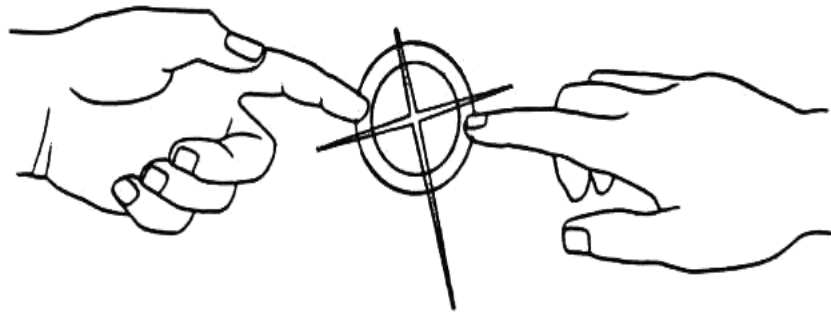


# **BASIC CHRISTIANITY**

**A  
DISCIPLESHIP SERIES**



**BY  
PASTOR FRED ALLEN  
LEE'S SUMMIT BAPTIST TEMPLE  
1992**

# BASIC CHRISTIANITY

## SUGGESTED USE

This course will not make an individual a disciple. The application of the Word of God to the saved person's life and the correct heart action that follows makes a person a disciple. If any individual wishes to become Christ's disciple, he must apply the Scripture to his life and not just gain knowledge. In I Corinthians 8:1, the Bible tells us that knowledge "puffeth up". In writing this material, it is not my desire to cause individuals to become puffed up, but rather to become sincere followers of Jesus Christ.

Because of the depravity of mankind, it is a necessity to copyright this material. I do not wish to hinder the use of this material in discipling others; therefore, I give the freedom to anyone to copy or reproduce this material except for purposes of selling or making a profit. The copyright laws restrict changes or alterations in this material and prevents others from claiming authorship.

I strongly advise that all memorization and home work be done from the Authorized King James version of the Bible. There are many versions of the Bible on the market today and most of them with changes that devalue Christ and the doctrines of God. When I study the Bible, the King James version is always my final authority and, consequently, I find no need for questionable translations.

Please use this material as a tool to help others. I encourage experienced Christians to teach and train younger Christians to follow Christ with their spirit, soul and body. May God bless you as you make disciples.

Sincerely,

Frederick T. Allen, Pastor

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## **STEP ONE - GOD'S JOY**

LESSON ONE	SALVATION PROVIDED BY GOD
LESSON TWO	GOD'S RELATIONSHIP CONTINUES

## **STEP TWO - GOD'S WAY**

LESSON THREE	GOD COMMUNICATES TO THE SAVED
LESSON FOUR	GOD INSTITUTED THE CHURCH

## **STEP THREE - GOD'S WORD**

LESSON FIVE	THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD
LESSON SIX	THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD IN THE CHRISTIAN

## **STEP FOUR - GOD'S RELATIONSHIP**

LESSON SEVEN	PRAYER IS COMMUNICATING WITH GOD
LESSON EIGHT	FOLLOWING THE WILL OF GOD

## **STEP FIVE - GOD'S LIFE**

LESSON NINE	DEALING WITH PERSONAL SIN
LESSON TEN	FREEDOM AS A CHILD OF GOD

## **STEP SIX - GOD'S DESIRE**

LESSON ELEVEN	JESUS ON EARTH TODAY
LESSON TWELVE	LEADING OTHERS TO CHRIST

## **STEP SEVEN - GOD'S MINISTRY**

LESSON THIRTEEN	STEWARDSHIP NOT OWNERSHIP
LESSON FOURTEEN	GOD'S RECOGNITION OF LIFE

# **BASIC CHRISTIANITY**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In the Bible, Jesus had men and women who followed his teachings called disciples. The word disciple means one who follows a specific line of teaching. A disciple of Jesus Christ is one who follows the teaching Christ gave to his apostles and that is recorded in the Word of God. In Acts 11:26, the disciples were called Christians and from that time until now, disciples of Christ have been identified by the name Christian.

What does the name Christian mean to the world, and what does the name Christian mean to you? As a noun, the word means "one who professes belief in the teachings of Jesus Christ" (disciple), and as an adjective, it means "of or relating to Christianity". If you are going to be identified as a Christian, you need to profess a belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and relate your life to His teachings. Basic Christian training is to help you identify your life with Christ.

The first question asked by almost every person who accepts Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior is "what do I do now?" One of the greatest needs in the life of a new Christian is to know what he should do with his life. The only way he can know this is to be taught. Basic Christianity is designed to help one Christian teach another Christian the basic Biblical truths needed to develop his new life and to identify himself with Christ.

This series was designed for individual spiritual development. It is recommended that this series be used for individual discipling, along with reading, memorization, writing, and personal involvement to help mature the Christian. Included in each lesson is recommended home work designed specifically for each lesson.

There are seven steps in this study that each Christian should follow in developing his life. The steps can be explained as building a house.

- 7. LIVE IN.....GOD'S MINISTRY**
- 6. FURNISH.....GOD'S DESIRE**
- 5. INTERIOR.....GOD'S LIFE**
- 4. ROOF.....GOD'S RELATIONSHIP**
- 3. WALLS.....GOD'S WORD**
- 2. FLOOR.....GOD'S WAY**
- 1. FOUNDATION.....GOD'S JOY**

The Bible is the instruction book for every Christian and teaches us to help others grow to become the mature Christian God desires. There are several places God instructs us to teach others:

- Proverbs 22:6, Tells us to train up a child in the way he should go.
- II Timothy 2:2, Tells us to teach faithful men.
- Matthew 28:19, Instructs us to teach all nations.
- Acts 5:42, Informs us that in the early church the apostles taught daily in every house.

Every Christian should accept the responsibility of helping others follow Christ. Each Christian should be actively involved in teaching and training young Christians. This series is designed to give the discipler a course of action to follow in teaching a young Christian how to live what God has planned for his life.

# **STEP ONE - GOD'S JOY**

## **LESSON ONE**

### **SALVATION PROVIDED BY GOD**

Introduction: From the beginning of time God desired to have a personal relationship with mankind. God is perfect and cannot have direct association with sin of any kind. Because man committed sin, he became separated from God. God, in his desire to have a relationship with man, provided a way to re-establish this relationship. The only way man can have a relationship with God is through God's way--Jesus Christ. This relationship is given to you the moment you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

#### **I. WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST A PERSON IS LOST**

##### **A. The Lost Man. II Corinthians 4:3-4**

1. Any person who has not accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior is (according to the Bible) LOST. Matthew 18:11. A lost person is someone who does not know where they are or where they are going. When asked the question, "Do you know for sure you are going to Heaven?" they will respond with a negative answer.

2. Those who have not accepted Christ as their personal Savior are spiritually blind in their minds and hearts. Ephesians 4:18. They are blinded in their minds by the god of this world (Satan) who does not allow them to see beyond this world. A lost person cannot comprehend the things of God or Heaven because they are limited to the things of this world.
3. Before salvation, a person is lost and blind, and the Gospel (*which is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ*, I Corinthians 15:1-4) is hidden. Someone or some thing has to reveal Christ to him before he can accept God's way to Heaven.

B. Sin entered the world by one man. Romans 5:12

1. In the book of Genesis, the Bible records how Adam and Eve followed the devil and sinned against God. Every descendent of Adam has inherited this nature causing him to sin. Romans 3:23.
2. In I Corinthians 15:22, the Bible states that all must die because of the sin of Adam. Due to Adam's sin, mankind has been condemned without hope except through Jesus Christ.
3. In Romans 6:23, the Bible explains that the wages or payment for sin is death. The sin nature of Adam was passed down to all mankind, and God holds each individual accountable for his own sins.

## II. GOD LOVES THE LOST MAN

A. For God so loved the world. John 3:16

1. God loves the lost man enough to die for him. The Bible states in John 15:13

that there is no greater love than a person giving his life for another person.

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He was showing this love to everyone while they were still lost. Romans 5:8

2. Jesus Christ was, and still is, the love of God. In I John 4:9-10, the Bible tells mankind that God loves him and shows God's love through his Son. John 3:16.
3. God does not want anyone to die and go to hell. It is God's desire for everyone to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

II Peter 3:9, John 3:17, I Timothy 2:3-5.

### III. JESUS CHRIST

A. Jesus Christ is God. John 1:1,14; John 14:6; John 3:16

1. Everyone who accepts Jesus Christ as His personal Savior is a son of God, but God has only one begotten Son and that is Jesus. In Luke 1:27-35, the Bible says Jesus was born of the virgin Mary without an earthly father. His father was God. Matthew 1:20.
2. In John 1:1 and 4, the Bible says that Jesus was God in an earthly body. According to Hebrews 4:15, Jesus had to face every problem, hardship and situation that man faces every day. When Jesus faced all of these situations he did not sin because he had the nature of God instead of Adam's sin nature. In Hebrews 1:8, God Himself referred to His Son as God.
3. Today, Jesus is in Heaven sitting at the right hand of God as stated in Ephesians 1:20. After Christ was crucified, He ascended up to Heaven. Acts 1:9-11. God



gave Him authority over Heaven and Earth. Matthew 28:18, Colossians 1:16, and Philippians 2:9-11.

B. Jesus is the Lord. Philippians 2:9-11

1. Every human being will answer to Jesus Christ for what he has done in this life whether saved or not. There will be separate judgments for the saved and the lost, but Christ will judge both. John 5:27-29, Romans 14:11-12, Romans 2:16.
2. A person does not make Jesus Christ his Lord--HE ALREADY IS LORD. I Timothy 6:13-15. In Romans 10:9-12, the Bible says it is necessary for each individual to recognize Jesus Christ as the Lord to be saved.

#### IV. ACCEPTING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

A. Calling upon the name of the Lord. Romans 10:13

1. When a person believes in his heart that Jesus Christ is the Lord, it is still necessary to call upon Him. Believing alone is not salvation. In James 2:19, the Bible states that the devils believe but they are not saved.
2. If a person calls upon Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, it must be a free choice because the person wants to be saved. He cannot be forced. A person who prays, asking God to save him, for any reason other than **his** own choice, is not saved.

B. Salvation is for anyone. John 1:12

1. Salvation is offered to anyone, and receiving Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, will make him a son of God. The Bible is very adamant that each must accept Christ in order to be saved. Romans 10:13, Romans 4:24-25.

## CONCLUSION

It is essential that each saved person understand the process of salvation. He must recognize the lost and desperate state of every person who has not accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior. He must also recognize that **Jesus is the only way** as stated in John 14:6, where He said "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

## EXHORTATION

Give your testimony explaining how you recognized that Jesus Christ was the Lord, and the action you took in accepting Him as your personal Lord and Savior. If possible, tell where you were when you accepted Christ as your Savior.

## HOME WORK

Read: John Chapters 1-10

Memorize: Romans 6:23

Write: John Chapter 3







## LESSON TWO

### GOD'S RELATIONSHIP CONTINUES

Introduction: To know the joy of God, it is necessary to understand that God continues His relationship with the saved person because He is God and He is in control. The first great joy in the life of any person is to know that God loves him enough to save him. After salvation, the Christian's greatest joy is to know that God's love is eternal and that He maintains an ongoing relationship with the saved person. Some teach that God loves the Christian conditionally and will separate from him if he fails, but this is not true. Jesus loves the sinner, died for the sinner, establishes a relationship (when the sinner accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior) and continues His relationship with the saved person in spite of his actions or feelings. Salvation and relationship with God is secure because He secured it. In this study, it will be established how God continues His relationship with the Christian.

#### I. THE SALVATION THAT WAS RECEIVED FROM CHRIST IS EVERLASTING

A. God keeps those he saves. John 10:28-30

1. A question that should be considered in determining God's relationship with the saved person is what will separate us from God's love? Romans 8:38-39 tells us the things that cannot separate us from the love of God.

"Death" - Dying will not take away God's love.

"Life" - Nothing that is alive can take away God's love.

"Angels" - Spiritual beings cannot take away God's love.

"Principalities" - Governments cannot take away God's love.

"Powers" - Satan and his forces cannot take away God's love.

"Things present"- Nothing here today can take away God's love.

