

1 DISCIPLESHIP 1



The Discipleship Ministry

The Discipleship Ministry exists to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ the Son of God to “*Make Disciples of All Nations*” by equipping Christians to *Win, Build* and *Send** people for Christ!

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***Campus Crusade for Christ, Int'l**

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How to Use This Studybook

Purpose

Discipleship 1 is designed to help Christians glorify Jesus Christ and equip them to disciple others! It can be used for Personal Study, New Christian Follow-Up, One on One Discipleship, Small Group Discipleship or Training Seminars.

Using the Book - Follow-Up & Discipleship

- ▶ **New Christians** should be taught these Lessons *immediately after becoming a Christian* in order to ground them in their new found Faith.
- ▶ **Share the Lessons in Discipleship 1 with other Christians** to help them *grow* in their faith.
- ▶ **Train and Challenge those you are studying with to share Discipleship 1 with other people.** Each time they share these Lessons with another person, they will not only help them in their Christian life, but will also continue to grow as they gain a greater understanding of God's Word!

Format

The **Main Section** on each page contains *The Lesson* while the **Right Column** contains *Thought Questions, Helpful Information, Related Verses and Memorization Directives*.

Procedure



Lessons can be done without prior preparation or they may be assigned and then reviewed during the study sessions.

Main Section ~ *The Lesson*

- ▶ **Read** through each Lesson, paying careful attention to all Scripture References.
- ▶ **Instructions**, indicated by **bullets** ❖, include directions to *Underline, Circle* or *Read* specific sections of Scripture. They help the student discover significant Truths in the Bible!
- ▶ **Applications**: complete all Applications in each Lesson.

*“The Purpose of Scripture is not simply to be Informed,
but to be Transformed!”*

Right Column ~ Cover this material for a **deeper study**.

- ▶ **Helpful Information** provide additional information to supplement the Lesson.
- ▶ **Thought Questions**, designated by **arrows** ▶ in the Column, help the student focus on the significant ideas of the Lesson to gain a deeper understanding.
- ▶ **Related Verses**, indicated by the **Bible** , provide additional Scriptures to look up. These should be examined to gain a better understanding of what other Scriptures teach about the Lesson.
- ▶ **Memorization Directives**, designated by the **arrow** , point out key Scriptures to commit to memory.

1. God's Assurance

Introduction

If you **died today**, how sure are you that you have Eternal Life? Put a mark on the line below that reflects your answer.



There are many people who have attended church for years who are still not absolutely certain. *Being sure you have Eternal Life* involves being certain of your Decision to trust in Jesus Christ as Savior! The following Four Truths explain this important decision.

Four Truths

1. God, Our Creator, Loves Us!

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

- ❖ Circle the *word* that describes God's *attitude* toward us. (*John 3:16*)
- ❖ Underline the *phrase* that explains *how* God demonstrated His Love.
- ❖ Underline what we must *do* to obtain *Eternal life*.
- ❖ Circle to *whom* Eternal life is offered to.

According to John 3:16, does God love you? Yes No

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I (Jesus) have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
John 10:10

- ❖ Underline *why* Jesus said He came in *John 10:10*.
 - ❖ Circle what *kind* of life He wants us to have.
- Would you like to have this kind of life? Yes No

2. Our Sin Has Separated Us From God!

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"
Romans 3:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 6:23

- ❖ Circle how *many* people have sinned according to *Romans 3:23*.
 - ❖ Underline the *result* of *sin* according to *Romans 3:23 & 6:23*.
- According to *Romans 3:23* are you a sinner? Yes No
- According to *Romans 6:23* do you deserve to die? Yes No

God's Love

Love is translated from the Greek word **Agape** which describes a Love that is Spiritual more than Emotional. Where as emotional love is often self-centered, Agape Love values the thing loved, and seeks its best no matter the cost to the one loving it.

Spiritual Death

The penalty for our **Sin** is **Death**. This death is more than just our bodies dying; it is spiritual separation from God. At our physical death, this separation becomes **eternal**.

The separation between Sinful Man and God is so vast that, no matter how "good" we may be, we are powerless to bridge it. Doing so would be like swimming from Hawaii to Los Angeles, a distance of 2000 miles over open ocean. No matter how good a swimmer one might be, even the best will fail!



