that a victorious and fruitful Christian life is possible only for those who in gratitude for the infinite and undeserved mercies of God have presented themselves wholly to Christ." The entire New Testament lends itself to this doctrine. However, the Bible clearly shows that God expects good works after our salvation. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10)

Now that you are a Christian it is natural for you to want to live a godly life. But you may wonder how you can have a godly life. Let us seek out answers to this and related questions.

! How can we have a godly or god-like life?

We have it by constantly yielding our lives and our bodies to God. (See Romans 12:1 with 6:13.) This is not something we can do once and for all. We must do it constantly.

Likewise, we must consciously avoid anything that might detract from our Christian lives. The Bible says, "Avoid every kind of evil" (I Thessalonians 5:22). This rule of conduct should settle many questions of what is right and wrong for the Christian.

The godly Christian life, however, is not an unattractive one filled with many "Thou shalt nots." It is a joyous one. But to make it so we must do our part. We must have activities that are directed to bring glory to God (I Corinthians 10:31). If our lives are constantly filled with activities that bring glory to God, the characteristic of godliness will be present.

We will have godliness if we try to think, say, or do exactly as we think Jesus Christ would. We must ask ourselves often, "Are my thoughts, my words and my actions those that Jesus would be doing if He were in my circumstances?" The pattern for our Christian life is naturally the Lord. In I Peter 2:21 the Bible says that Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow His steps. Also, in I John 2:6 we are told that the one who says he abides in Christ ought also to walk even as Christ walked. These verses tell us that our walk should be a walk patterned after Christ. That the steps Christ took should be the steps that guide us.

What kind of a walk did Christ have? His was a walk of dedication. Not once did He deviate from His dedication to the will of His Father. He had a task to do and each step that He took was a step of dedication to complete that task. We Christians also have a task to do, and may we walk the Christ pathway with the same dedication that our Savior did. His was a walk of purity. No deception was found in His mouth; Pilate could find no fault in Him. His was a walk of sacrifice. He thought nothing of having a bed or a home or other things that are possessions of the average individual. He thought nothing of sacrificing His time for ministry, His strength for service or temporal things such as meals and comforts. If we are going to walk as He walked, we also must be willing to walk the path of sacrifice.

! What will keep us from having godliness in our Christian life.

Willful sin and disobedience will keep godliness from being manifested. Every time you willfully commit sin the estimation of God in the sight of your friends and those to whom you witness is changed. As one small fly mars a bowl of good soup, so one perpetual sin in your good Christian life mars it, and keeps godliness from showing.

Living a life of self instead of a life of unselfish devotion to God will keep godliness out of your life. Christ did not do His own will, but His Father's. If we are going to be faithful representatives of God our lives as well must be lives unselfishly

devoted to God. When we see things through our eyes instead of through God's eyes, people will mark our lives for selfishness.

We will not have godliness if our lives are conformed to this world. The Bible says a Christian is to be different, that his pattern for life and social activity is given in the Bible, not by the activities and standard of conduct in the world about him (Romans 12:2). The social world and activities about us are not based upon the standard of godliness, but rather on the standard of ungodliness. Therefore, if our habits, activities and interests are those that conform to the society about us, our lives will not reflect godliness.

We will not have godliness or God-likeness present if our desire is toward this present world and the activities it contains instead of toward God. The Bible says we should constantly be mindful of eternal and spiritual things, that this type of thinking should dominate us. We are to set our affections on the things of God and our actions will follow our affections (Colossians 3:1, 2). The Bible also indicates that our love and desires are not to be directed toward this present world which is contrary to Godliness (I John 2:15-17). These are some of the things that will keep the desirable characteristic of godliness from being seen in your life. Don't ever let any of these things enter to take away this fruit of the Christian life.

! **What will the evidence of a godly, God-like life be?**

The characteristics of Christ will be present. The words and actions of your life will remind people of Him. Instead of harsh abusive language, your speech will be with love and tenderness. Your conduct and actions in business, in the community, and in the home will be honoring to God. There will be a marked difference between your attitude and that of the one outside of Christ. May your life ever be this type.

It is not always easy to know how to live the Christian life. There are some areas of your daily life and habits about which you will need to personally seek out God's will for you. You will find, if you haven't already, that the activities of your Christian life are divided into three categories: (1) things to do, (2) things not to do, and (3) things that are questionable.

! **Things to do.**

Following are some examples of things that you can know definitely are desirable for a Christian to do.

.Be with other Christians to have fellowship with others of like mind on spiritual things.

.Go to church to hear the Word of God as often as you can.

.Study your Bible and pray regularly; have definite times of devotion and meditation.

.Be unashamed to speak up for Christ.

.Be willing to do good at each opportunity God gives you.

! **Things not to do.**

There are certain things that you know a Christian shouldn't do, such as using profanity or words that tear down rather than build up, allowing substances like drugs or alcohol to control you rather than the Holy Spirit, being involved in unwholesome relationships that tear you away from wholesome living, and other things along the same line. These should give you no problems.

! **Things that are questionable.**

It is this third category that will cause you anxieties--the things that are questionable to you, whether or not you should do them. You are not unusual in seeking an answer to whether or not you should participate in some activities that are perhaps borderline and considered questionable. Sooner or later every Christian must face such questions and come to a decision for his own life. May we give you some thoughts which might help to guide you through this period of wonderment.

First, let's define the Christian's situation in the world. In **II Corinthians 6:14-17** we find our place. We who believe in Christ and are saved are different from non-Christians or unbelievers. And we read here that believers are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers. In other words, we as Christians are not to be in a relationship with non-Christians which will cause us to be swayed or pulled in our activities by them. The Bible says the unbelievers belong to darkness and Christians to the light, and we know these two do not mix; one will control the other.

In these verses we are also told that we are to come out from among unbelievers and be separate from them. Now this doesn't mean that we should separate ourselves from all unbelievers personally, that we should not commune with them. Otherwise, how could we lead them to faith in Christ? But it does mean that we are to separate ourselves from the sinful activities which unbelievers take part in because they are unsaved. Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners, the Bible says, but He didn't engage in their sinful activities. As a Christian, we are not to withdraw from society, but we are to withdraw from society's sinful activities.

These verses further give us a warning about people who, while religious, deny many of the basic doctrines of faith, and from such we should be separate. For, what does Christ (and Christ's followers) have in common with ungodliness and false teachers? With such the Christian has no real communion.

Now let us consider some of the spiritual gauges with which to measure habits and activities in order to see whether or not they should be a part of your Christian life.

These gauges can be used in regard to any habit, person, or social activity.

(1) Can you honor God in this situation? In I Corinthians 10:31, the Bible says that every activity in our Christian lives is to honor God. If this habit, person or situation does not honor God, then it is contrary to God's will for your life.