"Things to come" - Nothing to come can take away God's love

"Height" - Nothing above, including anything in Heaven, can take away God's love.

"Depth" - Nothing below, including anything in Hell, can take away God's love.

"Nor any other creature" - Just in case everything was not listed above, God included it here! It is clear from the Bible that nothing can separate a saved person from the love of God.

2. When a person gets saved, he is placed in the hands of God and it becomes God's responsibility to hold onto him, not his human responsibility to hold onto God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 states there is nothing we can do to keep or earn our salvation; it is a gift from God. The Christian's salvation is as secure as the power of God. I Peter 1:3-5.

B. God will not allow a saved person to perish. John 3:15-16

1. The life that God gives to a person when he accepts Christ as his personal Savior cannot end. It is the life of God and it is eternal life. John 5:24, Titus 1:2.
2. God is the God of all power and is able to keep the saved forever. Paul committed his life to Christ and wrote to Timothy stating he was convinced that God would keep that which he had committed to Him. II Timothy 1:12.

## II. GOD'S RELATIONSHIP IS A FATHER TO SON RELATIONSHIP

A. The saved are children of God. I John 2:1

1. A person does not have the ability to make himself a son of God. Just as a child cannot be given life without parents, neither can God's children have the life of God without God. When a person believes on Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, God makes him His son.
2. In John 1:12-13, the Bible tells us that as many as receive Christ, God gave them the power to become the sons of God. When a person is born into the family of God, it is not a physical birth, nor a birth of mankind, but a spiritual birth of God.  
John 3:6, John 6:63

B. The saved are God's children by adoption. Galatians 4:5-6

1. When a person is born into one family and later becomes the member of another family, this is done through adoption. When a person is born into this world, they are a member of the human family. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, he becomes a member of God's family.  
Romans 8:14-15
2. The children of God are both male and female. Under the old Jewish law, women were not recognized as independent persons. In the New Testament (Galatians 3:28), the Bible tells us that those who accept Christ are all equal being the children of God. The Bible refers to God's children as sons and daughters in II Corinthians 6:18.

### III GOD CLEANSSES HIS CHILDREN FROM THEIR SINS

A. THE CHRISTIAN WILL SIN. I John 1:8-10

1. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior he is given a new life from God, but the old sin nature that came from Adam is still present. The Bible says in Romans 7:14-20 that Paul did things he did not want to do and the things he wanted to do he did not do. The reason the Christian sins



after he is saved is because he has the old sin nature and it will be with him until he physically dies. Romans 7:25.

2. A Christian will condemn himself when he sins and many times will stop serving God. God is greater than the condemning heart and will not condemn his children. Even though God does not condemn the Christian when he sins, the Christian will lose confidence in God and allow sin to again control his life. I John 3:20-21. In Romans 8:1, the Bible states that there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. Any condemnation that a Christian finds in his life comes from the Christian himself--not from God.

#### B. THE CHRISTIAN NEEDS TO BE CLEANSED FROM THE STAIN OF SIN

II Corinthians 7:1

1. When a saved person sins he needs the personal cleansing from God to be able to live an undefeated life. God tells us in the Bible how to get cleansing from sin and live a victorious Christian life. The Christian is instructed in II Corinthians 7:1 to cleanse himself, putting the responsibility on the individual Christian to go to God for cleansing. Jesus Christ is the Christian's advocate (lawyer) and keeps sin from affecting God's relationship to the saved.
2. Jesus is the propitiation (the power of attorney) for the saved person and represents the Christian before God. I John 2:1-2.
3. Even though Jesus represents the saved before God, sin stains the saved person's

life and causes him to see himself as a sinner. In James 4:8-10, the Bible teaches that when a person cleanses his hands and humbles himself in the sight of God, God will lift him up.

4. The cleansing that a Christian receives is internal and allows him to see himself as God sees him (Matthew 23:25-26). The power that a Christian has to cleanse himself is the Word of God. John 15:3. It is essential that the Christian input the Word of God into his life to live a clean life.

#### IV THE CHILDREN OF GOD SHOULD SPEND THEIR LIVES WALKING WITH GOD

##### A. Walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4

1. Even though God will forgive the Christian for sin, he should not continue to walk in the old sinful life. Romans 6:4 tells the Christian to walk in newness of life, putting all the old stains behind him and living a new life.
2. For a person to walk in newness of life, he must walk in Christ Jesus, the Lord. Colossians 2:6. Walking in Christ is living the way Jesus Christ lived when he was here on the Earth. A Christian (little Christ) is a saved person who makes Jesus Christ his example and lives his new life and not the old sinful one.

##### B. Walk by faith. II Corinthians 5:7

1. Walking by faith is living by the things that cannot be seen instead of the things of this Earth which can be seen. The things that cannot be seen are heavenly and will last for eternity. The things that can be seen are of this earth and will perish with the Earth. II Corinthians 5:7 instructs the saved to walk by faith. If the

Christian is going to walk with Christ, as the Bible instructs, he must live by faith. Galatians 3:11

2. For the Christian to keep from fulfilling the desires of this world, it is necessary for him to walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:16. Walking in the Spirit is when a Christian's heart is stayed on Jesus Christ.

## CONCLUSION

In this lesson, the Christian has been taught that his salvation is permanent and he can never lose it. When the Christian understands this truth, he will live a victorious life without fear of condemnation. Romans 8:1. When the Christian does not have to spend the majority of his time working to maintain his relationship with God, he will be able to dedicate his time to growing and being what God wants him to be.

## EXHORTATION

State your personal understanding of God's relationship to you. Explain how God can maintain His relationship with you and how you can maintain your relationship with Him.

## HOME WORK

Read: John 11-21

Memorize Romans 10:13

Write: Romans 8

## ROMANS 8

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

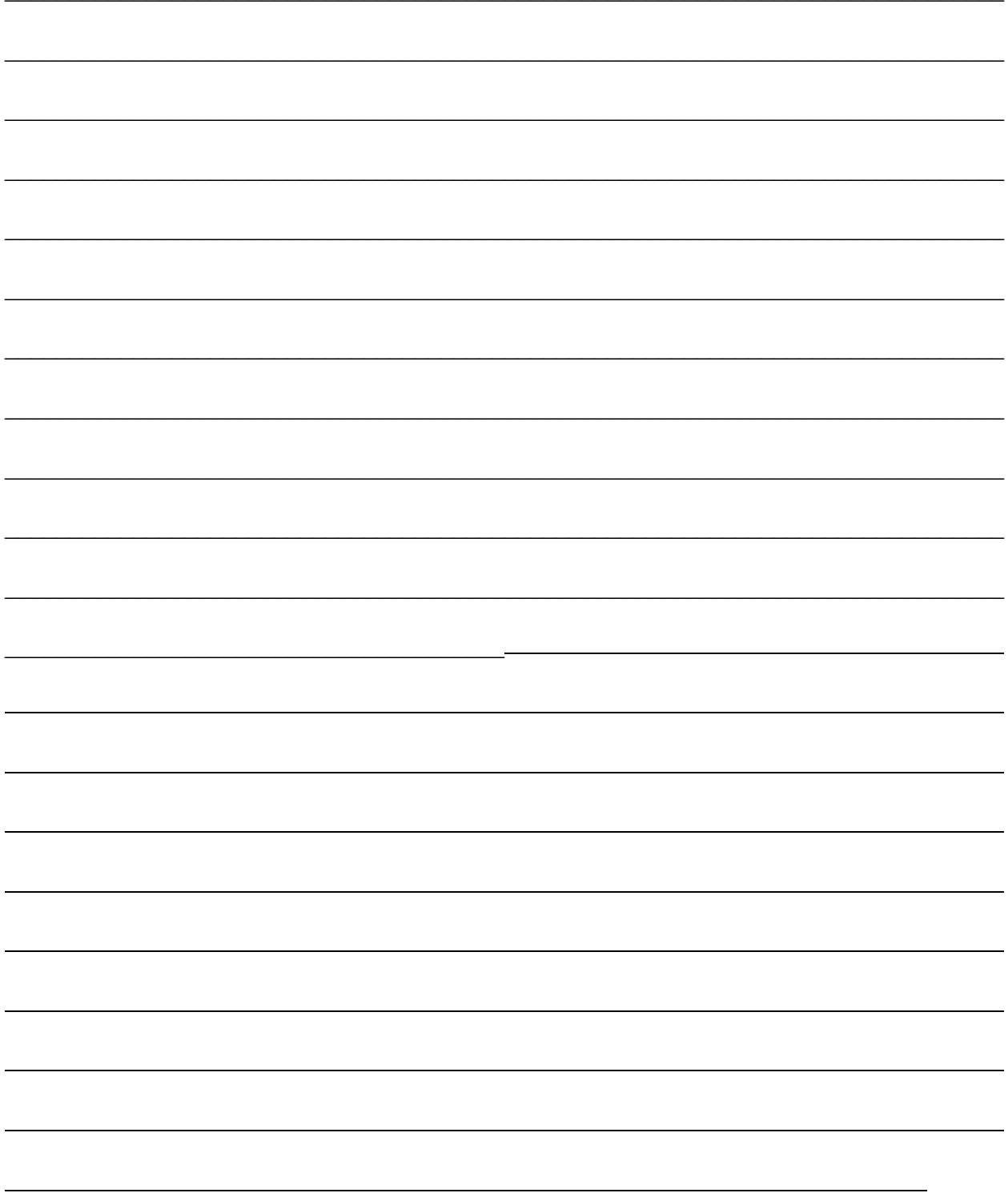
---

---

---

---







# STEP TWO - GOD'S WAY

## LESSON THREE

### GOD COMMUNICATES WITH THE SAVED

Introduction: In Lesson Two we learned that God continues his relationship with the saved person. God also establishes communication with the Christian and does not leave him without instructions for his life. Because God loves his children, He does not leave it to man's discretion to determine God's plan for his life. This lesson will discuss each of the three ways God communicates to the Christian. Each of these ways will be studied in more detail in future lessons. It is essential that each Christian know that God communicates with him.

#### I. THE WRITTEN WORD

A. The Bible, God's word is written. Romans 15:4

1. Since early in the history of mankind, written messages have been used to provide permanent and accurate communication. There is no greater established communication than a written message. God Himself gave all mankind His written communication called the Bible. There is no greater permanent and dependable communication from God than the Bible.
2. If the Christian does not accept the Bible, it is virtually impossible to know what God wants him to do with his life. It is more than a book containing God's Word.

It is the actual written Word of God.

- B. The Word is inspired. II Timothy 3:15-17 All scripture is given by inspiration (divinely breathed in) of God. Everything God would have mankind to know is contained within His written Word. A Christian should concentrate on what is in the Bible; not on things God, in His infinite wisdom, chose not to record for mankind.
- C. God spoke through the prophets. II Peter 1:21  
God did not personally write the Bible with His own hands. He inspired several different men to write word for word what He instructed. His Word is complete and trustworthy. John 17:17. God will not and cannot lie. Titus 1:2. The Bible tells us He is truth. I John 5:6-7.

## II. THE SPOKEN WORD - THE CHURCH

- A. God speaks through preachers. Romans 10:14-17  
The Bible tells us that faith comes by hearing the words preached. God gave the church evangelists, prophets, pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints. Ephesians 4:11-12. God chose the spoken word as one of His communication tools for the Christian. Each Christian should become actively involved in a church that preaches the Word of God. Preaching is necessary for proper spiritual development. God established the church as His instrument to proclaim His Word and to mature His saints.
- B. God speaks through leaders. II Timothy 1:13-14  
Paul instructed Timothy to hold fast to the things he had been taught. It is very important for a Christian to know and trust the person they are following.  
In II Timothy 3:10-14, Paul instructed Timothy to follow him because he knew

Paul's life. Christians following leaders they do not know or have reason to trust is a major problem in today's media society. John 17:20.

- C. God speaks through Phillip, a deacon. Acts 6:1-5; 8:26-40

The Ethiopian eunuch needed someone to explain the Scriptures to him. God sent Phillip to explain the Scriptures to this man. He is still using men and women today to teach others his written Word. Discipleship is one Christian teaching another Christian God's Word. God will put other Christians in a leadership capacity over younger Christians to establish them in God's Word.