Romans 3:10-20

3. Jesus Christ, God's Son, Died On the Cross for Our Sins!

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6

- ❖ Circle **three** things Jesus claims for Himself in John 14:6.
- ❖ Circle **who** is able to come to God **apart** from Christ.

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

- ❖ Underline **how** God has demonstrated His love for us in *Romans 5:8*.
 - ❖ Circle what **condition** we were in when God loved us.
- Do you believe Jesus died for you? Yes No

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born."
1 Corinthians 15:3-6

- ❖ Underline **four** things Christ did according to *1 Corinthians 15:3-6*.
 - ❖ Circle **all** the people Christ appeared *alive* to after rising from the dead.
- Do you believe God raised Christ from the dead? Yes No

4. We Must Receive Jesus Christ As Savior and Lord!

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God"
John 1:12

- ❖ Circle the **two** things we must do to become *Children of God (John 1:12)*
- Are you willing to receive Christ into your life? Yes No

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast."
Ephesians 2:8-9

- ❖ Circle **how** we are saved according to *Ephesians 2:8-9*.
- ❖ Underline **why** God chose to save us *through faith* instead of *by works*.


Receiving Christ

Have you personally received Jesus Christ as your Savior and trusted in Him to forgive your Sins? If not, **you would like to wouldn't you?** Pray the following prayer to make this all important decision right now!

"Dear Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned against You and need your forgiveness. Thank-You for dying on the cross in my place for my sins. I receive you into my life and trust in You alone as my Savior and God. In Your name I pray. Amen!"

MEMORIZE!

- ▶ What does Jesus mean when He claims to be "**the Way**"?
"**the Truth**"?
"**the Life**"?

 Acts 4:12
1 Timothy 2:5
1 John 5:11

- ▶ What is significant about God loving us even before we knew or even cared about Him?

Jesus Christ - God's Gift

God offers His Son, Jesus Christ, as payment for our sin. When Christ died on the cross, His death paid the penalty for our sin. This is why Eternal Life can only be found through Christ.

 2 Corinthians 5:15 & 21
Ephesians 1:7
1 Peter 3:18
Romans 10:9-10

- ▶ How do we know Christ rose from the dead?

- ▶ Do you think all of these people could have been mistaken?

MEMORIZE!

Receiving Christ

The phrase 'Receive Christ' is used to describe the act of believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and trusting in all He has done on the Cross to purchase our forgiveness.

MEMORIZE!

- ▶ Why do you think God has based Eternal Life on our faith rather than our works?

Important

It is not the words that are important but our faith. We must trust Christ to forgive our sins because He promised He would.

Assurance of Eternal Life

- ❖ **Read** the following Bible passage and answer the questions below to learn how you can be certain you have Eternal Life in Jesus Christ.

*“And this is the testimony:
God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
He who has the Son has life;
he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.
I write these things to you who believe
in the name of the Son of God
so that you may know that you have eternal life.”*
1 John 5:11-13

- ❖ **Circle** what God has *given* to us according to *1 John 5:11-13*.
- ❖ **Underline** *where* Eternal Life is found.
- ❖ **Circle** what a person *has* if he has Jesus Christ.
- ❖ **Circle** what a person does *not* have if he does not have Jesus Christ.
According to this passage, can a person *know for sure* he has Eternal Life?
 Yes No
- ❖ **Underline** this passage’s answer to this question.
- ❖ **Circle** *who* can ‘know’ they have Eternal Life.

Do you have Christ in *your* life? Yes No

If ‘*yes*’, what else did you receive from God?

- a Perfect Face and Body to Match.*
- Financial Riches*
- Eternal Life*

Application

We will close with the same question we began. *“If you died today, are you sure you have Eternal life?”*

*“I am absolutely sure I have Eternal Life
through Jesus Christ, God’s Son.
If I were to die today, I KNOW I will be in Heaven with God.”*

Date

Signature

(If you are still not sure you have Eternal Life, review 1 John 5:11-13 above. Discuss any questions you may have with your Pastor or Minister.

*It is important that you understand this Lesson
for it is the **foundation** of all the others!)*



Basis for Our Assurance

Eternal Life is not based on how good we are, or how we feel. It is based on our faith in Jesus Christ. Notice that the teaching in 1 John 5:11-13 is written to those who “believe in the Name of the Son of God”!

- ▶ *How does 1 John 5:14-15 relate to what is taught in 1 John 5:11-13?*



Romans 1:16-17

AFFIRMATION

1. Christ died on the cross for me.
2. God will receive me in heaven when I die because He promised He would.
3. I have Eternal Life because I have Christ!