(2) Will Christ be grieved as a partner in this matter? Jesus said in Matthew

28:20 that He is with us all the way, that He would never leave us nor forsake us. Therefore, are you ashamed for Christ to meet you face to face while you are indulging this habit, when you are with this person, or in this situation: If you would be ashamed to have Christ share it, it is wrong for you.

(3) Even though it is harmless to you, could it appear evil to others whom you desire to reach for Christ? We are told in I Corinthians 9:22-23 that willingly restricting our freedoms to act in certain ways is often necessary to influence others toward Christ. If being involved with a questionable item might lead others away from Christ, it may need to be set aside for a time.

(4) Is this habit, person or situation you are faced with sinful? In I John 2:15-17 the Bible says that anything is worldly if the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life is involved. In checking with the item in question, are any of these three forms of worldliness present? The Bible says that if they are, you are to have no part with them.

(5) Can you do this questionable activity without causing a weak Christian to stumble? The Apostle Paul said that if eating meat would cause his brother to stumble, he would eat no meat. He didn't say it was wrong for him to eat meat, but that if this activity might weaken a fellow Christian he wouldn't participate in it.

(6) What would be the advice and thought of the majority of your Christian friends regarding this situation: Usually, things that are wrong and shouldn't be a part of the Christian life are absent from the vast majority of Christian lives. If a number of godly Christian people don't participate in a habit or activity, usually they have been individually convicted about it. Therefore, one has good reason to believe it might be wrong in his own life. But as the Scriptures say, let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind (Romans 13:5).

(7) Is there much question or doubt about this questionable habit, person or situation? If there is, chances are that it is wrong. The old adage says, "If in doubt, don't do it." The Bible says that whatsoever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23). Therefore, if this situation can't be faced with faith, it is wise not to engage in it.

These are some of the gauges that can help measure the spiritual value of the questionable thing that confronts you. It has always been our conviction, however, if you sincerely try to do the will of God, are obedient to the teaching of the word of God, and walk in a spiritual fellowship with God, that the Holy Spirit will give you definite understanding whether something is right or wrong for you. He is the One who convicts. If this questionable thing is done and He wants you to know it is wrong, he will take the Word of God or use some way to impress on your heart a definite conviction that it is not to be a part of your Christian life. Act upon this conviction. Obey Him.

Questions For Lesson 10

1. Some people see God only as they see Him

2. Christian life that is Christ-like will attract others to the Lord. What happens when a Christian's life is poorly lived?
3. What does God expect of us after salvation?
4. How can we have a godly life?
5. What rule of conduct should settle the many questions about what is right and wrong for the Christian?
6. How does a small fly in a bowl of soup illustrate the effects of sin?
7. Is there any sacrifice involved in a Christ-like walk?
Explain.
8. Who should be our standard or example of behavior?
9. Is it true that the godly life is an unattractive one filled only with "thou shalt nots?"
Explain:
10. What does the Bible mean when it tells us as Christians not to be "unequally yoked together with unbelievers?"
11. What does the term "worldly" mean?
12. Read Romans 14 and summarize it in your own words on the back of this paper.
13. Memorize 1 John 2:15

IF I DO NOT PRACTICE WHAT I PREACH, MY ACTIONS WILL SPEAK SO LOUDLY THAT THE WORLD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HEAR WHAT I AM SAYING!

God's Best for You - Lesson 11

When the Apostle Paul was recounting his conversion experience he quoted the Lord's words to him: "Now, get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you . . ." (Acts 26:16). And Jesus Christ has also come to us as Savior and Lord to appoint each one of us for a purpose. He has a place of service for us. The difficult part we face isn't, "Does He have a place for me?" but, "What is the place of work and service He has for me?"

Your first opportunity for service to the Lord will probably be in your church. There are many ways in which a new Christian can use his talents for his Savior right away. It might be as a driver with an available car to bring people to Sunday School and church (there are unlimited opportunities here for witnessing and making your life count for Christ); a telephone "solicitor" to announce meetings and other special activities; a typist, or for many types of secretarial duties; a member of a song group. As you grow in your spiritual life and in the knowledge of God's Word, opportunities will likely open for you to serve in the Sunday School or other disciple training activities in the church. Check the needs in your church and offer your service.

The Christian is in service to God whatever his job may be --a doctor, lawyer, teacher, business man, secretary, housewife, clerk, constructor, laborer, babysitter. He should do his work as in service to the Lord. It may be the work you are now doing is exactly God's place for you, and even before you knew Him he was preparing you to serve Him there. Or your present work may be a stepping stone to service for Him in some other place or situation. We would like to try to help you in a simple way to know a little bit about how to find God's will and place of service for you.

There are three areas of consideration for finding God's will for your life. You can remember them by recalling three "p's"--preparation, practice and proof.

! **The preparation needed for finding God's will.**

First, we must have a definite desire and concern to know the will of God, and we can be sure He will reveal it to us. The Lord never reveals His will to someone who is not consecrated. In Romans 12:1,2, we find that we must present our bodies a living sacrifice to God, and be conformed to God, instead of to the world, before he will show us His good and acceptable and perfect will for our lives.

! **The practice used for finding God's will and your place of service.**

Read Proverbs 3:5, 6. The key in finding God's will is found in this passage.

- (1) You must not have any preconceived convictions on what is God's will for your life--don't lean on your own understanding.
- (2) You must consider all the facts involved, praying about them--trust in the Lord.
- (3) You must not dictate the terms and manner of God's revelation of His will--acknowledge Him in all ways.

(4) Reading God's Word will hasten the revelation of His will--He shall direct your paths.

! **The proof of having God's will.**

The impression, or what you felt was God's will becomes a conviction. There is a peace and rest in your heart and soul. You feel you can accept the decision of God with a heart of thanks. You can honestly look at God's revealed will and say that neither self, personal desire, human reasoning, nor human advice gave you God's will, but it came from the Spirit of God Himself. You are happy in your decision.

All of this may at first sound complicated. But if you will pray about these suggestions and consider them carefully, you will find that they will help a great deal in finding out what your place of service is for the Lord.

Questions For Lesson 11

1. Does God have a special place of service for you?
2. Name some ways a Christian can serve the Lord?
3. Is it possible for every believer to know God's will for him or her?
4. Is peace and rest in your inner person one proof of having God's will?
5. Are you willing to put Proverbs 3:5&6 into practice?
6. Where do "preconceived convictions" fit into finding God's will?
7. What truth does Romans 12:1&2 tell us about finding God's will for us?
8. Name the three "p^{is}" for finding God's will for you:
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
9. Which of these do you consider the most important?