### III. THE INTERNAL WORD - THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. The Holy Spirit dwells in the saved person. John 14:17

Jesus promised the saved person that he would never be left alone. God has an ongoing personal relationship with each saved person through His Holy Spirit which lives inside. The saved person will know His Holy Spirit because, as He promised, the Holy Spirit "dwelleth with you and shall be in you".

- B. The Holy Spirit dwells in the saved person and comforts him. John 15:26

The Holy Spirit (Comforter) is always with the Christian no matter what trial or tribulation this world brings. He will comfort him in the time of sorrow and strengthen him in the time of need by communicating God's Word.

- C. The Holy Spirit dwells in the saved person and glorifies Jesus Christ. John 16:13-15

The Holy Spirit never glorifies Himself but glorifies only Jesus Christ. The previous

lessons taught that Jesus Christ is the Lord and He alone should be glorified.

Some religious teachers today glorify the Holy Spirit, but God's intent was not to glorify the Holy Spirit, but that the Holy Spirit glorify Christ.

- D. The Holy Spirit dwells in the saved person and witnesses that the saved are children of God. Romans 8:16.

The Holy Spirit bears witness with the spirit of the saved person that he is a child of God. (assurance of salvation). When a person states that he knows beyond a shadow of a doubt he is saved, it is only through the leading of the Holy Spirit that he can make that statement.

- E. The Holy Spirit dwells in the saved person and speaks directly with him. Acts 8:29 (Philip), Acts 10:19 (Peter)

The Holy Spirit spoke directly to Philip and Peter instructing them internally. God will also communicate with the Christian internally, as He did Philip and Peter, to instruct him; but under no circumstances will He violate His written Word, the Bible.

## **CONCLUSION**

If an individual chooses to follow God's way, he must follow God's instructions. The Bible is God's total written communication for the saved person. It requires that a saved person become a member of a local New Testament church and follows its teachings. In seeking a local New Testament church, it is crucial for spiritual development that the Christian choose a church that teaches the Word of God. To follow God's way also requires that the saved person acknowledge the Holy Spirit of God within him. The Holy Spirit will guide the Christian and instruct him in the specific details that God gives for his life.

## **EXHORTATION**

Acknowledge your personal belief in regard to God's written Word, your willingness to be a part of the local church, and your understanding of the Holy Spirit.

## **HOME WORK**

Read: Colossians

Memorize: II Timothy 3:16

Write: II Timothy 3









---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# STEP TWO - GOD'S WAY

## LESSON FOUR

### GOD'S INSTITUTION THE LOCAL NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

Introduction: Lesson Three explained how God communicates with believers so they may know "God's Way". Once a Christian understands what God's way is, he must choose to follow it if he is going to accomplish God's directive for his life. If the Christian chooses to follow God's Way, it will lead him directly into the local New Testament church. This lesson will help the Christian understand what a New Testament church is and why he should be an active member of a local church.

#### I. THE LOCAL NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH WAS INSTITUTED BY GOD

##### A. The local church is defined. Matthew 16:13-18

Throughout the Bible, God has used people to carry out His work. The "Church" that God built is not a building, it is not necessarily a registered, or incorporated, or political entity. It is not a denomination or an association. In Matthew 16:13-18, Jesus tells Peter that the church will be built upon the rock (foundation). Jesus is referred to in I Corinthians 10:4 as the rock and the church is built upon Him. In building local churches, Christ always uses qualified people. Peter qualified himself when he stated that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. Christ told him

that the Father had revealed this to him and today churches are still being built upon Christ by people who know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

B. A local church nourishes God's new children. John 1:12-13, John 3:3

John refers to salvation as a "new birth". No matter how old, how educated or sophisticated a saved person is, spiritually he is as a newborn child, completely without understanding except for an awareness of life itself. Being "born again" into the family of God is like being born into your human family. God ordained that children should be born into a specific family who should be responsible for caring and raising that child until he is a mature individual. Each saved person should understand that God would have him become a part of a specific family of God which is a local New Testament church. The specific local church, in which a new Christian becomes a part of, has the responsibility of caring for and bringing the new Christian into spiritual maturity. Acts 16:5.

## II. THE LOCAL NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS TO PROVIDE FOR GOD'S CHILDREN

A. The local church is to love. I John 4:7 and John 15:12

Christians are instructed to love one another as a family, showing their Father's love to each other. They show God's love to their family members and especially to new infants born into their family. When the new believer sees God's love in action, it becomes a reality (not just something he was taught) and gives him a foundation upon which to build his life. The new Christian should mature in his spiritual life

and become personally aware of God's love. He will then be able to direct that love toward others as the local church did for him when he first came to Christ.

- B. The local church is to preach and teach. Colossians 1:27-29 and Ephesians 4:11-16  
The local church has the responsibility to proclaim (preach) the Word of God to all its family members. The local church should teach the children of God, show them how they can please their Father and live a victorious godly life. Human parents raise their children, teaching and proclaiming to them how to be successful in this world's environment. The local church should do likewise and "bring to perfection" (mature) the children of God.
- C. The local church is to nurture. Ephesians 6:4  
God expects human parents to nurture and admonish their children. He is no less diligent as He uses the local church to raise His spiritual children. The local church must train, equip, and even correct the Christian when necessary. All of these are of equal importance in the maturing process.
- D. The local church is to provide fellowship. Acts 2:42 and I John 1:3-4  
Fellowship is spending time together in a unified effort or interest. Fellowship is a major part of a local New Testament church and is based upon spiritual agreement and love for each other. Fellowship is essential in every Christian's life or he will feel lonely and isolated without friends. Fellowship allows each saved person to share his life with other Christians. The apostle Paul was often refreshed by the fellowship of others. I Corinthians 16:18, II Timothy 1:16. When Christians fellowship, the lost will also see that they are the Lord's disciples. John 13:35.

- E. The local church provides opportunities to minister. II Timothy 2:2

The local New Testament church will have opportunities for the Christian to share with other Christians those things he has learned and applied to his own life. It will also provide ministries which will give the saved an opportunity to share the Gospel with those who are lost. Matthew 28:19-20.

### III. THE LOCAL NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS GOD'S BODY ON EARTH

- A. The local church represents Christ on earth. Ephesians 1:22-23

Jesus Christ is the head of each local church and the local church is His body. The world cannot see Christ, but it can see those who represent Him. A local church is Christ's physical, living body to the world. The Bible says this is a mystery (Ephesians 5:30-32) and hard for humanity to understand, but when a saved person shows Christ to others he is the body of Christ. When a person states "I am a Christian," he is, in fact, proclaiming that he is the body of Christ.

- B. The local church is one body with many members. I Corinthians 12:12,14,27

The local church is one body, made up of a collection of many different members. When members function under the direction of the "Head" (Christ), they operate as a single body. The human body has many members (head, feet, eyes, hands, etc.) and a local church functions the same way. Every saved person can be a part of a local church regardless of his education, skills, or talents. For a local New Testament church to be totally functional, it must have all its parts (members).

- C. Each member of the local church has his special function. Romans 12:4-5

Each member of the body should carry out the functions that God intends for him. A local church must have those who teach, preach, usher, sing, clean, keep the nursery, and many other functions. Each member should function in the capacity given to him by God and according to his degree of spiritual maturity. When any body has a part that does not function properly, the whole body suffers and becomes inadequate in completing the task given to it by God. I Corinthians 12:26.

#### IV. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF A LOCAL NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

- A. Salvation required. Acts 2:47

The local New Testament church is a body of believers, and to become a member, an individual must profess to be saved. There are many people today who profess to be saved and never accomplish, in this life, what God intends because they are not a member of a local church. A saved person may choose some other program in attempting to obtain spiritual maturity and ministry, but nothing will ever improve on God's plan. God's method for maturing Christians today is the local church.

- B. Water baptism required. Acts 10:47-48, Acts 8:36-39, Acts 9:18

Just as salvation places you "in Christ", water baptism places the Christian in Christ's earthly body, the local New Testament church. In the book of Acts, there are examples of some whose water baptism identified them as New Testament believers.

Even Jesus himself was baptized to identify with the existing earthly work of John

the Baptist. Matthew 3:13-15.

Baptism by immersion is a living picture of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. By doing this, the Christian is publicly stating that his salvation is based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Christian is declaring his agreement with other members of the body on this spiritual truth, and thus establishing fellowship with a specific body of Christ. I John 1:3-4.

C. Baptism follows salvation. Acts 8:12, 36-38

The Scriptures make it clear that baptism is to follow salvation. If an individual was baptized before accepting Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior, then he has not been scripturally baptized. There are times when a saved person will be asked to be baptized a second time: if they were not saved when they were baptized the first time; if they were not baptized by a church; if the church that baptized them does not adhere to Biblical teachings; or if baptism was not by immersion.

## CONCLUSION

Becoming a member of a local New Testament church is the most important step a Christian can take after accepting Jesus Christ as personal savior. This step will identify the Christian as a follower of Jesus Christ to both the saved and the lost. Until the saved person is associated with Christ's earthly body, he has not followed God's program for today. The Christian has the freedom to choose any of the ways that are in the world today, but the Bible makes it clear that God's way is the local New Testament church. The saved person should take advantage of all the benefits of a local church and complete his spiritual maturity as quickly as possible.

## EXHORTATION

Have you committed yourself to following God's way by being scripturally baptized and becoming a member of a local New Testament church? **GIVE TESTIMONY OF YOUR CHURCH STATUS AND FULFILLMENT OF BIBLICAL BAPTISM.**

## HOME WORK

Read: Ephesians

Memorize: John 1:12-13

Write: Acts 8









---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# **STEP THREE - GOD'S WORD**

## **LESSON FIVE**

### **GOD'S WORD-THE BIBLE**

Introduction: God has given the Christian a book which gives instructions for his new life as a child of God. It is essential that the Christian knows and follows these written instructions. The purpose of this lesson is to help the saved person realize that the Bible (God's Holy Word) is this book of instructions and should be the guide for his life.

#### **I. THE HOLY BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD**

- A. Fundamentals every Christian should know about the Bible. II Timothy 3:16
  - 1. The Bible is the book that God inspired men to write down on paper and referred to as Scripture (written text). II Timothy 3:16 tells Christians that all scripture is given by inspiration of God. The Bible is written exactly as God intended for mankind. It is very exciting to know that God loves and cares enough for the saved person to give him His Word in written form.
  - 2. The Bible is more sure than a spoken word from God. It is easy for someone to say that God spoke to them, but how does one know it was God who did the speaking? The written Word is more sure than what Peter himself heard Christ

say. In II Peter 1:16-19, the Bible is referred to as a light that shines in a dark place. God recorded in written form His Word to man.

3. The men that were used by God to write the Bible were holy men of God and the Holy Spirit moved them to write. II Peter 1:20-21. The men that wrote the Word of God stand out in history as great men because of their allegiance to God and their drive to follow His direction.

It is important to know that God did not use ordinary men, but holy men, to write His Word. There can be no mistaking the quality of the writings because of the quality and testimony of the writers.

## II. THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S WORD IN YOUR LIFE

- A. God's word provides food for maturity. I Peter 2:2

The Word of God gives us understanding about spiritual things and provides the food to mature the Christian spiritually. Matthew 4:4. A child is playful, irresponsible and foolish in his young life, but as he matures he puts away childish things and becomes a functioning adult. The Word of God is the food that "babes" in Christ need to cause them to grow and become a functioning mature Christian.

In Lesson Four, it was explained that the local church was responsible for maturing the saved person. Without the Word of God, the local church has no spiritual food to give to the new Christian. Just as an infant is dependent upon someone else to provide its food, so is a new Christian. The new Christian does not know how to study or apply the Scriptures to his life. He must depend upon the local church to

provide the food for him, but the food must be the Word of God if the new Christian is to be healthy.

B. God's word keeps the Christian from sin. Psalms 119:9,11

1. The Psalmist said, in the above Scripture, that he hid the Word of God in his heart that he might not sin against God. One of the greatest fears in the life of a Christian is that by sinning he will hinder the cause of Christ. The way to prevent this from happening is to put God's Word in his heart. Every action and attitude in the life of a saved person must be directed by the Word of God.
2. The Bible not only prevents sin, but shows the saved person the direction for his life. In Psalms 119:105, the Word is referred to as a "light unto my path". Isn't it great to know that the Christian never again has to stumble through life without direction or guidance! The Word of God will always light the way. The written Word directs the saved person in the things to do, and the things not to do.  
Psalms 119:133.