A Prayer

Father, I praise You for You have promised Eternal Life to all who believe in your Son Jesus Christ. And Your promises are sure for You cannot lie, nor do You change Your mind. You are Faithful in all Your ways, and I thank you for the assurance I have in Christ! Amen

2. God's Forgiveness

Introduction

How would you complete the following statement?

When a person becomes a Christian, ...

- only those sins that he confesses are forgiven.*
- all of his sins in the past are forgiven, but not those in the future.*
- he becomes perfect and unable to ever sin again.*
- all of our sins past, present & future are forgiven.*

A problem facing all Christians is Sin. In the next two lessons, we will not only learn the correct answer to the above statement, but also **God's Solution** to help Christians overcome sin in their lives!

Dealing with Sin

This study will answer four questions that will teach us how to deal with sin in our lives:

1. What is Sin?
2. Who Sins?
3. What is God's Solution for Sin?
4. What Should We Do When We Sin?

1. What is Sin?

The word sin translates a *Greek* word which means "missing the mark". It describes the distance between where an arrow lands and the *bull's eye* of the intended target. Notice how it is used in the following Bible passage.

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"
Romans 3:23

Romans 3:23 describes Sin as falling "*short of the glory of God*". Sin is **Man's failure** to live up to the **perfect standard** of God. We have **all** broken God's perfect moral law, either in *action* or in *thought*. Even our *failure to do what we know is right* is Sin! So there is *no one* innocent or perfect among us!

Sin's Results

"The soul who sins is the one who will die."
Ezekiel 18:20

❖ **Circle** the word that describes the *result* of Sin.

Do you believe people who are *guilty* of violating the **moral law** should be punished? **So does God!** Sin brings God's Judgment of **death** on all who are guilty of breaking God's perfect moral law.

Sin 'hamartia' (Grk)

- ▶ to miss the mark
- ▶ to err
- ▶ to do wrong

 **MEMORIZE!**

▶ **Think** of the best person you know. Would you say that person is **perfect**? Why or why not?

 James 2:10
James 4:17

2. Who Sins?

- ❖ Circle the *word* in *Romans 3:23* (previous page) that describes *who* God considers a sinner.

*“If we claim to be without sin,
we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us...
“If we claim we have not sinned,
we make (God) out to be a liar and
his word has no place in our lives.”
1 John 1:8,10*

- ❖ Underline how *1 John 1:8,10* describes *Christians* who **claim** they are *without sin* or *have not sinned*.

3. What Is God’s Solution for Sin?

- ❖ Read the Bible passages that describe God’s Solution for Sin listed below.


*“When you were dead in your sins and
in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature,
God made you alive with Christ.
He forgave us all our sins,
having canceled the written code,
with its regulations,
that was against us and that stood opposed to us;
he took it away, nailing it to the cross.”
Colossians 2:13-14*

*“When he had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’
With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”
John 19:30*

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

In *Colossians 2:13-14*, the apostle Paul uses an illustration from the *legal profession*. During his time, convicted criminals were issued a **“written code”** which listed all the *crimes* they had committed as well as their *penalty* sentenced by the court. After fulfilling their sentence, the court took the **“written code”** and stamped over it the *Greek* word *“tetelestai”*, which means *Paid in Full*. This was the *exact word* Christ used in *John 19:30* when He said, **“It is Finished”**, just before He died on the cross!

- ❖ Circle how *many* of our sins God forgave according to *Colossians 2:13-14*.
- ❖ Underline what God *did* with the **“written code”** that contained a list of our sins and the penalty of death.
(By **“nailing it to the cross”** God was in essence making His Son, Jesus, **pay for our sins** by dying on the cross in our place. **If Jesus didn’t pay for our sins, we would have to!**)
- ❖ Circle the phrase **“It is finished”** in *John 19:30*. Write **“Paid in Full”** above it.
- ❖ Underline why God did this according to *2 Corinthians 5:21*.

 Proverbs 20:9
Ecclesiastes 7:20
Isaiah 53:6
Isaiah 64:6

► Could God have forgiven us without having to sacrifice His Son on the cross? Why or why not?