10. Would you really and truly be willing to do God's will if He revealed it to you right now?

11. Memorize Proverbs 3:5 & 6

THE TRULY HAPPY CHRISTIAN HAS NO WILL BUT GOD'S WILL!

What's in Your Future? - Lesson 12

As much as he may not like to think about it, the average person knows that sometime in his future he will face death. What then? The Bible teaches a future existence for all people. A good illustration of this is found in Luke 16:19-31, where the curtain is drawn back by Jesus as He shows us a man in torment in hell and another in Abraham's bosom, or paradise.

FUTURE EVENTS

Three events in the future are important for a new Christian to know about and understand. These are big subjects and naturally can only be touched upon briefly in a study of this kind.

! **Death**

For the believe in Christ death means that the spirit moves out of its temporary abode (James 2:26) and is immediately present with the Lord (II Corinthians 5:8). The Apostle Paul says he would rather be present with the Lord. But while he remains in his body he wants to be a workman fruitful in God=s work (Philippians 1:21-24). This is a good attitude for us to have.

! **Resurrection**

Although the spirit leaves the body for a while, one day the body will be resurrected and reunited with the spirit in reparation for eternal existence. At that point, the Christian's body will be made like Christ's resurrection body. This is called "the redemption of our body" in Romans 8:23. We are assured of this resurrection even though these physical bodies of ours are corrupted (decayed or disintegrated) in the grave. Christ arose from the grave in a resurrection or transformed body. The disciples saw Him, recognized Him, watched as He ate, and could touch Him. Yet His resurrection body was not limited by the natural laws of the earth as our present bodies are. (See Luke 24:34-45.)

The resurrected Christ was the "first fruits" of the resurrection (I Corinthians 15:20-23). Just as the ancient Israelites would present their "first fruits" of the harvest in faith that God would grant them a rich harvest, so also Jesus Christ is the "first fruit" from among the dead, signifying that a great harvest of resurrected believers is yet to come forth. Then we see that these verses (the entire fifteenth chapter should be read in this connection) tell us that believers' bodies also will one day rise from the grave and be reunited with their spirits. Our limited physical bodies will be changed, fashioned or made new, like Christ's glorious body, as we read in Philippians 3:21. Thus we will live together with Christ for all eternity!

How we can thrill over such verses as I Corinthians 15:54-58, where it declares

triumphantly, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? . . . Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Unbelievers also will be resurrected from the dead. Jesus told about this in John 5:28-30. The time of this resurrection is revealed in Revelation 20:5, and the judgment of unbelievers before the great white throne of God and their doom is described in verses 11-15 of this chapter.

! **The Catching Up or Rapture**

At the time the resurrection of the believing dead takes place, Christ will also call to Himself all believers who are living at that time. They will likewise be changed into incorruptible bodies (not subject to decay), also fashioned or made new like Christ's glorious body (Philippians 3:21) in preparation for living for all eternity with Christ. This is referred to as the Catching up. It is also often called the *Rapture*, from the Latin word *rapio*, meaning *snatching away*.

This double event is described in I Corinthians 15:50-57. We are given more details in I Thessalonians 4:13-18, where we read, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

The doctrinal statement regarding future happenings to believers and unbelievers is: "We believe in future life, bodily resurrection and eternal judgment; that the spirits of the saved at death go immediately to be with Christ in Heaven, that their works shall be brought before the Judgment Seat of Christ for the determination of rewards which will take place at the time when Christ comes for His own; that the spirits of the unsaved at death descend immediately into Hades where they are kept under punishment until the final day of judgment, at which time their bodies shall be raised from the grave, that they shall be judged and cast into the lake of fire, the place of final and everlasting punishment." In addition to the scriptures mentioned, such as Luke 16:19-31; I Corinthians 15: and Revelation 20, other scriptures considered in this statement are: Romans 14:20-12 and II Corinthians 5:10.

THE CHRISTIAN LOOKS FOR CHRIST, NOT DEATH

We see now that the believer, unlike the "average person" who does not know Christ, does not necessarily have death in his future. No one knows when Christ will come to call living believers up to meet Him in the air. We know that He will come, for Christ Himself said, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to myself: that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:2, 3). And in I Thessalonians 4:16, "the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout," and in I Corinthians 15:52 we learn that this will happen in the twinkling of an eye. The fact that nearly 2,000 years have passed since these words

were given to the early believers only makes the certainty of this event that much nearer.

The coming of Christ for believers is only the beginning of wonderful events in the future of the believer. As mentioned before, our works will be judged by Christ and our rewards given(1 Corinthians 3:10-15). Remember, the Christian's sins were judged when Christ bore them upon His own body on the cross; the Christian's works will be judged by Christ at His coming for believers, both resurrected and living.

After a time of great tribulation here on earth, the Lord Jesus Christ will come back to earth in power and glory to personally reign as king over the earth. We are told he will bring all His saints with Him (all who have believed in Him as Lord and Savior) to reign with Him for one thousand years.

But that is not all! At the end of this thousand-year peaceful reign of Christ, the unsaved dead are raised and judged and receive their punishment: "whoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:125). Satan will also been cast into the "lake of fire and brimstone" to "be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Revelation 20:10). A new heaven and a new earth will appear where believers will live with Christ forever. This is wonderfully described in Revelation 21, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away."

The doctrine regarding the second coming of Christ is stated thus: "We believe in the second coming of Christ; that His return from Heaven will be personal, visible and glorious, a blessed hope for which we should constantly watch and pray, the time being unrevealed but always imminent; that when He comes He will first by resurrection of the dead and translation of the living remove from the earth His waiting Church, then pour out the righteous judgments of God upon the unbelieving world, afterwards descend with His Church and establish His glorious and literal kingdom over all the nations for a thousand years." Scriptures for this doctrine, in addition to those already given are: Matthew 24:36-42; Acts 1:6, 8, 11; II Peter 3:10-14: revelation 21:1-27.

The Christian has a glorious future!

Questions For Lesson 12

1. What particular "reality" do we generally dislike to think about?
Why?
2. What does the Bible teach for ALL people?
3. Explain the truths of the following:

James 2:26

2 Corinthians 5:8

Philippians 3:21

4. Concerning life and death, what is a good attitude for a Christian to have?
5. Will the body ever be reunited with the spirit? Explain:
6. Explain the term, "The redemption of the body." (Romans 8:23)
7. How will the natural laws of earth affect our resurrection bodies?
8. Will unbelievers be resurrected from the dead?
9. When the believers who have died are resurrected from the dead, what other event will take place at the same time?
10. Where is this double event described?
11. What issue will be determined at the "Judgement seat of Christ?"
12. How do we know that Christ will coming again?
13. Is there any hope that you or I might not have to face natural death?
Explain:

14. What will happen to the unsaved after they are judged and their names are not found written in the book of life? Give Scripture references for your answer.