C. Relationships are directed by the word of God. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

1. A saved person has a great need for direction regarding his family. The written Word tells how to teach, nurture, admonish and discipline children. The written Word gives guidance for relationships between husbands and wives and brothers and sisters, as well as parents and children. Colossians 3:18-21.
2. In I John 1:3-7 the written Word gives instruction about Christians associating with other Christians. The Christian should fellowship with others who live a

Christian life. It is very important that relationships be developed between saved people and the Bible teaches us how to do it.

3. The saved must come in contact with lost people (those who have not accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior). Some Christians do not understand how they are to respond to lost people. In Philippians 2:14-15, the Bible teaches that the Christian is to shine as the light of God in a sinful world. The saved person is the way most lost individuals will ever come in contact with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20 instructs the saved person to teach the world the Word of God.

### III. CHRISTIANS SHOULD TAKE GOD'S WORD TO THE LOST

- A. When a person does not have the word of God he is lost. II Corinthians 4:4
  1. The god of this world (devil) has blinded the spiritual eyes of those without Christ and they are lost. The truth of God's grace is hid from them because they can only see the things of this world. The lost person doesn't understand the Bible and usually doesn't try to read or study it. Without God's Word he is lost and blinded to the beautiful and precious things of God.
  2. The lost person resents and even hates the saved person, because the saved person knows where he is and where he is going. John 17:14 tells the saved person that the lost will hate him, but a saved person should adhere to God's Word and keep it as the guide for his life.



#### IV. GOD'S WORD TO THE WORLD

- A. The word of God and the natural man. I Corinthians 2:9-14

The natural man cannot understand the things of God because they are spiritually discerned. God has many good things for man, including salvation from hell, but the natural man can never acquire them on his own. A person will never understand God's Word until he has the Holy Spirit of God who will reveal the truth to him.

John 14:26.

#### V. GOD'S WORD IS THE GUIDE AND MEASURE FOR EVERYTHING ON EARTH

- A. The word is the final judge. John 12:48

The Word of God will be the judge of all those who do not accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. There are many lost men and women who do not accept that they will be judged by God. The Bible is the writing that will judge all mankind at the judgment day.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Bible is God's written Word and should be accepted by each individual Christian. The Bible contains all the instruction a Christian will need to live this life according to God's will and to prepare for eternity. The Bible is more valuable than visions, voices, or people. Spiritual maturity can be reached if a person will study God's Word and apply it to his life. A Christian will never have the stability and assurance he needs unless he bases his life on the Bible.

## **EXHORTATION**

Explain your concept of what the Bible is and describe how you apply it to your personal life. Do you accept the Bible as the infallible, inerrant, and absolute Word of God?

## **HOME WORK**

Read: I & II Timothy

Memorize: Psalms 119:105

Write: John 20









# **STEP THREE - GOD'S WORD**

## **LESSON SIX**

### **GOD IN US - THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Introduction: When Jesus was on the Earth, God was here. Before Christ left the Earth, He promised His apostles that He would send the Comforter, the Spirit of truth. (John 15:26). When Jesus ascended up to Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell on the Earth. The Holy Spirit dwells on the Earth today inside each saved individual. This lesson is designed to teach the saved person that he will never have to be without God again. One of the most comforting facts in the Christian life is that God is within each saved person.

#### **I. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD**

A. The bible declares the Holy Spirit to be God. Matthew 28:19-20

1. The Holy Spirit (also called the Holy Ghost) is listed in the great commission as equal to God the Father and God the Son. The three are listed again in I Corinthians 12:4-6 when the Bible describes the spiritual gifts for the New Testament church. This is a clear statement that God is a trinity (3 persons in one) and the Holy Spirit is one-third of this trinity. I John 5:7.
2. In Acts 5:1-11, the Bible relates the story of Ananias and Sapphira and how they lied to the Holy Spirit. They sold their lands and pretended to give all the money to the church, but lied and kept part for themselves. They were

never told to sell their land, but did it by choice. In verse three, Peter tells them they lied to the Holy Ghost and in verse four, Peter said they lied to God. This is further evidence that the Holy Spirit is God.

## II. THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLS ALL SAVED PEOPLE

### A. The Holy Spirit resides inside. I Corinthians 6:19-20

Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit in John 14:17 when He told His disciples that the spirit of truth dwelled with them and would be in them. In Acts 2:4, the Holy Spirit came and filled the apostles and took up His earthly residence inside them. The Bible tells the Christian, in I Corinthians 3:16, that God's Temple is "the bodies" of the saved. In the Old Testament, there was a temple where God met with man. Today, there is not an earthly building where God meets with man, because He meets with the Christian from within. In Galatians 4:6, the Bible tells the Christian that the Holy Spirit dwells in the heart (center of life) of a saved person.

### B. The Holy Spirit works in saved people. John 16:7-16

When Jesus went to Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to continue the work of God in each follower of Christ. The following list explains what the Holy Spirit does in the life of a Christian.

1. In verses 8-11 the Bible explains to the Christian that the Holy Spirit convicts of sin. After a person is saved the Holy Spirit will directly communicate to him the wrong that he is doing.

2. In verse 13 the Holy Spirit guides the Christian in truth. Most people search for



truth without ever knowing the source. After salvation, the Holy Spirit which is

3. inside the Christian communicates God's truth--the Word of God.

4. In verse 14, the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ in and through the Christian. Without the Holy Spirit it is impossible to show others Christ. Man alone does not have the ability to represent God.

C. He seals the Christian for eternity. Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30

An earthly illustration is when earnest money is given to hold a house until it can actually be purchased. The Holy Spirit is the "earnest" of the Christian's inheritance from God until Christ returns to fulfill His promises.

D. He intercedes for the Christian. Romans 8:26-27

Many times the Christian prays but does not know how or for what to pray. The Holy Spirit knows the heart of the saved and goes to God on behalf of the Christian.

E. He empowers the Christian. Ephesians 3:16, Acts 1:8, II Corinthians 4:7

There are many things the Christian should do for God, but in his own power he can do nothing. The Holy Spirit of God gives the saved person the ability to do whatever God asks of him.

F. He communicates God's word and will to the Christian. John 14:26,

I Corinthians 2:9-11

A saved person can know, at any time, God's will because the Holy Spirit will communicate God's Word to him. God calls upon believers to be "filled with the Spirit". This is nothing mysterious. It is simply a demand from God for the Christian to remove himself from the world's carnal, selfish desires and allow the Holy Spirit

to take control. When the Holy Spirit has control, He can fully carry out His desires as outlined above. Ephesians 5:18.

### III. THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

#### A. The character of God is the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23

The manifestation and beauty of the character of Christ, in the life of the saved person, is the "fruit of the Spirit". Notice that the Bible says fruit (singular) and not fruits (plural). When a person gets saved, he does not get part of the fruit, but all of it. The fruit of the Spirit cannot be divided or gained one at a time. God gave the Christian His fruit enabling the Christian to experience the continual character of Christ in his personal life.

#### B. The Christ-like life. Galatians 5:22-25

The fruit of the Spirit is:

love - joy - peace - longsuffering

gentleness - goodness - faith - meekness - temperance

The life governed by the fruit of the Spirit is not natural but supernatural. The Christian should submit himself to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to produce His fruit in the Christian's life. The individual Christian can be what Christ directed him to be by allowing the Holy Spirit to produce the fruit of God in him. The fruit of the Holy Spirit was given to the Christian personally, thereby, giving him the character of God.

#### IV. THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. The Holy Spirit divides the "gifts" to each saved person. I Corinthians 12:1-12

In I Corinthians 12:31, the Bible tells the Christian to covet earnestly the best gifts, but it is the Holy Spirit who distributes the gifts according to His will. I Corinthians 12:11. The gifts are not given for individual glory but to profit all. I Corinthians 12:7. The gifts of the Spirit are associated with ministering to others, both inside and outside the church. It is not up to the Christian to dictate to the Holy Spirit what he wants, but submit himself to God and let the Holy Spirit empower him with gifts as God wills.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Holy Spirit is God and dwells in each saved person. He gives each saved person the power to live the Christian life and the ability to minister to others. It is not an issue to get more of the Holy Spirit--He cannot be divided into pieces. A person either has the Holy Spirit or he does not. It is the Holy Spirit who wants more of the believer or more specifically, all of the believer. To be "filled with the Holy Spirit" is to give complete control of oneself to the Holy Spirit and follow His direction. Living a God-centered life does not come from working to get more, but giving all. God gave us His all. He deserves no less from us.

## **EXHORTATION**

Explain your understanding of the Holy Spirit's relationship with you and how you know you have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you. Give a personal testimony of a time you fully submitted yourself to the Holy Spirit and allowed God to use you to minister to someone else.

## **HOMEWORK**

Read: Philippians

Memorize: I Corinthians 3:16

Write: Galatians 5

# **GALATIANS 5**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

A series of 20 horizontal lines for writing.







# **STEP FOUR - GOD'S RELATIONSHIP**

## **LESSON SEVEN**

### **PRAYER IS COMMUNICATING WITH GOD**

Introduction: God knows everything and will supply all the needs of the Christian according to His will for the Christian life. If God knows the Christian's heart, his desires, his wants, his needs, and his actions, why does he want the Christian to pray? God wants every child of His to talk to Him. God wants to have communication with His children and communication from His children. When the child of God reads and studies the Bible, God is communicating with him; when the Christian prays he is communicating with God. The most precious thing that anyone can ever do is talk to God.

#### **I. JESUS IS THE HIGH PRIEST AND THE SAVED ARE PART OF HIS ROYAL PRIESTHOOD**

##### **A. Jesus is the high priest. Hebrews 5:1-10**

Jesus was crucified for our sin, ascended to the right hand of God, and was made the High Priest for all saved people. A priest is one who submits sacrifices and offerings to God for the sins of others. Jesus makes reconciliation for the sins of the people to God. Hebrews 2:17. In Hebrews 4:14-15, the Bible says Jesus was tempted like everyone, yet He did not sin. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, Jesus becomes his Priest and obtains access to God by the price Jesus paid.

B. A royal priesthood. I Peter 2:5, Revelation 1:6

When a person accepts Jesus as his personal Savior, he becomes a part of the royal priesthood of Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament, under the law, a person had to go to the temple and have the Priest go to God on his behalf. There are some religions today that teach only a priest can go to God, which is a correct statement. The problem with this teaching is that only a limited amount of people are priests. The Bible teaches that all saved people are part of Christ's priesthood. I Peter 2:9. Every saved person has access to God through Jesus Christ, the High Priest. I Timothy 2:5.

II. CHRIST INTERCEDES WHEN CHRISTIANS PRAY

A. Christ lives to make intercession for saved. Hebrews 7:22-27

1. The fact that Jesus Christ is alive today and sits at the right hand of God the Father in Heaven assures that the saved have access to God. I John 1:8 states a biblical fact that Christians still commit sin after they are saved, but Jesus intercedes, assuring eternal salvation. The salvation of the Christian is as secure as the life of Christ. If the Christian did not have an intercessor, then salvation would end each time a sin was committed. This intercession was prophesied in Isaiah 53:12 and fulfilled when Christ died on the cross. In Romans 8:34, the Bible states that Jesus is at the right hand of God and makes intercession for the saved person.
2. In Romans 8:34, the Bible says that Jesus makes intercession for the saved person and in verse 35 it informs the saved that he can not be separated from the love of God. Every Christian should pray, understanding that he can pray because of Jesus Christ, not because of any action on his part. Sin cannot stop

the saved person's prayers from reaching God because Jesus provides the access.

The only way sin can hinder prayer is that it often keeps the Christian from praying. When a Christian sins, the first thing he should do is talk to God about it.

B. The Holy Spirit intercedes for prayer. Romans 8:26-27

The Holy Spirit makes intercession between the Christian and the throne of God because the Christian does not know what to pray much of the time. Every saved person has access to God with both Jesus and the Holy Spirit functioning as intercessors. Jesus intercedes keeping sin from separating the Christian from God, and the Holy Spirit takes the intent and heart of the Christian to God even when words are not adequate.