The Death of Jesus Christ satisfied two attributes of God. It satisfied His **Holiness** which required that Sin be punished, and it satisfied His **Love** which desire Man’s salvation. Through the sacrifice of Jesus, God is able to **demonstrate** His Love for Man while maintaining His Holiness!

 **MEMORIZE!**



Theologians describe Christ’s death on the cross as **Vicarious Atonement** because He is our **Substitute**, taking the punishment for our sins upon Himself!

4. What Should We Do When We Sin?

*“If we confess our sins,
(God) is faithful and just and
will forgive us our sins and
purify us from all unrighteousness.*

1 John 1:9

1 John 1:9 has been called “**The Christian’s Bar of Soap**” because it contains the **key** to dealing with Sin in our lives. This verse describes the **action** we must take whenever we Sin.

❖ Circle the **word** that describes this **action**.

The word **Confess** comes from a *Greek* word which means **to agree**. To **confess** is to **agree with God** that we have sinned! Notice also that the above verse is a **conditional statement**. **If we confess our sins**, God will do **two things** for us.

❖ Circle those **two things**.

Application

1. Pray and ask God to reveal any sins which you have not confessed to Him.
2. Confess them to God by agreeing that you have sinned. Don’t make excuses for your sins.
3. Turn away from sin and ask God to help you keep from committing them again.
4. Claim the two promises which God makes to those who confess their sins according to 1 John 1:9.
6. Thank God for His forgiveness as an expression of your faith!
7. Memorize 1 John 1:9.

Have you confessed your sins to God? Yes No

If so, has God forgiven you? Yes No

More Good News!

“Then He adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”

Hebrews 10:17

*“As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”*

Psalms 103:12

*“Come now, and let us reason together, ‘Says the LORD,’
Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.”*

Isaiah 1:18

 **MEMORIZE!**

 Psalm 32:5

Confess A homologeo (Grk)

homo = the same

logo = to say

‘to say the same’ or to **agree**

▶ Why does God require us to confess our sins in order to be forgiven?

▶ Why is it important to “**turn away**” from sin and not just confess sin?

The three Bible passages at left illustrate our forgiveness in three different ways.

- ▶ Recognizing that God knows all things, what do you think it means when it says ‘He will remember our sins no more?’ (Hebrews 10:17)
- ▶ How far is the east from the west? (Psalm 103:12)
- ▶ How white is snow? (Isaiah 1:18)
- ▶ From these verses, how complete is our forgiveness in Christ?
- ▶ Memorize one or more of these verses.

Questions and Answers

Q: Are all my sins forgiven by God or just the past ones?

A: Christ died for *all* our sins: *past, present* and *future*.



Hebrews 10:8-18

Q: If God has already forgiven all my sins, why then do I have to confess them to Him?

A : *Confession*, allows us to *experience* the forgiveness that is already ours in Christ. *Sin* breaks our *Fellowship* with God, not our *Relationship* with Him. Our *Relationship* with God as His Children is based on *His Unconditional Love* for us, but our *Fellowship* with Him depends on *our keeping an intimate walk* with Him. Whereas Sin *Destroys* this intimacy, Confession *Restores* it!



Job 1:1-11
Zechariah 3:1
Revelation 12:9-10

Q: What if I still feel guilty even after confessing?

A: Any guilt remaining after *genuine confession* is not from God. *Satan*, our *accuser*, delights in keeping us on a *guilt trip* to keep us from serving God!

Q: Why should I confess my sins?

A: *Regular confession* of our sins keeps our *Fellowship* with God open and fresh. It also keeps our heart *sensitive* to God's Spirit. *Continual sin hardens* the heart toward God.



Psalms 66:18

Q: What about making restitution?

A: If your sin has *hurt* others, you should ask their *forgiveness*, and make *restitution* if necessary.



Matthew 5:23-24

Q: How often should I confess my sins?

A: As mentioned above, *1 John 1:9* is the "*Christian's Bar of Soap*". Just as you wash yourself with *real soap* as often as necessary, so should you confess *as often as necessary*. Confess your sins *as soon as God convicts you of them*. Any delay allows *Satan* the opportunity to gain a "*foothold*" in our lives.



Ephesians 4:26-27

3. God's Power

Introduction

How would you complete the following statement? The most essential ingredient to living the Christian Life is to...