15. For what event should the believer constantly watch and pray?

16. Memorize 1 Thessalonians 4:16&17

THE KING IS COMING! AM I READY IF HE SHOULD COME TODAY?

Keep On Going On - Lesson 13

As a house needs a good foundation to last through the years, as a dam needs good footing to hold back a great body of water, so a new Christian needs a good foundation on which to build his Christian life. In studying these lessons you have been building a foundation. You have made sure of your salvation experience, and you have learned what is needed for spiritual growth, what are your privileges and duties, and many of the important truths of the Bible. And now you have a responsibility to pass these truths on to others.

In the early days of the Olympic Games, a Greek runner would light a torch and run as fast as he could a certain distance, then another would take the torch from him and in turn run as fast as he could a certain distance. With each runner doing his part the torch was soon carried a great distance quickly. Christian runners before you have carried the Torch of Christian Truth well. You have received it. Now it is up to you to take this torch and carry it forward.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO REPRODUCE

In II Timothy 2:1, 2, we read that the apostle tells Timothy, his son in the Lord, that the message of the gospel which he has received from Paul should be given to others who in turn have the responsibility to give it to still others. In other words, every Christian has the responsibility to reproduce. So you may do this, let us consider some important questions.

! What was God's purpose in saving you?

In John 15:16 Jesus says that we have not chosen Him, but He has chosen us and ordained us (or given us the duty) that we should go and bring forth fruit. As the fruit of an apple tree is an apple, so the fruit of the Christian is the producing of another Christian. Thus, God's purpose in saving you was to make you a part of His plan to lead others to Him.

! Who has invited you to be a soul-winner?

In Matthew 4:19 we see Christ Himself has told us that if we follow him, He will make us to become fishers of men, or soul-winners. Christ has invited us to this important task.

! Who will help you to have spiritual power to witness concerning your faith in Christ?

In Acts 1:8 we read that the third person of the Trinity of God, the Holy Spirit, will give you the power you need to witness for Christ.

! How do you win a soul to Christ?

The simplest way is as easy as A, B, C. Take your Bible and show the person that "ALL have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). That he must "BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 16:31). Then he should "CONFESS Jesus as Lord" (Romans 10:9).

HOW TO SHOW THE WAY OF SALVATION TO OTHERS

To prepare yourself to show another person the way of salvation, study the following steps carefully, not losing sight of the simple approach given above.

Step 1: Show man's condemned position apart from Christ (John 3:18, 36; Romans 6:23).

Step 2: Show man's cleansed, justified position in Christ (Romans 5:1; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Step 3: Show that to get from outside of Christ into Christ a transition known as the new birth must take place. This involves something the person must do and something that God will do.

(1) What the person must do.

- . Admit to being a sinner (Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23).
- . Be willing to repent of his sins (Acts 2:38, 17:30; "repent" meaning to be sorry for his sins and willing to forsake them).
- . Believe in Christ, that He is the Son of God who died, was buried and rose again (Acts 16:31 with Acts 8:37).
- . Open his heart's door, so that Christ can come in to live (Revelation 3:20).
- . Receive Christ by faith in a personal way into his life (John 1:12).
- . Confess Christ before men (Romans 10:9 with Matthew 10:32).

(2) What God will do.

- . Forgive him of all his sins (Isaiah 1:18; Ephesians 4:32).
- . Not fail to accept him for salvation (John 6:37).
- . Save him (Romans 10:9).
- . Make him a new creature (II Corinthians 5:17).
- . Forgive him for future sins because Christ has paid for them too (I John 2:1, 2).

There is no joy to surpass the thrill of winning a soul to Christ. May the Lord give you much fruit for your faithful witness for Him.

THE CHALLENGE OF YOUR NEW LIFE

You are venturing into an exciting future on the sea of your new Christian life. God alone knows what the future holds for you, yet it presents the greatest challenge you have ever faced. Why is the Christian life that you have entered into such a challenge? Let's consider it to see.

! **You are one of a comparative few to have an understanding of God.**

Although there are many who go to a church of some kind, have a form of worship, or believe in a Divine Being, you are one of a comparative few who have entered a relationship with God through His Son. It is this unique spiritual position which gives the future a great sense of challenge.

! **Every person you meet is an individual challenge.**

When you meet a Christian you are challenged to be a blessing and an encouragement to him in his Christian walk. When you meet one who isn't a Christian, he represents a prospect for Heaven, one to whom you should witness. Thus, every person you meet is a prospect of some kind. What a challenge this is for you to lay up treasures in Heaven, to increase the spiritual reward the Lord has waiting for you!

! **Your time has eternal value.**

Make sure that you use the time the Lord has given you to advantage. Strive to make this new life of yours one that counts for God. The Apostle Paul said in II Timothy 4:7 that he has kept the faith and thus finished his course in life successfully. May you have this same testimony.

Questions For Lesson 13

1. Can you list five things you have learned in these lessons that have helped you?

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

2. Every Christian has a responsibility
to_____.

3. What is God's purpose in saving you?
4. In Matthew 4:19 what does Jesus Christ invite us to become?
5. According to Acts 1:8, Who will give you the power to effectively give witness to what God has done for you?
6. What are the simple "A, B, C's" of salvation?
 - A)
 - B)
 - C)
7. What unique spiritual position have you entered into?
8. Is it true that every person you meet is a prospect of some kind? Explain:
9. Will you be able to say what Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:7 at the end of your life?
10. Do most people have an understanding of God and His word?
11. According to 2 Timothy 2:1&2, what is our responsibility as believers?
12. Memorize Matthew 4:19

PRAISE THE LORD, YOU HAVE FINISHED THIS COURSE! BUT WITH KNOWLEDGE HAS COME RESPONSIBILITY (LUKE 12:48)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO LESSONS