### III. PRAYING

A. Christ taught the Christian to pray. Luke 11:1-13

The apostles wanted to pray, but needed direction from Christ and asked Him to teach them to pray. Jesus immediately informed them of three things they were to do: First to worship God "Our Father which art in heaven"; second to adore God "Hallowed be thy name"; and third to praise Him "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done". After they had done these three things, then they were to make petition for their needs.

B. Four types of prayer. I Timothy 2:1

Paul exhorted Timothy to do four things for all men. These same four types of

prayer should be used by Christians today.

1. Supplications: To humbly request God to supply the wants and needs of life.

Ephesians 6:18 - Make supplications in the Spirit.

Philippians 4:6 - In everything make supplications.

I Timothy 5:5 - A widow, indeed, is one who makes supplications night and day.

2. Prayers: To very earnestly ask for a specific thing.

Romans 15:30 - Paul asked for prayer for himself.

II Corinthians 1:11 - Helping ministers by praying for them.

James 5:14-16 - Praying for the sick.

3. Intercessions: To pray to God in behalf of another person.

Matthew 5:44 - For those who despitefully use you.

Jeremiah 27:18 - Prophets were to make intercession.

Isaiah 59:15-16 - Lord wondered why there was no man to make intercession.

4. Thanksgiving: A prayer to God expressing gratitude for something He did.

Philippians 4:6-7 - In everything give thanks.

Colossians 2:6-7 - In the daily walk give thanks.

Colossians 4:2 - In prayer give thanks.

- C. God wants his children to talk to him.

When a Christian talks to God in prayer, he is submitting himself to the authority of

God. When the Christian talks to God, there are many benefits for the Christian:

1. Talking to God builds faith. James 1:5-8
2. Talking to God shows thanksgiving. Hebrews 13:15
3. Talking to God shows friendship. John 15:13-17
4. Talking to God glorifies God. Romans 15:6
5. Talking to God expresses our love to Him. Luke 10:27

God wants each Christian to have a continuous personal relationship with Him and the only way to do this is to pray.

## **CONCLUSION**

Prayer is an opportunity to share with our Father our confusion or lack of spiritual understanding and ask Him for spiritual insights. When a child of God personally recognizes God as his Heavenly Father with absolute authority, it is the greatest acknowledgement of all mankind for all times. When the Christian prays, he is showing this recognition and acknowledging that God is his personal Lord. The Christian must pray. Luke 18:1. Prayer is how a constant consciousness of Jesus Christ as Lord is maintained in the life of each Christian.

## **EXHORTATION**

Express your freedom to pray and talk to God. Are you inhibited by sin or personal hang ups when you pray? Give a testimony of a prayer you prayed and know that God answered it.

## **HOME WORK**

Read: Romans 1-7

Memorize: I Timothy 2:5

Write: James 4











# **STEP FOUR - GOD'S RELATIONSHIP**

## **LESSON EIGHT**

### **FOLLOWING THE WILL OF GOD**

Introduction: One of the most frequently asked questions in Christianity is "What is God's will for my life?" Everyone wants to know what God's will is, but most do not even understand the term "God's will". Many teach that there are two wills of God: the perfect will (that which God intended for each saved person's life) and the permissive will (that which God will tolerate if a saved person refuses His perfect will). When the Bible is used to determine truth, the Christian will learn that the only will of God is perfect. God's will is always perfect and complete. Romans 12:2. In this lesson, the perfect will of God will be revealed from the Scripture for all mankind, both saved and lost.

#### **I. GOD'S WILL FOR ALL MANKIND. Revelation 4:11**

God created mankind for the purpose of glorifying God, specifically Jesus Christ the Lord. God's will for every lost person was, is, and shall remain the same--salvation through Jesus Christ the Lord. II Peter 3:9. God is not willing that even one person die and go to Hell. In Acts 17:30, God commanded that all men everywhere repent. (Repentance is turning from the world to Jesus Christ.) The Bible also states in I Timothy 2:4, that "God will have all men to be saved."

## II. GOD'S WILL FOR THE SAVED

### A. To be conformed to the image of Christ. Romans 8:28-29

Jesus set the example for every Christian's life. God's will for the saved person is that he be conformed to the image of Christ. God's will is for each saved person to be one with Christ, just as Christ is one with God the Father. John 17:20-23. It is very easy to "get caught up" in applying God's will to every little thing in life and miss the true will as stated by the Bible. The Christian is to mature and reach the stature of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 4:13-15. To be conformed to the image of Christ is to grow up spiritually to the point that the Christian lives as Christ lived.

### B. Transformed. Romans 12:1-2

God does not want the Christian to be conformed to this world but to be transformed (changed) into the image of Christ. The world system will apply pressure to make the Christian be like the world, but when a Christian chooses to be like Christ, he is transformed because his mind is renewed. Ephesians 4:23. The greatest joy in the life of any Christian is knowing that Jesus Christ has paid the price for sin and set him free. Renewing takes place when the Christian changes his mind, by choice, from the old way of the world to the new way of Christ. God also wants the Christian to be set apart (sanctified) from the world, and set apart to Christ. I Thessalonians 4:1-7. The only way a person can be sanctified from the world and conformed to Christ is to have his mind renewed. Before a person gets saved, his thinking is controlled by the world system; but after salvation, he needs to change his mind and put on the mind of Christ. Philippians 2:5, Romans 7:25.

### C. To be filled with the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5:15-19

God desires that every Christian know His will and why it is important. He does not want the Christian to wonder and be confused about His will. In Ephesians 5:17-19, the Bible states that the Christian should be filled with the Holy Spirit. Spirit filled is simply yielding control of one's life to the Holy Spirit; thereby, allowing the Holy Spirit to direct his life.

### III. GOD'S PLAN FOR THE CHRISTIAN

The will of God can never be found outside of Biblical instruction. God's will is the same for every person, so what about buying a car or finding the right mate? Those individual decisions in a person's life should be determined by God's specific plan for each life. Once a person is in the will of God, God's will controls the plan. Until a person is within the will of God, he will not know the plan of God. Everything God does in that person's life is to bring him into His will. When a Christian is in the will of God and seeks God's plan for his life, he has the mind of Christ, the filling of the Spirit, and is conformed to the image of Christ, to help him to know God's plan. Proverbs 3:5-6. There are three things a Christian must follow in completing God's plan for his life:

- \* First, follow the direction of the Word of God. Psalm 119:105. God's plan always adheres to His Word. He will never violate the Bible.
- \* Second, listen to the Holy Spirit and individual conscience. Psalm 37:4-5.
- \* Third, pay attention to the circumstances. Many times God uses the events and circumstances surrounding a Christian to direct him. Romans 8:28. God's plan is never worldly.

When these three are in harmony, it is evident that the Christian is living in accordance with God's plan for his life.

#### IV. SERVICE AND MINISTRY. Ephesians 6:5-8

When a Christian begins to determine his involvement in ministry, he should follow God's will and plan. For a Christian to do service for Christ, he must first become a servant. The Christian must serve God from the heart with pure motives. It is essential that the Christian maintain good works to be profitable, fruitful, and able to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Titus 3:8, I Peter 2:15. God instructs the Christian to get involved in service and ministry, but only within His will and plan.

## **CONCLUSION**

In Ephesians 4:11-15 and 22-24, the Bible tells the Christian what God's motive is for the Christian life. God wants the Christian to grow to spiritual maturity and not be tossed about by every teaching that comes along. Only when a Christian does the will of God will he mature and glorify Christ. God wants to direct every step in the life of a Christian, but He is limited many times by the Christian's failure to get in the will of God and stay there.

## **EXHORTATION**

Give your personal statement of being in the will of God. Explain how you plan to allow God to direct your paths in the future. If you cannot state you are in the will of God right now, then take the necessary action to get in His will.

## **HOMEWORK**

Read: Romans 8-16

Memorize: Romans 12:1-2

Write: Romans 12

# ROMANS 12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# EP FIVE - GOD'S LIFE

## LESSON NINE

### DEALING WITH PERSONAL SIN

Introduction: When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, there is one part that is not changed or saved and that is his old sin nature. Many times the new Christian will set his life goals to remove this sin nature which is impossible. God cannot change sin into righteousness, but He can save the person from the penalty of sin and give him a new life in Christ. It is of utmost importance for the Christian to live and build his new life, not spend his life trying to defeat sin. The victory is in the new life--not the old. The sin nature is still in each saved person and will remain until his physical death. The Christian still has all the capacity to sin, but he also has the capacity to live a godly, righteous life. Sin or righteousness becomes an individual's choice.

#### I. SIN DOES NOT CONTROL GOD

##### A. The cause of sin. Romans 5:12, James 1:13-14

In the third chapter of Genesis, Adam and Eve were the only two people on the face of the earth. God gave them reign over all His creation, but instructed them not to eat of one specific tree called "the tree of knowledge of good and evil." Satan, the serpent, enticed Adam and Eve to eat the forbidden fruit; thereby, mankind disobeyed God and became sinners. The sin of Adam has been passed down to all his descendants. The reason a person sins today is because he has this sin nature in him.

After a person is saved, the sin nature is still present within him and seeks to control the Christian by using sin to defeat him. Sin started with Lucifer when he tried to exalt himself above God. Isaiah 14:12-17. Lucifer or Satan then tempted Adam and Eve into sin and sin has reigned until today. Sin is failing to meet God's equirements.

## II. BIBLICAL DESCRIPTION OF A MAN IN SIN.                      Ephesians 2:1-6

After a person is saved, it is important to know the results of returning to the ways of sin. The Christian can never again find satisfaction in sin. Below are some similitudes of what sin is like to help the Christian understand the severity of the acts of sin.

Psalm 140:1-3 - To adders with poison under their lips.

Proverbs 26:11 - To a dog returning to his vomit.

Psalm 22:13 - To a lion with a ravening mouth.

Job 27:18 - To the frailty of a moth when he builds.

Isaiah 53:6 - To being led as a sheep.

Isaiah 59:5 - To evil works a snare like a spiders web.

II Peter 2:22 - To swine returning to the mire.

John 10:12 - To a wolf who seeks to kill the sheep.

Once a person is saved, he should never again allow sin to reign in his life. If a person yields himself to sin it becomes the controlling force in his life. Romans 6:13.

### III. GOD AND SIN. John 1:29

Sin separated mankind from God, but God provided a way to eliminate that separation, through Jesus Christ the Lord. God condemned sin in the flesh of Jesus Christ, thereby defeating sin forever. Romans 8:3. It is necessary that a person accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior to have his sin defeated, and after he does, sin can never win.

The victory over sin is in Jesus Christ. The life that a saved person lives is the life of God given to him through Jesus Christ his Lord. Romans 6:10-11. God defeated sin when Jesus became sin for mankind and suffered the penalty Himself once for all. II Corinthians 5:21.

### IV. GOD CLEANSSES FROM SIN. I John 3:20-21

When a person accepts Jesus as his personal Savior, he is saved from sin, but many times sin will control his life because he continues to sin. The result is guilt and condemnation and the Christian's life is defeated and becomes nonproductive. God is not controlled by the sins committed by Christians because He won the battle on the cross. The Christian falls into the trap of trying to please God with his actions instead of his heart and, consequently, falls into self-condemnation. The only way a Christian can please God is to be what God directs him to be and the Christian works will follow. In I John 1:7-10, the Bible tells us that the blood of Jesus Christ is the only way sin can be cleansed from any one. The cleansing has already taken place, but sin makes the Christian feel dirty and unfit to be with God. God never wants the Christian to see himself this way. When a person does earthly work with his hands, his hands get dirty and need to be washed with soap and water to cleanse them.

When a Christian commits worldly acts of sin, he also needs to wash, but in the blood of Christ that has already been given to him.

#### V. PUT ON CHRIST (CLOTHED) Galatians 3:27

After a person takes a bath and is clean, he should put on clothing. When the Christian has been cleansed from sin by the blood of Jesus Christ, he should put on Christ. Job said, in Job 29:14, that he put on righteousness and the Christian should follow Job's example. Jacob said, in Genesis 28:19-21, after meeting at Bethel with God, that if God would give him food and raiment then the LORD would be his God. The saved person should also put on the things of God.