- fill your heart and mind with Scripture.*
- pray as much as you are able.*
- attend Christian meetings for inspiration.*
- get involved in ministry.*
- choose to do what is right and Godly.*
- none of the above.*

Each of the above choices are important to living the Christian life, but none of them qualifies as the "most essential" because they all fail to adequately deal with the primary obstacle Christians must overcome. This obstacle not only makes the Christian Life difficult to live, but impossible to live! In this lesson, we will learn about God's provision to overcome this problem!

Why We Can't Live the Christian Life

The primary obstacle that hinders Christians is the **Sin Nature**. Contrary to the belief that we are all *born innocent*, Scripture teaches that *we do not become sinners*, but that *we are already born sinners*. Consider the following written by King David, whom God described as a "man after My own heart".

*"Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me."
Psalm 51:5*

From the moment we were conceived, we were already damaged with *a fatal flaw ... an inherited condition* which *makes sinning part of our very Nature!*


❖ **Read** how the following Scriptures describe this problem.

*"There is no one righteous, not even one;
there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.
All have turned away, they have together become worthless;
There is no one who does good, not even one."
Romans 3:10--12*

*"(Jesus said) 'For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts,
sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness,
envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and
make a man 'unclean'."
Mark 7:21-23*

*"the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor
can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God."
Romans 8:7-8*

► *If we are sinful at birth, where do you think Sin comes from?*

 Psalm 58:3
Job 15:14
Romans 5:12

► *If no one seeks God, how do we eventually find Him?*

 John 6:65
Matthew 11:27
Matthew 16:17

Because of our Sinful Nature, no matter *how many Scriptures we know*, no matter *how often we pray*, no matter *how many inspirational meetings we attend*, no matter *how involved we are in ministry*, or no matter *how strong our will to do right*, **our best efforts will fail** because they do not deal with the **main problem!** When done in our own strength, these activities simply produce Spiritual Pride! But God has provided a **solution** for us!

God's Solution

God's Solution to our Sin Nature is to give us a New Nature! He did this by putting His *Holy Spirit* in us at the moment we received *Jesus Christ!*

❖ **Read** the following Scriptures that describe this miracle.

“Jesus answered, ‘I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’”
John 3:5-7

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”
2 Corinthians 5:17

“to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”
Ephesians 4:23-24

❖ **Circle** the words in the above passages that **refer** to our *New Nature*. *God's Spirit* imparts *God's Nature* and *Power* in us!

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”
Ezekiel 36:26-27

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
Acts 1:8

- ❖ **Circle** *three things* God gives to us in *Ezekiel 36:26-27*.
- ❖ **Underline** *two things* which result when God puts His Spirit in us.
- ❖ **Circle** what we *receive* when the Holy Spirit comes on us in *Acts 1:8*.
(The word “*power*” here means “*the ability to carry out a task.*”)
God's Spirit gives us the *Desire (Ezekiel 36:26-27)* and the *Power (Acts 1:8)* to do *His will!*
- ❖ **Read** *Philippians 2:13* below from *The Living Bible*.

“For God is at work within you, helping you want to obey him, and then helping you do what he wants.”
Philippians 2:13 (TLB)

Religion vs Christianity

Many **Religions** teach that we must **conform** ourselves to a standard of spiritual principles or laws in order to reach perfection. **Christianity** teaches that Man is incapable of transforming himself. What is needed is a **totally new life!**

► **Which words** in each of the Bible passages to the left express this idea?

 Colossians 3:10

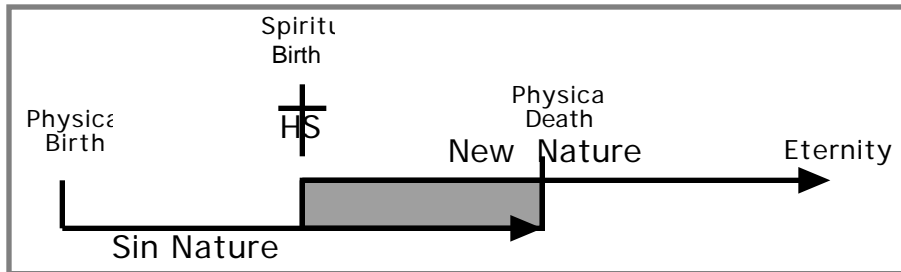
► **What is significant** about the phrases “heart of stone” and “heart of flesh”?

God's Spirit in Us

The *desire* in you to please God is the **work of the Holy Spirit** in your heart. It is evidence of the **New Nature** you inherited when you were **born again** by God's Spirit.