NEW LIFE FOR ADULTS - LESSON 1: BEGINNING YOUR NEW LIFE

1. How does a person become a member of God's family?
By receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior by faith. (Jn. 1:12)
2. What is it called when you share the events of your conversion with others?
Your testimony.
3. List three ingredients of Bible salvation ("recipe").
 - 1) *Acknowledgment of being a sinner*
 - 2) *Genuine repentance*
 - 3) *Commitment of your life to Him (Lordship - Rom. 10:9, Acts 2:36)*
4. What does the word "repentance" mean?
To have a change of heart which leads to change of action (Matt.3:8, II Cor. 7:9-11)
5. What does the word "believe" mean?
Complete commitment to that belief - to totally believe, completely trusting. Light switch in a dark room illustrates faith. You know the switch is there. (Heb. 11:1)
6. According to 1 Peter 1:18-19, what price has been paid for your redemption?
The blood of Christ
7. Where do we get assurance of our salvation?
 - 1) ***From the word of God (Answer in lesson) (I John 5:13, Eph. 4:30) (explain a seal).***
 - 2) *From a changed life - (II Peter 1:5-11).*
 - 3) *Witness of the Spirit - (Rom. 8:16).*
8. If we still wonder if God really forgave us of our sins, what are we really saying? *I doubt God can forgive my sins.*
9. What is under the atoning blood of Christ?
All sins, past, present, and future (Jn. 1:29, I Jn. 2:2).
10. What should we take as our assurance that Christ received us to Himself?
Take God's word as His promise that He did receive you (Jn. 6:37-40; Rom. 10:13; Jn. 10:27-28; I Jn. 5:12, 13).
11. Salvation is not based upon feelings or emotions, but rather on faith (Heb. 11:1) and trust. (God said it, I believe it.)
12. Why are emotions not dependable?
Emotions can change, but faith that is built on strong convictions doesn't change.
13. Memorize 1 John 1:9
14. Start memorizing the names of the books of the New Testament.

"I have studied God's word and by it I am growing in Christ!"

Start reading Gospel of John. John 20:30:31 designed to give evidence which leads to belief.

NEW LIFE FOR ADULTS - LESSON 2: YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. How can we show our appreciation for the blessings of Christ?

- We obey God's word. (1 Sam. 15:22; John 14:15, 21.)
2. Baptism by immersion symbolizes our Lord's death & burial and resurrection to new life. (Rom. 6:3-5)
 3. What method of baptism did God's servants use in the early Church as recorded in the New Testament? Immersion (Acts 8:26-38)
 4. What Bible reference describes our union with Christ? (Romans 6:3-5)
 5. What does our baptism by immersion say to others?
We are leaving the desires of this world and we are going to live for Christ.
 6. How many times do we find unbelievers being baptized in the New Testament?
Never.
 7. What book in the New Testament records many instances of believers being baptized?
Acts
 8. What does 1 Corinthians 12:13 tell us? (In your own words.)
At salvation we become a part of the one body of believers by the uniting work of the Holy Spirit.
 9. In your own words, what is a New Testament Church?
An assembly of born again believers who meet together for worship, prayer, fellowship and teaching; and to observe the Lord's Supper and baptism, and to bring the message of the gospel to unbelievers.
 10. What is meant by the "autonomy" of the local church?
The local church should govern itself under headship of Jesus Christ and under the guidelines of the word of God, rather than by outside individuals or organizations.
 11. What is necessary for proper growth in your Christian life?
Attend church and get involved in church activities (Heb. 10:24-25); reading the word of God (Act 2:1-2); hearing the word of God; and by the power of the Holy Spirit seeking to obey it (Rom.10:17)
 12. How many ordinances did the Lord Jesus give to the Christ to observe? 2 Please name them. Baptism and the Lord's supper.
 13. Which ordinance must we keep to be saved?
Neither one. We are saved by Christ as a free gift. Salvation comes only from accepting God's sacrifice of his Son, through repentance and living faith.
 14. When we partake of the Lord's Supper we are remembering Him. (Luke 22:19, 20).
 15. Do the elements of the Lord's supper literally become His body and blood? NO (Rom. 6:10)
 16. What should we do before we partake of this ordinance? a) Examine ourselves b) Judge ourselves honestly c) and confess our sins to God and others if needed (1 Cor. 11:27-34)
 17. What principles of giving do we learn from 1 Corinthians 16:2 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8?
 18. Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9

God's Word is a "lamp to my feet, and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

NEW LIFE FOR ADULTS - LESSON 3: WHAT THE BIBLE IS ALL ABOUT

1. What does the Bible claim to be? The inspired word of God. (II Tim. 3:16)
2. What do we mean when we say that the Bible is "inspired by God"?
God spoke through the writers of the Bible in a way that they recorded exactly what He wanted them to write. Breathed out by God - as we speak by forcing breath across our vocal cords, so also God's word is the God-breathed communication of God to mankind.
3. What New Testament verses explain how God gave His Word? II Peter 1:21; Heb. 1:1; II Tim. 3:16;
4. How much of God's Word is fallible? None of it. (Matt. 5:18, Ps. 119:160, Jn. 10:35)
5. How can a person be totally convinced of the Bible's infallibility?
Faith is the key. No matter how much proof you may have, you still have to believe it. (I Cor. 1:18, I Cor. 2:9-16.)
6. How many writers did God use to write the Bible and over a period of how many years?
About 40 writers over 1500 years. From Moses - 1400 B.C. to John - 90 A.D.
7. True science contradicts the Bible. True False X (Ps. 119:160)
8. The Bible divides into 2 main parts. What are they? The Old Testament and The New Testament.
9. What is a believer's source of spiritual growth? The word of God. (I Peter 2:2)
10. Why did Paul say that the Word of God is "profitable" in 2 Timothy 3:16-17?
It teaches how to live the Christian life.
11. There are no prophecies in the Bible left to be fulfilled. True FALSE X
Fulfilled prophecy also helps prove scripture time. (Ps. 22, Zech. 9:9-10, Isa. 44:28-45:7)
12. The Old Testament divides into five sections. Name them. Law, History, Poetry, Major Prophets, Minor Prophets.
13. What five books make up the historical section of the New Testament? The four Gospels and Acts.
14. What does the unity of the Bible's 66 books prove? The Bible must be God's word to have such unity.
15. Memorize Psalm 119:11

"SIN CAN KEEP YOU FROM THE BIBLE, BUT THE BIBLE CAN KEEP YOU FROM SIN"

NEW LIFE FOR ADULTS - LESSON 4: YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. What is a believer called in 1 Peter 2:2? A spiritual babe
2. What will the "milk of the word" do for us? Help us to grow as a Christian.
3. How do we exercise our spiritual muscles? Taking part in Christian activities.
4. List five things you can do to help your spiritual growth.
Study the Bible

- Get instruction from a mature Christian
- Establish daily devotions
- Memorize scripture (Psalm 119:11)
- Understand yourself, old and new nature, and the battle that goes on
- 5. Which Bible verse tells us to do our best to know God's word. II Tim. 2:15.
- 6. Explain the following:
 - Reading the Bible God speaking to you.
 - Prayer You speaking to God
 - Meditation Thinking about God, you and God communicating with one another.
- 7. When will we have a convenient time for devotions? Never
- 8. What is the secret to memorizing Scripture? Write it down repeat, repeat, repeat it over and over and review it often.
- 9. According to Psalm 119:11, why did the Psalmist hide God's word in his heart? So he would not sin against God.
- 10. In your own words explain the conflict between the two natures within the Christian.