Romans 13:12	Armor of light.
Ephesians 4:24	New man.
Colossians 3:10	New man.
Ephesians 6:11	The whole armor of God.
Colossians 3:14	Charity.

The Christian life is more than being cleansed from sin. It is also putting on the raiment of God.

## **CONCLUSION**

A Christian needs to recognize that he is dead to sin in Jesus Christ (Romans 6:6-13) and never allow sin to rule and control his life again. It is possible to walk a victorious Christian life because Jesus gave us the ability through His death and new life. I John 4:4. Jesus died for sin allowing the Christian to continue in His death. Jesus also arose from the dead and brought the life of God to man. The Christian should not only be dead, but also put on the new life of Christ.

## **EXHORTATION**

Explain how you know that God's forgiveness for sin is continual and how you can have victory in Christ. If you have personal sin that is controlling your heart and condemning you, take the proper action to remove the condemnation.

## **HOMEWORK**

Read: I, II, III John

Memorize: II Corinthians 5:17

Write: I John 1



# I JOHN 1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# STEP FIVE - GOD'S LIFE

## LESSON TEN

### FREEDOM AS A CHILD OF GOD

Introduction: When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, he is no longer bound by the law, and pleasing God becomes a choice. There are two major wrong choices he can make: First, to use the grace of God for an occasion to sin (Galatians 5:13); second, to go back to the law with its rules and regulations. The right choice is the new life that God has given the Christian, and he should live it according to God's instructions. This lesson is designed to teach the Christian that he has liberty in Christ, and to help him decide to follow Christ by his own personal choice.

#### I. LAW WAS GIVEN TO BRING THE LOST TO CHRIST

##### A. The law is the schoolmaster. Galatians 3:23-25

There has to be a source for instructing people about sin and to show them the character and righteousness of God. God gave mankind the law to teach God's expectations. In Romans 7:7, Paul said he would not have known sin except through the law. How does anyone know what is right and wrong? There has to be some kind of law and God's law was given that mankind might know they are sinning against God. Romans 3:19-20 tells each person that the knowledge of sin is the law. When there is no law, there is no sin. Romans 5:13, 7:13. The law brings guilt to a person's conscience and, consequently, causes him to seek relief from the guilt of sin.

As long as a person is under the law, he will continually experience guilt and condemnation.

B. Law cannot save the lost. Galatians 3:21

The law cannot save a person no matter how hard he tries. The law deals with the world and humanity (Romans 3:19-20), but not with a spiritual relationship with God. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, the law ends and righteousness begins. Romans 10:3-4. In Matthew 5:17-18, the Bible says that one jot (the smallest letter of the Greek alphabet) or tittle (a dot or small mark) of the law would not pass away until all be fulfilled. Jesus Christ fulfilled all the law when He came to the earth and lived His life in complete compliance to the law. When a person accepts Christ, he is accepting the fulfillment of the law and its condemnation is eliminated. Romans 8:1.

## II. SALVATION BY GRACE FREES THE LOST FROM THE LAW

A. The curse of the law removed. Galatians 3:10-13

Everyone who is under the law is cursed by the law. The curse of the law is separation from God and condemnation to Hell without God. Jesus Christ suffered this curse when he died on the cross, and when a person accepts Him as personal Savior, God will never again impose the curse upon him. Jesus suffered the curse of the law and took the place of every man, woman, or child who would accept Him with the price He paid.

B. The law itself removed. Romans 7:1-4

In Romans Seven, God uses the example of a woman whose husband dies to show the saved person what happened when he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

The wife is bound by the law to her husband until he dies, but then she is free to remarry. As long as the law is alive, every person on the earth is bound to it; but when the law is dead, then he is free to remarry (Christ). Christ broke down the wall between God and man, fulfilled the law of commandments, and made peace with God for anyone who would accept Him as his Lord and Savior. Ephesians 2:14-15. With no law left to condemn the saved person, he can never again be condemned by God.

### III. LAW AFTER GRACE IS FALLING FROM GRACE

#### A. Fallen from grace. Galatians 5:1-4

When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, the grace of God is given to him and assures that he will never again be condemned. There is no sin that is greater than the grace of God. Romans 5:15-21. It is impossible for a saved person to lose his salvation, but it is possible to fall from grace. When a saved person does not adhere to God's grace, he will believe he has lost his salvation or he will self-impose laws. These laws may be either biblical or religious in origin. If he departs from grace and self-imposes the law, self-condemnation and guilt become the controlling force in his life. God does not take away grace, but the saved person can reject grace, no longer recognize or live by it, and return to the law

B. Saved but living by the law. Colossians 2:20-23

When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, he becomes part of the bride of Christ. In II Corinthians 11:2, Paul indicated the saved are espoused to Christ and should live accordingly.

Going back to the law (to which a lost man is married), after it is dead to him, is committing spiritual fornication. Romans 7:1-6. Why would a saved person with a new husband (Christ) want to go back to living with a dead husband (the law)?

Each saved person should live his life as the espoused bride of Christ and not a defeated, despondent, anxiety filled life controlled by sin and the law.

#### IV.FREEDOM IS GIVEN TO ENABLE THE SAVED TO GLORIFY GOD

A. Freedom should not be used for sin. Galatians 5:13

A saved person has been set free from sin and its penalty and given freedom in which to live his life. God tells the Christian to use his liberty to serve Christ with a pure heart of love. I Peter 2:16.

B Freedom affects others. Romans 14:7-8

Everything a person does in life affects others in some way. The Christian's life will be a testimony of God, whether it is good or bad. How a Christian lives his life shows others what he thinks of his Lord Jesus Christ. God's name will be recognized by how a Christian lives his life, whether good or bad; some are vessels of honor

(famous) and some vessels of dishonor (infamous). II Timothy 2:19-21. Each Christian must choose which life he will follow.



## **CONCLUSION**

God gave the Christian liberty to choose what he will do with his new life. Without this choice, it is impossible to glorify Christ. A person is not glorifying Christ when he serves Him because of law. When a Christian decides to serve God, by his free choice, it is glorifying to Christ. After a person is saved and chooses to serve sin, he is glorifying the flesh or himself, not Christ. Joshua challenged the children of Israel "choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:15.

## **EXHORTATION**

God has given you the freedom to choose what you are going to do with your new life in Christ. Have you made this choice? Explain the choice you made and, if possible, when you made it. If you have not made the choice "choose you this day whom you will serve."

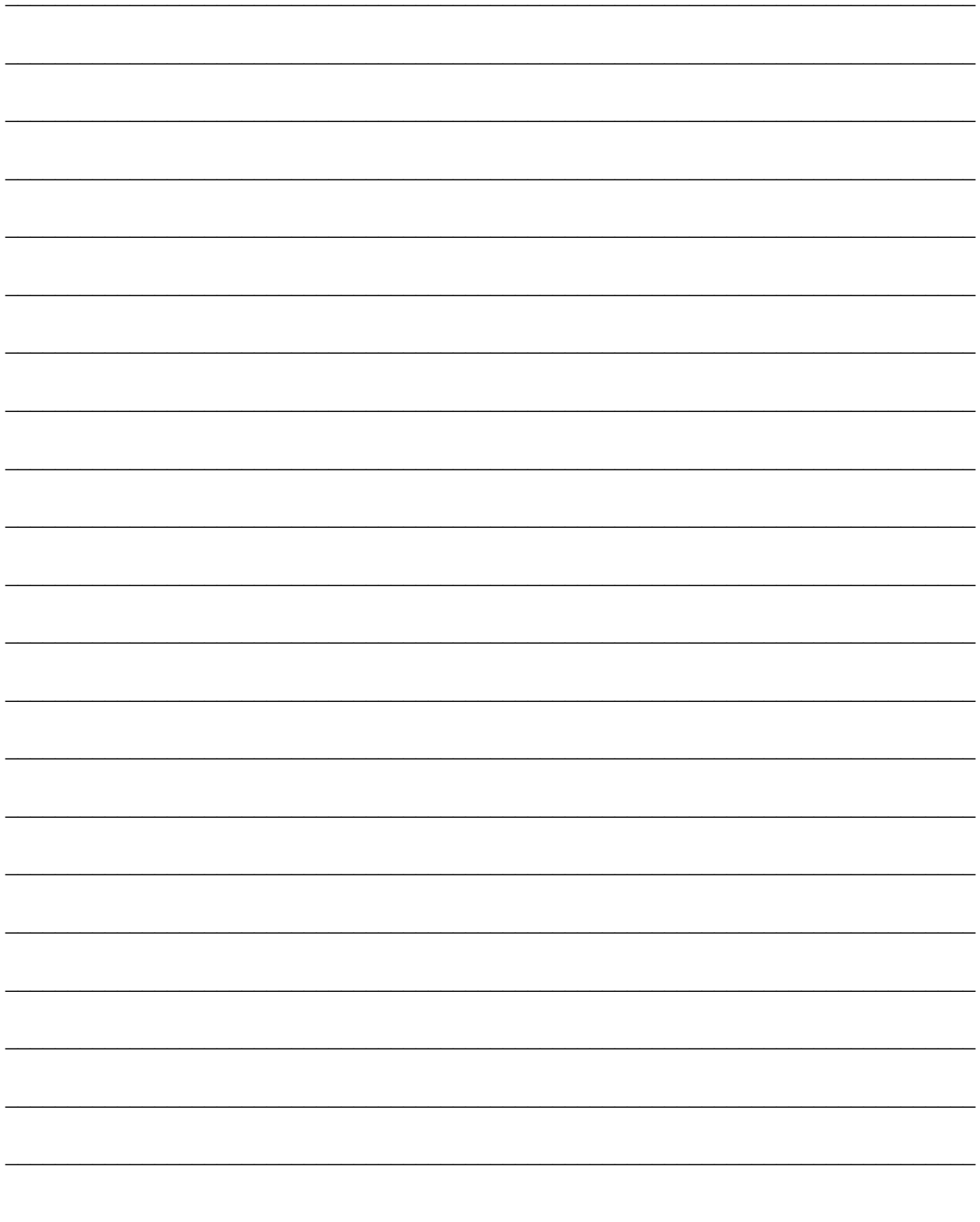
## **HOMEWORK**

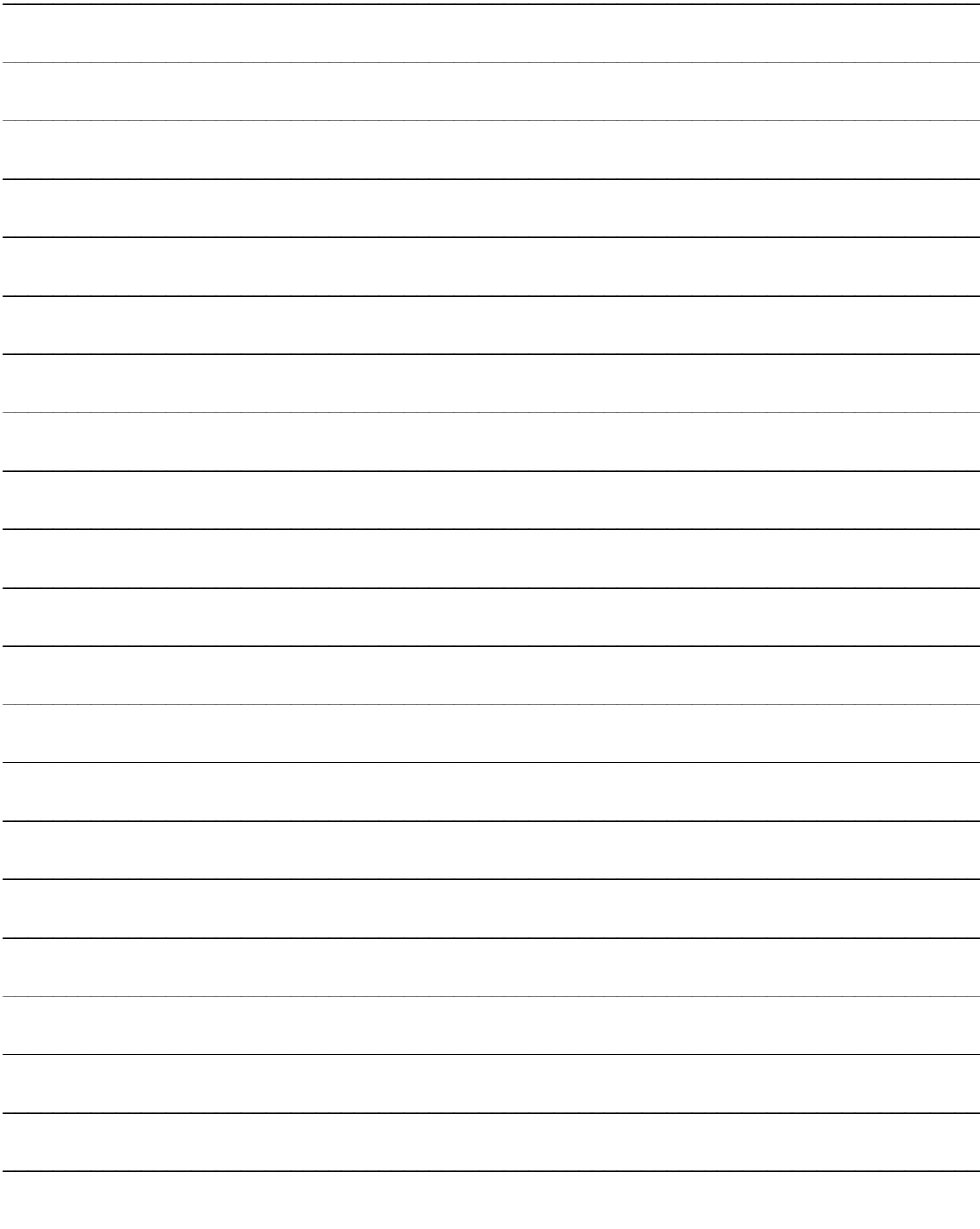
Read: Galatians

Memorize: Galatians 5:13

Write: Romans 7









# **STEP SIX - GOD'S DESIRE**

## **LESSON ELEVEN**

### **JESUS ON EARTH TODAY**

Introduction: When people are asked about Jesus Christ, they often reply "If I could only see Him with my eyes, then I would believe." The Bible informs the Christian that he is the visible representation of Christ and through his body Christ can be seen. A Christian is the manifestation of Christ to everyone, both saved and lost. When a Christian understands that the Church is the body of Christ and each member is a part of His body, he recognizes the need to always function as Christ's representative. This lesson is designed to help the Christian recognize his importance as Christ's representative and put into action God's instruction.

#### **I. CHRIST'S REPRESENTATIVES**

##### **A. Ambassadors. II Corinthians 5:20**

When a person accepts Christ as his personal Savior, he becomes a citizen of the Kingdom of God. He is no longer a citizen of Earth, but an ambassador to the Earth, with his new citizenship in Heaven. In Hebrews 11:13, the Bible states that the Old Testament saints were pilgrims and strangers on Earth. They recognized this Earth was only a temporary place and they were to represent their LORD to this world. In I Peter 2:11, the New Testament informs the Christian of today that he is a pilgrim and stranger in this world. Each saved person represents Jesus Christ to a world that

cannot see Him because they are lost and blind. II Corinthians 4:4. One of the most important things for a Christian to realize is that he represents Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God.

B. Bride of Christ. Ephesians 5:31-32

Not only is a Christian an ambassador to the world, but he is also the bride or wife of Christ. A Christian's actions should be controlled by his love relationship as the espoused bride of Christ. The Christian has not yet been to the wedding, but he has been espoused or engaged to Christ, his husband. II Corinthians 11:2. The Christian should be in constant preparation for the wedding and his uniting with Christ for eternity. In this life, when a lady gets engaged to be married, she puts on an engagement ring to inform the world that she is no longer available; she has been espoused. She then begins to prepare for her wedding day with great expectation and joy. The Christian should be no less committed to his wedding with Christ and should prepare his life for the great wedding day. Revelation 19:7-8, 21:9.

## II. THE BODY OF CHRIST

A. The Temple. Ephesians 2:20-22

The "Temple" is the place where God dwells on the Earth. In the Old Testament, there was a building in Jerusalem called the Temple, where God dwelt on Earth and met with man. Today, the Temple of God is the Christian's body, His earthly house. The Bible cautions the Christian, when building this house, to build it with gold, silver, and precious stones--the things Heaven is made of. I Corinthians 3:9-17. He

is not to build with wood, hay, and stubble--the things of the Earth. It is very important how the Christian builds his life, because it can be either heavenly or earthly. There are traps today which cause the Christian to follow the way of the world, but God's way is following Christ and the Holy Spirit as recorded in the Word of God.

B. Christ is the head. Ephesians 5:23

The head is the part of the body that makes decisions and gives purpose and direction. Christ is the head of His body, the Church, and should be recognized by each Christian as the head. Ephesians 4:15-16, I Peter 2:4-8. For the Christian to build his new house the way God wants it built, he must submit to Christ (the head), have a good heart, and actively progress toward maturity to complete the house. A Christian ought to purpose in his heart to complete this new life God planned for him. I Thessalonians 4:1. Within each saved person there is enough power to create the world, the universe, all beings on the Earth, and life itself. That power is not the carnal man, but is God Himself dwelling in His "Temple," the body of the saved person. Ephesians 1:19.

C. The church is the body of Christ. I Corinthians 12:12-27, Romans 12:4-5

The Christian needs to understand that the church is not an organization, but a living organism. The church is the earthly body of Jesus Christ with each member as His representative. Although Christ Himself is sitting at the right hand of the Father in Heaven, He dwells on Earth in each Christians' body through His Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5:29-30.



### III. REPRESENTING CHRIST TO OTHERS

#### A. Do good to others. Galatians 6:9-10

The Christian should represent Christ to everyone on the Earth, but particularly to others who are saved (the household of faith). Romans 12:10. When a person becomes a Christian, he becomes Christ's representative. One of the greatest problems in Christianity today is that Christians do not realize they are representing Christ. Many times Christians are selfish (representing self) or religious (representing the church) or socialistic (representing humanity), when they should be Christians (representing Christ).

### IV. REPRESENTING CHRIST TO THE WORLD

#### A. The light of the world. I John 1:5-7, Matthew 5:14-16

The Christian is the light of God to this lost and dying world. The Bible instructs the Christian to walk in the light because he is the child of light. Ephesians 5:8. Before salvation, each person walked in darkness; but after salvation, the Christian should put off the darkness and walk in the light. Romans 13:12. The Christian is to represent Christ, and to do so, he must put on Christ (the Light).

## **CONCLUSION**

The Christian should not pretend to be something he is not, but should be real and genuine. When the Christian is not what he should be, the problem is internal--not external. Many times, he tries to produce change by his works or actions, but the problem is in his heart. Each saved person represents Jesus Christ, but he represents Christ from what is in his heart. When his heart is right with Christ, desiring to be everything God wants, then he will correctly represent Christ.

## **EXHORTATION**

Knowing you are saved, who or what is your life representing and who or what is your life manifesting? Give a testimony of who Jesus Christ is to you personally. Take the necessary action to assure that your heart is what it should be and represent Christ to your utmost ability.

## **HOMEWORK**

Read: I Corinthians Chapters 1-8

Memorize: John 8:12

Write: John 1









# **STEP SIX - GOD'S DESIRE**

## **LESSON TWELVE**

# **LEADING OTHERS TO CHRIST**

## **(EVANGELISM)**

Introduction: There are millions of people in the world today who do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. They are lost and wandering through this life with no hope of eternity in Heaven. Every Christian needs to get involved in showing them the way to Heaven and rescuing them from the penalty of sin, which is Hell. This lesson is designed to help the Christian learn how to lead a lost person to Christ. In Romans 10:14, the Bible makes it clear that the lost must hear or they will not believe. If more Christians will get involved, more lost people will be saved by hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **I. THE CONDITION OF THE LOST**

There are two terms in the Bible that best describe the condition of those who do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior-- blind and lost.

#### **A. Blinded by the god of this world. II Corinthians 4:3-4**

A person who does not know Jesus Christ as his personal Savior has been blinded by the god of this world, which is Satan. Being blind, they cannot find the way. Knowing only the world, they go to the world to find the way. Luke 6:39. When the blind lead the blind, they fall into the ditch. Because of their acceptance of the world, they are not only blinded in their minds,

they are also blinded in their hearts, and their understanding is darkened.

Ephesians 4:18.

In Matthew 23:24-26, Jesus referred to the Pharisees as being blinded, even though they had physical sight.

B. Lost. II Corinthians 4:3-4

A person who is lost cannot get to his destination without assistance. A person without Christ is lost and cannot find his way to Heaven. The Christian should understand the lost person's condition and show him the way. A Christian should follow the example of Jesus who came to the earth to seek and to save those who are lost. Luke 19:10.

## II. PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS(KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION AND ASSURANCE)

Salvation can only take place as a supernatural act performed by God Himself. God does, however, use the Christian as His messenger to bring about that salvation. II Corinthians 5:18-20. The Gospel (death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ) has to be proclaimed in order for the lost person to know about salvation. Romans 10:14.

To be a proper messenger, a Christian should meet certain qualifications.

A. Know his own destination. II Timothy 1:12

It is essential that the each Christian know where he is going before he is able to show someone else the way. The Christian must know that he has been saved and how he was saved. Romans 10:9-13. It is very difficult for a person to explain to someone else what he does not know himself. Romans 10:13 says that "whosoever



shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Before a Christian can become involved in leading others to Christ, he must know his own personal relationship with God. I Peter 3:15.

B. Have assurance of salvation. I John 5:13

The Bible tells the Christian that he can know he has eternal life because of the written word of God. The Christian must know that he has passed from death unto life. John 5:24. It is necessary for a Christian to know that he accepted Jesus Christ, and he must have the assurance that his salvation is permanent.

C. Know the way. John 14:4-6

Once a saved person knows he is saved and going to Heaven, he also needs to know how to get someone else there. There is only one way to Heaven, through Jesus Christ the Lord, and anyone who tries any other way is a thief and a robber and will not enter into Heaven. John 10:1. The one way to Heaven is narrow and straight. Matthew 7:14. What is the way to Heaven?

1. The person must realize that he is a sinner. Romans 3:10,23.
2. The person must understand that God died for him while he was still a sinner. Romans 5:8
3. The person must understand that he will go to Hell because he sinned; but Jesus paid the price, and offers salvation as a free gift from God. Romans 6:23.
4. The person must know that, to accept this free gift from God, he has to believe in his heart that Jesus Christ is the Lord. He must believe

the gospel; that Jesus Christ died on the cross, was buried, and rose again from the dead, as stated in the Bible. Romans 10:9-10.

5. The person must pray and accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior by his own free choice. Romans 10:13.

When a Christian knows the way to Heaven, then it is simple to lead someone else to Heaven.

### III. NECESSARY ATTITUDES FOR CHRISTIAN WITNESSES

- A. Must be willing. II Corinthians 8:11-12

A Christian must have a willing mind before God will use him for ministry. God wants every saved person to become involved in leading others to Christ, and He looks for a willing heart. Ephesians 6:6-7. Sometimes the Christian will sit around and wish people would get saved, but it doesn't happen if the Christian doesn't get involved. The fields (souls) are ready for harvest, but the laborers are few.

Luke 10:2.

- B. Must be committed. II Corinthians 5:19

God committed unto the Christian the word of reconciliation. When the works of a Christian are committed to the Lord, then God will use him for ministry. Proverbs 16:3. Psalms 37:5.

- C. Must lead. Acts 8:30-31

The Ethiopian eunuch was trying to read and understand the Scripture, but Philip had to show him the way. It is very important for the Christian to understand that people without Christ do not know the way. It is essential that the Christian has confidence in his understanding of the truth, and be willing to share the gospel boldly and with

authority. Jesus spoke with authority because He knew what He said was the truth. Matthew 7:28-29. A Christian should know he has the truth and be willing to lead others to Christ. Matthew 28:19-20.

#### IV. RESULTS OF EVANGELISM

##### A. Salvation of others. Acts 1:8

The power of God was given to the apostles for the purpose of taking Christ to the whole world. There are many examples in the Scripture where one person sharing the word of God with another caused them to be saved. Here are some examples.