The old nature within makes us susceptible to temptation to continue in your old way of living, but the new nature, (Christ in you by The Holy Spirit) enables us to love and obey the will of God for your life. There is a constant struggle that goes on and we have to choose which we will obey.
- 11. What must we determine concerning the two natures within us? We must starve the old nature and feed the new.
- 12. Carefully read over Romans chapter 7. Be prepared to discuss it and answer questions concerning it.
- 13. Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:13

PRAISE THE LORD, I'M LEARNING ABOUT HIM!

NEW LIFE FOR ADULTS - LESSON 5: PRIVILEGES THAT ARE YOURS

1. Because we are sinful, Jesus Christ is ashamed to call us His spiritual friends and relatives.
TRUE_____ FALSE X (Heb. 2:11, Heb. 4:14-16)
2. Explain 1 John 3:1-3 in your own words.
3. What verse in the Bible teaches us that we are related through Christ to all the Christians in the world? (Ephesians 2:19, 1 Cor. 12:12)
4. Define the term "saint."
Someone who has been saved into Christ's family. Greek meaning: one that has been set apart.
5. How does the Holy Spirit help us?
He is our own personal teacher and guide to all truth. (I Jn. 2:27, Jn. 14:16,17)
6. Who is the only mediator between you and God?
Jesus Christ. (I Tim. 2:5)
7. What is a mediator?

- One who speaks from one party to another.
8. In the New Testament sense of the word, what is a priest?
One who has access to God through belief in Jesus Christ. (I Pet. 2:5-6, 9-10; Rom. 12:1; 15:16; Heb.13:15.)
 9. Name at least two promises from the Bible you are claiming.
 - 1) God is always with us. (Matthew 28:20)
 - 2) God will bear you up and help you when in need. (I Cor. 10:13)
 10. Name one promise not in this book that you have found on your own. (Give the reference.)
God's word is forever reliable and he doesn't change his mind on you. Psalm 33:11
 11. What does the Bible mean when it says that Jesus is our Advocate?
He represents us before the Father to plea our case for us and the Father always accepts Christ's plea because he is perfect. When he pleads our case, it is his own obedient life, death and resurrection that Jesus brings as evidence on our behalf. (I Jn. 2:1-2)
 12. Why is it possible for Jesus to go before God the Father on our behalf?
Because he paid the penalty for our sins on the cross and because He is righteous. Christ's blood was the payment. (Heb. 10:10ff, Heb. 7:25 - continuing ministry)
 13. How many of our burdens should we turn over to Christ?
All, because only he is able bear all of our burdens. (I Peter 5:7)
 14. Will some Christians go to heaven without rewards?
YES, perhaps. Explain. Some Christians will accept Christ but will not do his work. He will be saved but will get no rewards for no work. (I Cor. 3:10-15, Col. 3)
 15. What is the ever present hope of the believer?
The day of Christ's return. (Jn. 14:1-3)
 16. Explain the meaning of 2 Corinthians 5:1.
The earthly tent is our body now. The building of God is our resurrected body . So we need not to fear death because we will be raised up into an eternal body when Jesus comes again. (Rapture: I Thess. 4:16-17)
 17. Memorize Romans 8:28

NEW LIFE FOR ADULTS - LESSON 6: YOUR CHRISTIAN DUTIES

1. What follows privileges? Duties.
2. Explain what it means to be "filled with the Spirit."
To allow the Spirit to fill you so that God has **full control** over your life. (Eph. 5:18)
3. What happens to the Holy Spirit when we allow sin and self to dominate our lives?
He is not allowed to give us the power He would like to. (Eph. 4:30, I Thess. 5:19)

4. What is true prayer? A simple conversation with God.
5. What is intercession? Praying for others.
6. What do you think Paul meant when he said, "pray without ceasing?" Being always in an attitude of prayer.
7. Explain, "Prayer is a two way conversation." You must heed God's word and meditate to listen to Him as well as speaking to Him.
8. Why should we pray for God's will to be done? Because God knows what is best, always.
9. Today God reveals Himself in visions and dreams. TRUE FALSE X
10. Through what means does God reveal Himself?
Through the Scripture and through the Holy Spirit's guidance in alignment with His word.
11. As you read the Word of God this week in your devotions, find a thought, verse or promise that encourages you. Peter's denial of Jesus. Jesus knew Peter's heart better than Peter did, just as He knows mine better than me. So if I follow Him I can't go wrong.
Also Deut. 31:6 We can be strong in our Christian lives because it is God who is with us and He will not fail or forsake us. We don't have to worry about what others might do or say to us.
12. Who helps us to be faithful witnesses and evangelists? The Holy Spirit by allowing Him to fill and control you. (Acts 1:8, Matt. 18:18-20)
13. What does it mean to be faithful? To give God first place in our lives always.
14. Give some reasons why joy might not be present in a Christian's life.
Discouragement, physical weakness, daily pressures, other worries draw you away from God. Sin.
15. The Lord may answer our prayers in three ways. He may say " yes," " no," or " wait a while." (Psalm 27:13-14, Isa. 40:27-31, Dan. 10:10-14)
16. Memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Pray without ceasing.

I HAVE TALKED TO _____ PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS CHRIST THIS WEEK.

NEW LIFE FOR ADULTS - LESSON 7: KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE

1. What does the word doctrine mean? Teaching.
2. Doctrine will help to stabilize you in basic Bible understanding. (II Tim. 3:16-17, Ps. 1: 2-3)
3. Which is true? (Check one) The Bible contains the Word of God. _____
The Bible is the Word of God. X
4. According to Revelation 22:18-19, we must add certain things to the Bible to make it understandable. True FALSE X
5. Name the three distinct persons of the Godhead. 1) The Father (I Pet. 1:2, II cor. 13:14) 2) The Son (Heb. 1:8-12; Isa. 41:4, 44:6; Rev. 1:8 & 17-18) 3) The Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4)

6. What possible means of salvation does man have within himself? None (Rom. 3:9-18)
7. We believe in salvation by Grace through Faith. (Eph. 2:8-9)
8. What work does the Holy Spirit do with regard to the world? He convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment. (Works on conscience - Jn. 16:8-11)
9. Name five things the Holy Spirit does for the believer. 1) He regenerates (New birth - John 16:8-11)
- 2) Gives strength for living a Christian life (Acts 1:8) 3) Teaches and applies guides as the word of God to our lives (Jn. 16:13) 4) Sealed us locked into the family of God (Eph. 4:30) 5) Baptizes (I Cor. 12:13).
10. What does it mean to be "baptized by the Holy Spirit?" The Holy Spirit places us into the spiritual body of Christ, (into the church of believers). (Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 12:13; Eph.1:13)
11. What does the Holy Spirit do to a person before he or she is saved? He applies the word of God to his heart to move him and convicts a person of his sins.
12. What grieves the Holy Spirit and causes His ministry to be minimized?
Unconfessed sin. (Eph. 4:30)
13. What quenches the Holy Spirit and shuts off His ministry through us? Resistance to his guidance and leading. (I Thess. 5:19)
14. What does the Holy Spirit desire to produce in the life of every believer? Christ like characteristics - the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-23)
15. What Christ-like trait would you like the Holy Spirit to produce in you? I would like Him to help strengthen me in being a good witness for the Lord, by helping me understand His word more fully and also by helping me understand and relate better to the people I witness to. Also, I would like to become more humble about my ways and more proud of God's ways.
16. Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16-17

I'M MORE THAN HALF WAY THROUGH THIS COURSE!