1. Acts 4:4 - Five thousand when Peter preached.
2. Acts 8:37 - Ethiopian eunuch by Philip.
3. Acts 11:20-21 - A great number at Antioch when the men of Cyprus and Cyrene spoke.
4. Acts 14:1 - Great multitude of both Jews and Greeks at Iconium when Paul and Barnabas spoke.
5. Acts 16:27-34 - Keeper of the jail and his family when Paul and Silas spoke to them.

It is essential that every Christian get involved in leading others to Christ, and then those who are led to Christ will lead others to Christ. When this multiplication takes place, the gospel is propagated.

##### B. Discipleship. II Timothy 2:2

There will be the necessity for discipleship when the lost are led to Christ.

Discipleship is assisting the new Christian in growth and teaching them to lead  
others

to Jesus Christ. God's desire is that everyone come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ  
and be saved. II Peter 3:9. This can only happen when every Christian gets involved  
in discipleship and training new Christians to follow Christ.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is very important that each Christian see his need to become involved in leading others to Christ. It is not just the responsibility of the pastors and leaders in the church to lead others to Christ, but the responsibility of every Christian. The lost will never come to the knowledge of Christ unless someone shows them the way. In Matthew 13:1-8, the parable of the sower shows the importance of sowing the Word of God so a harvest will take place. Each Christian must know his relationship to God and share this relationship with others.

## **EXHORTATION**

After studying this lesson, do you see your responsibility to get involved in leading others to Christ? Do you know how to lead someone to Christ? Explain how you would lead someone to Christ. Commit yourself to Christ as His messenger and talk to one person about salvation. Who is the person you will talk to?

## **HOMEWORK**

Read: I Corinthians Chapters 9-16

Memorize: John 14:6

Write: Romans 10

**ROMANS 10**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---









# **STEP SEVEN - GOD'S MINISTRY**

## **LESSON THIRTEEN**

### **STEWARDSHIP NOT OWNERSHIP**

Introduction: Giving is one of the most misunderstood and complained about teachings in Christianity today. There are many who impose law in regard to giving and state that a person has lost God's fellowship if he does not give at least ten percent. There are others who say that a Christian does not have to give at all. Where is the truth about giving and what is the real issue? There are many financial needs in the churches today and God uses the Christians to supply these needs, but is that the reason to give? This lesson is written to help the Christian understand stewardship and to give as God directs him.

#### **I. STEWARDSHIP IS RECOGNIZING GOD'S OWNERSHIP Psalms 50:10-12**

God created the heavens and the Earth and everything in it, and He still owns it today. Before a Christian can understand stewardship or giving, it is necessary to realize that God is the owner. Everything in the possession of a Christian belongs to God. When the Temple was being built, they recognized that everything belonged to God. I Chronicles 29:16. In John 1:10, the Bible states that the world was made by Christ and it belongs to Him. Not only does the world belong to Christ, but the Christian has been bought and paid for by Christ, and belongs to Him. I Corinthians 6:19-20.

## II. RECOGNIZING STEWARDSHIP OF WHAT GOD OWNS Luke 16:1-8

Once a Christian understands that everything in his possession belongs to God, and that he is only overseeing it for God (the owner), then he can begin to practice stewardship. A steward is one who takes care of something that belongs to another. Once the Christian gets out of ownership and into stewardship, then everything changes in how he handles the possessions God has placed in his charge. Stewardship is not transferring ownership of ten percent, but one hundred percent to God. Once the saved person understands this, giving is simply a matter of stewardship.

## III. LOVE AS THE BASIS OF GIVING

### A. Biblical giving is an act of love. I Corinthians 16:14

Many times the Bible uses the word charity instead of love because charity shows action, and giving is the action. Charity is best explained in I Corinthians 13:4-10. When a saved person gives, it should be an act of love toward God. God instructs the Christian to be a cheerful giver in II Corinthians 9:7. When a Christian gives out of necessity or grudgingly, it shows a problem between him and God. If a Christian is to be a good steward, he must give as God instructs.

### B. Biblical giving is according to what God has given. John 3:27

A Christian has nothing except what God has given him. Many times a Christian will get caught up in desiring to give what he doesn't have and misses the joy of giving. For example, he will say "If I had a million dollars I would give God half."

This is not stewardship, just dreaming. God expects each Christian to give of that which God has blessed him with.

The Bible explains why God wants the Christian to give and what the results will be.

Luke 6:38      A Christian's giving determines how much God can give to him.

I Timothy 6:17-18      God gives the Christian earthly things to enjoy.

Acts 20:35      Christians should labor to give.

#### IV. FOLLOWING CHRIST'S INSTRUCTIONS

##### A.      Have the right attitude. II Corinthians 9:7

1. The Bible tells the Christian to give as he determines in his heart. If there is a problem with giving, it is a problem in the heart, not just with action. When a Christian's heart is fastened on worldly things, his treasure becomes worldly and not heavenly. Luke 6:45. A hard and impenitent heart lays up treasure for itself. Romans 2:5. When a Christian does not give, it is a selfish problem in his heart toward God.
2. II Corinthians 9:7 says that the Christian should not give grudgingly. Giving should never be a time of sadness, but a time of joy, because it is a privilege to give. God gave His children a way of expressing to Him their appreciation and love. When giving is an act of love it is a joy to give instead of a burden.
3. The Bible also says not to give out of necessity. A Christian should never give because he has to (legalism). Giving out of necessity takes all the joy out of giving and makes it an act of selfishness. When guilt is attached to giving,

or not giving, then necessity is the controlling force. A Christian should always give because in his heart he wants to give, and never allow external things to force him to give.

4. II Corinthians 9:7 also says that God loves a cheerful giver. The Christian should give cheerfully because of what Christ has done for him. Giving should be one of the greatest joys a Christian ever experiences because it shows his love and defeats selfishness. John 16:33 tells the Christian that Christ has overcome the world. It is easy for a saved person to give cheerfully when he realizes that Christ has already won the battle over the world.

B. Giving is an act of faith. Romans 12:3-8

In Romans, chapter twelve deals with faith and giving. Faith is following God's instructions--believing that He will do what He says He will do. God wants to give each Christian more to manage, provided the Christian exercise his faith and follow Christ. Luke 6:38. The question usually asked by a Christian, once he understands giving, is "how much should I give?" Under the law of the Old Testament, it was required] that a tithe (ten percent) be given. The New Testament Christian is not under the law (Romans 6:14) and is not required to give a tithe. The person used as the example of faith for the New Testament Christian is Abraham. He gave a tithe before the law was ever started. The difference was that Abraham gave it by choice. The Bible does not tell the New Testament Christian how much to give, but ten

percent is a good example. God did say in II Corinthians 9:7 to give as he purposes in his heart. When giving is based on love, the issue is a Christian's willingness to give and the joy of giving--not how much.

## **CONCLUSION**

Every saved person should get involved in giving. He should start by getting out of ownership, and into stewardship, and become consistent in giving as an act of love for Christ. Ten percent should not be the issue. Giving should be from the heart and with cheerfulness. Ten percent is a good example of how much a Christian should give but it should be given willingly--JUST BECAUSE HE WANTS TO. If a person is not giving, he is not loving, and his life will become selfish.

## **EXHORTATION**

Are you consistently giving as God has prospered you? If you are not, start giving immediately with whatever amount you can. A set of offering envelopes is available from the church and can be used as a tool to help you become consistent.

## **HOMEWORK**

Read: II Corinthians

Memorize: II Corinthians 9:7

Write: II Corinthians 9

## II CORINTHIANS 9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---









# STEP SEVEN - GOD'S MINISTRY

## LESSON FOURTEEN

### **GOD'S RECOGNITION OF LIFE**

Introduction: One day every man that has ever lived on the Earth will stand before Jesus Christ to be judged. There will be two separate judgments--one for the saved and one for the lost. The lost will be judged for the sin they have committed and will be cast into the lake of fire forever. Revelation 20:12-15. The saved will be judged and given rewards for the service they have done for Christ. II Corinthians 5:10. Jesus Christ will be the judge at both judgments. John 5:22. If the Christian is going to be judged, then it is important that he know what he is going to be judged for and what he will receive. This lesson is written to inform the Christian of what he can receive at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

#### I. WHAT IS RECORDED IN HEAVEN? II Corinthians 5:10

Sin was judged on the cross when Jesus took the penalty for sin upon Himself. The Christian cannot be judged for sin because it has already been dealt with at the cross.

When the Christian is judged, it will be the time to receive rewards for what he did for Christ. I Corinthians 3:11-15. The Christian will be judged for his motives as well as his actions. I Corinthians 3:13 (of what sort it is).

## II. WHAT REWARDS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AT THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?

### A. Crowns

There are five crowns listed in the New Testament that can be given to the Christian. The Christian should understand these crowns and seek to obtain as many as possible.

#### 1. Crown of Righteousness. II Timothy 4:8

This crown will be given to those who love Christ's appearing. The Christian should always be looking for the return of the Lord with great joy. The Christian should be ready to go to Heaven at any time. Philippians 1:23-24.

#### 2. Crown of Life. Revelation 2:10

This crown will be given to those who are martyred for their Christian life. This crown is also seen in James 1:12 as one who endures temptation. There is always the temptation to turn to the world and especially in a time of tribulation. God promised that those who love him and give up his worldly life (self) will receive this crown.

#### 3. Crown of Rejoicing. I Thessalonians 2:19

The Bible tells the Christian there is rejoicing in Heaven when a sinner comes to Christ. Evangelism (leading someone to Christ) is how this crown is obtained. Paul referred to the Christians at Philippi as "his crown", indicating that he had led them to Christ. Philippians 4:1. Every Christian should be seeking to lead others to Christ.

4. Crown of Glory. I Peter 5:4

This crown is given to the shepherds of God's people. A shepherd is a pastor with the responsibility of caring for the saints with the Word of God. This crown is not just for those in the position or office of pastor, but all those who are teaching the Word of God and caring for the saved. Ephesians 4:11-16.

5. Incorruptible Crown. I Corinthians 9:25

This crown is given to those who live a balanced, temperate life. Moderation is an important issue in every Christian's life and God will reward him for it.

Philippians 4:5. It is very easy to go to extremes in either direction and with any part of life (physical, spiritual, or mental). God wants each Christian to have a balanced life and glorify Christ.

### III. RULE AND REIGN WITH CHRIST. Luke 19:12-26

In this parable, the Bible shows that each Christian who uses the talents God has given him, will be rewarded when Christ comes back to Earth by giving him authority and rule during the Millennium. In Revelation 5:10 and 20:6, the Bible indicates that some will rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years.

### IV. HOW THE CHRISTIAN WILL BE JUDGED

A. According to actions and motives. Romans 14:10

Every saved person will stand before Jesus Christ at the Judgment Seat of Christ and be judged for what he did with his life. II Corinthians 5:10. He will be judged not

only for what he did but why (motive). When Christ judges, it will not be with any respect for persons. I Peter 1:14-23.

B. According to who Jesus Christ is personally.

The greatest determining factor in the life of the Christian, here on the Earth and when he stands before Christ to be judged, is who is Jesus Christ to him. Many never fully accept the fact that Jesus Christ is THE LORD.

In the book of Matthew, when Jesus asked Peter "Who do you say that I am?", Peter replied that Jesus was "the Christ, the Son, of the living God." Everything in the life of a Christian will be determined by how he answers this same question--"Who is Jesus Christ to you?" Romans 14:11.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is a Biblical fact that each Christian will give an account of the life he has lived since the day of salvation. God will give rewards to those who have served Him, but those who have not served Him will be ashamed. I John 2:28. It is very important that each Christian answer the question "Who is Jesus Christ to you?" and accept who He is. When a Christian faces the full reality that Jesus is the judge (as well as Lord) and that everyone will give an account to Him, then he will understand the necessity to serve God.

## **EXHORTATION**

Who is Jesus Christ to you? Have you made the final decision to live your life for Jesus Christ? Fully submit your life to Jesus and follow Him the rest of your life.

## **HOMEWORK**

Read: I and II Thessalonians

Memorize: II Corinthians 5:10

Write: Ephesians 3









---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---