NEW LIFE FOR ADULTS - LESSON 8: WATCH THESE DANGERS

1. A Christian will find persecution in this life. TRUE X FALSE (II Tim. 3:12, I Pet. 4:12-13, Acts 5:40-42)
2. What causes the unsaved to criticize and persecute Christians? They do not understand what we have and they sense judgment in your presence. (II Cor. 2:14-17)
3. Explain John 15:20. If you lead a life for a Christ you can expect the same type of treatment He got.
4. When others persecute you, what should your reaction be?
 - 1) Show love and understanding toward them.
 - 2) Return kindness and pray for them that they might learn about the our Lord. (Rom. 12:17-21; Matt. 5:44)

5. All Christians are perfect and absolutely trustworthy. TRUE FALSE X
 Explain: Everyone is still human and able to fall. God is still working on us. Phil. 1:6, I Pet. 4:8, Prov. 10:12.
6. It is a good idea for new Christians to lean completely on the pastor.
 TRUE FALSE X Explain: Everyone is subject to fail except God and so we should base our faith in Him not on humans. (Acts 17:10-11)
7. Name one enemy you will have to the grave. Satan. (I Pet. 5:8-10)
8. What caused Satan to rebel against God? His pride and wicked ambition. (Ezk. 28:11-19, I Tim. 3:6)
9. Satan is ALL-POWERFUL. TRUE FALSE X (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6)
10. The Christian can only hope that one day Satan will be defeated.
 TRUE FALSE X Satan was defeated at the Cross. (Heb. 2:14, Jn. 12:31, 16:11; I Jn. 3:8, Rev. 20:10.)
11. Read Ephesians 6:10-20 carefully and on the back of this paper list the armor which God has provided for the believer's spiritual battles.
12. How can we resist Satan? 1) The armor of God (Eph. 6) 2) Blood of the Lamb (Rev. 12:11) 3) The power of the Holy Spirit (Jas. 4:7, I Jn. 4:4).
13. List seven things Satan does to try to defeat the Christian.
 - 1) lies to confuse us (Gen. 3:4)
 - 2) deceives (Rev. 20:10)
 - 3) accuses (Rev. 12:10)
 - 4) misrepresents (II Cor. 11:14)
 - 5) blinds (II Cor. 4:4)
 - 6) opposes good
 - 7) tempts (I Thess. 3:5)
14. What should you do when trials, burdens, and problems confront you? Give them all to the Lord and he will work them out. (I Pet. 5:6-7)
15. Memorize James 4:7 "Submit therefore to God, Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

IN JESUS I HAVE THE VICTORY!

NEW LIFE FOR ADULTS - LESSON 9: CLAIM YOUR VICTORIES

1. What is one reason why we should seek to live a victorious life in Christ? To please God. To keep a good attitude for witnessing for Christ. To be a good testimony for Christ to non-believers.
2. Does enthusiasm deserve a place in the Christian's life? YES Why? Because we know no matter how bad things get, here we have overcome through believing in Christ and we have eternal life through Him. It is contagious.
3. What is the result of a victorious Christian life? 1) Personal contentment 2) I will be a challenge and blessing to others. 3) I will be an example for Christ.
4. What should we do when we begin to feel blue and sorry for ourselves? Thing

about what Christ endured and did for us and the result of it in our lives. (Phil. 4:6-8)

5. How is it possible for a Christian to rejoice even in the middle of adversity and trial?
Because he knows that he has won out of over all earthly things and we will be eternally filled with joy in Heaven. He is always with us and will never let us down. (Rom. 8:31-39)
6. Where was the Apostle Paul when he wrote Philippians 4:4? Prison in Rome. (Rom. 1:13)
7. Is a victorious Christian life dependent upon our present circumstances?
YES NO X Not through circumstances, but through Christ. We will not always realize the reason for things until we are with Him.
8. God's people should be a victorious, joy-filled people.
9. Why is it possible for a Christian to say, "We won."? Because Christ defeated every evil and wickedness at the cross and believed this so "We won!"
10. What forces were defeated when Christ died on the cross? Sin, death, hell, and the grave. (I Cor. 15:51-58)
11. What will our living a victorious Christian life in Christ help do for others?
Challenge and bless them as well as be an example for them.
12. What does Acts 13:52 tell us about the disciples in the early church? That they were continually filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.
13. Read over the entire book of Philippians carefully and list all the references where Paul speaks of joy or rejoicing.
14. Memorize Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me!"

VICTORY IS OURS FOR THE TAKING; IT IS IN THE SON OF GOD, JESUS CHRIST!

NEW LIFE FOR ADULTS - LESSON 10: OTHERS SEE YOU

1. Some people see God only as they see Him in your life. (II Cor. 5:20, I John 4:12)
2. A Christian life that is Christ-like will attract others to the Lord. What happens when a Christian's life is poorly lived? It drives people away from the Lord.
3. What does God expect of us after salvation? To live a life that is pleasing to God. (I Pet. 1:16, Titus 2:14, Eph. 2:10)
4. How can we have a godly life? Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to obedience to the word of God. (Gal. 5:16, Jn. 17:17)
5. What rule of conduct should settle the many questions about what is right and wrong for the Christian? Will it make Christianity look bad and will it cause others to sin. (Rom. 14:13-16)
6. How does a small fly in a bowl of soup illustrate the effects of sin? A little bit of sin ruins a lot. (I Cor. 5:6-7)
7. Is there any sacrifice involved in a Christ-like walk? YES Explain. Romans 12:1-2
8. Who should be our standard or example of behavior? Jesus Christ (Read 1 Peter 2:21 and 1 John 2:6)

9. Is it true that the godly life is an unattractive one filled only with "thou shalt nots?"
NO

Explain: It's a joyous life. The prohibitions of God are for our own good!

10. What does the Bible mean when it tells us as Christians not to be "unequally yoked together with unbelievers?" Our lives should be lived with other Christians and we should not be partners with unbelievers. [Oil and water don't mix.] (II Cor. 6:14-7:1)
11. What does the term "worldly" mean? Selfish, looking out only for yourself. Loving what the world can give rather than what God can give. (I Jn. 2:15-16)
12. Read Romans 14 and summarize it in your own words on the back of this paper.
13. Memorize 1 John 2:15

IF I DO NOT PRACTICE WHAT I PREACH, MY ACTIONS WILL SPEAK SO LOUDLY THAT THE WORLD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HEAR WHAT I AM SAYING!

NEW LIFE FOR ADULTS - LESSON 11: GOD'S BEST FOR YOU

1. Does God have a special place of service for you? YES Explain what you think that might be? I'm not sure but I do know he wants me to tell others about what he can do for them. (Acts 13:36, Eph. 2:10)
2. Name some ways a Christian can serve the Lord? Getting involved in church activities and witnessing.
3. Is it possible for every believer to know God's will for him or her? YES
4. Is peace and rest in your inner person one proof of having God's will? YES (I Jn. 3:19-22)

Explain: Because we must be in tune with God for him to reveal His word to us and when we are in tune with God will we will have peace and rest in our hearts and soul.

5. Are you willing to put Proverbs 3:5&6 into practice? YES
6. Where do "preconceived convictions" fit into finding God's will? Nowhere, we should not lean on our own understanding.
7. What truth does Romans 12:1&2 tell us about finding God's will for us? We must prevent ourselves a living sacrifice to God and be conformed to Him and not the world.
8. Name the three "p^{is}" for finding God's will for you:
- 1) Preparation - desire to know God's will, an open heart to God; no areas of known resistance.
 - 2) Practice - (Prov. 3:5-6) .Cast off preconceived ideas .Pray about options, trusting them to the Lord . No dictating of terms or conditions .Read His word for direction.
 - 3) Proof - Peace of heart and mind, and conviction of being in God's will.
9. Which of these do you consider the most important? Preparation - which gets you to the other two.

Why? It is the first step and if we show a real desire to know God's will, we can be sure He will reveal it to us. Then we may do the others.

10. Would you really and truly be willing to do God's will if He revealed it to you right now? YES
11. Memorize Proverbs 3:5 & 6

THE TRULY HAPPY CHRISTIAN HAS NO WILL BUT GOD'S WILL!

NEW LIFE FOR ADULTS - LESSON 12: WHAT'S IN YOUR FUTURE?

1. What particular "reality" do we generally dislike to think about? We all must face death.
Why? Unsaved people worry about the hereafter.
2. What does the Bible teach for ALL people? A future existence for all people.
(Rom.20:10-15, Rom. 14:10)
3. Explain the truths of the following: Death is when spirit is separated from the body.
James 2:26 A body without the spirit is not alive/faith without the works is not alive.
2 Corinthians 5:8 It will be great to be with the Lord, but while we're here we must be strong in our faith.
Philippians 3:21 When we go to be with the Lord, we will be transformed from our imperfect bodies into a glorified body with Christ, perfect like Christ.
4. Concerning life and death, what is a good attitude for a Christian to have? We would rather be with the Lord, but for now we should be happy to be here to serve Him. (Phil. 1:21-26)
5. Will the body ever be reunited with the spirit? YES Explain: When Christ returns again for His saints, our spirit will be reunited with a new glorified body like that of Christ Jesus.
6. Explain the term, "The redemption of the body." (Romans 8:23) Our bodies will be made like Christ's resurrected body. They will be redeemed from the curse of sin.
7. How will the natural laws of earth affect our resurrection bodies? There will be no effect to our new incorruptible bodies. (Jn. 20:19, Acts 1:9)
8. Will unbelievers be resurrected from the dead? YES At the Great White Throne Judgement. (Rev. 20:11-15)
9. When the believers who have died are resurrected from the dead, what other event will take place at the same time? Rapture
10. Where is this double event described? 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Cor. 15:50-59
11. What issue will be determined at the "Judgement seat of Christ?" Our works will be put through the fire and we will be rewarded accordingly. (I Cor. 3:10-15)
12. How do we know that Christ will coming again? (John 14:2-3) Christ told us so! Many will doubt. (II Peter 3:3-4)

13. Is there any hope that you or I might not have to face natural death? YES
Explain: We may be raptured up before we die.
14. What will happen to the unsaved after they are judged and their names are not found written in the book of life? Give Scripture references for your answer.
Rev. 20:11-15 They will be cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:11-15)
15. For what event should the believer constantly watch and pray? Jesus Christ's second coming to establish His reign.
16. Memorize 1 Thessalonians 4:16&17
THE KING IS COMING! AM I READY IF HE SHOULD COME TODAY?

NEW LIFE FOR ADULTS - LESSON 13: KEEP ON GOING

1. Can you list five things you have learned in these lessons that have helped you?
 - 1) I have learned the importance of confession of sin, to keep a right relationship with God.
 - 2) 1 Cor. 10:13 has helped me as a memory verse of practical value.
 - 3) I have learned that it's important to use what you know to continue to grow.
 - 4) I have learned it's important to know your beliefs if you plan to witness.
 - 5) The promise of heaven, the new body and others are a great encouragement for me.
2. Every Christian has a responsibility to tell others the gospel.
3. What is God's purpose in saving you? To cause us to bring forth fruit, by leading others to Christ. (Eph. 2:1-7)
4. In Matthew 4:19 what does Jesus Christ invite us to become? Fishers of men, harvesters of souls.
5. According to Acts 1:8, Who will give you the power to effectively give witness to what God has done for you? The Holy Spirit.
6. What are the simple "A, B, C^s" of salvation?
 - A) All have sinned (Rom. 3:23).
 - B) Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31).
 - C) Confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9).
7. What unique spiritual position have you entered into? We have a real relationship with God through His Son. (Rom. 8:12-17)
8. Is it true that every person you meet is a prospect of some kind? YES Explain: For a Christian you can be a challenge and blessing to Him; and to nonbelievers you can tel them the gospel.
9. Will you be able to say what Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:7 at the end of your life? YES!!
10. Do most people have an understanding of God and His word? NO
11. According to 2 Timothy 2:1&2, what is our responsibility as believers? To be strong in our faith and to teach others the truths we have learned.
12. Memorize Matthew 4:19

PRAISE THE LORD, YOU HAVE FINISHED THIS COURSE! BUT WITH KNOWLEDGE HAS COME RESPONSIBILITY (LUKE 12:48)