 **MEMORIZE!**

Applying God's Solution



The above diagram illustrates our situation as Christians. We are born into this world with a Sin Nature. But the moment we trust Jesus Christ for forgiveness, we are “born again” with a New Nature, which is not only the **New Me**, but the **Real Me!** The Sin Nature, or **Old Me**, can **never** please God and does not even want to, but our New Nature not only **desires** to please God, but is **able to** by the Power of the Holy Spirit.

 Romans 7:22
Philippians 2:13

Notice that the Christian’s Sin Nature will **cease** at the moment death, while our New Nature will continue for **eternity!** The **challenge** we face in this life is the **battle** between these two Natures to rule in our *minds*, our *hearts* and our *bodies*. **They are at war within us!** The **good news** is that this struggle is **temporary** (shaded area)! Once we are free of the Sin Nature, our New Nature will be **unhindered to do all that God desires!**

 Galatians 5:16-17

It is important to understand that the key to victory is God’s Spirit within us. **Only by allowing His Spirit to live through us will we experience God’s Will and Power in us!** (see Philippians 2:13 on page 12 again!)

► **Can you recall** incidents in your life when your New Nature and Sin Nature battled within you?

❖ Study **Ephesians 5:18** below.

Be Filled with the Spirit

**“Do not get drunk on wine,
which leads to debauchery.
Instead be filled with the Spirit.”**

Ephesians 5:18

 **MEMORIZE!**

Ephesians 5:18 teaches us how to **apply** God’s provision to overcome **Sin**.

❖ **Circle** what we are **to do** with **the Spirit**.

The word “**filled**” means **to be filled to the full!** A person “**filled with the Spirit**” leaves no room for the **Sin Nature** to control his life! The following **properties** of the verb “**filled**” help us to **understand** and **apply** it.

► **How** does **being drunk** relate to **being filled** with the Spirit?

Command: This verb teaches that we are “*filled with the Spirit*” by an act of our will! God is not *asking* us to be filled with his Spirit *if we feel like it*. God is *commanding* us to be filled. No matter how we feel ... no matter what our circumstances, we can choose to be filled and allow God to rule in our lives!

God’s Work: This verb also indicates that it is *God* who fills us. *We simply make ourselves available to Him!* As we *yield our lives to God, His Spirit empowers us with His Desire and Ability!*

Present Tense: *Finally*, this verb commands us to *continually allow God’s Holy Spirit to fill us* ~ *moment by moment, hour by hour, day by day*. No breaks and no allowance for the *Sin Nature* to reign!

How can we be sure God will fill us with His Holy Spirit? Because *He said He would*, and God *does not lie!*

❖ **Read** His promise in *1 John 5:14-15*.

*“This is the confidence we have in approaching God:
that if we ask anything according to His will,
He hears us.
And if we know that he hears ~ whatever we ask ~
we know that we have what we asked of Him.”
1 John 5:14-15*

❖ **Circle** the *attitude* we should have when we approach God.

❖ **Underline** what *kind* of request God hears.

❖ **Underline** the *result* when God hears our Prayer.

1. *Is it God’s will for us to be filled with His Spirit?* yes no
2. *If we ask God to fill us with His Spirit, will He hear us?* yes no
3. *If we know God will hear us, can we be sure we are filled?* yes no

Application

The following steps can help us experience God’s Power continually:

1. **Confess** ~ Not being filled to the full with God’s Spirit is **sin**. Confess this to God and claim His forgiveness (*1 John 1:9*).
2. **Be Filled with the Holy Spirit** ~ Ask God to fill you with His Spirit! Allow Him to **Reign** in your *Mind*, your *Heart* and your *Body*!

Pray

*“Dear God, Forgive me for allowing Sin to rule in my life. I now yield my heart, my mind and my body to You, and ask You to fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I want YOU to reign in my life! Thank You, LORD, for hearing and answering my prayer!
In Jesus’ Name. Amen”*

 Titus 1:2

 **MEMORIZE!**

Praying According to God’s Will

1 John 5:14-15 can be applied whenever we pray for anything in God’s Will. We can be confident God will answer that prayer because He promised He would!

4. Fellowship

Introduction

A baby is born. Ten years later, it is still the *same size* and *maturity* as when it was born! Your immediate reaction is:

- “Wow. He’s still so cute!”
- “Well ... I guess some babies grow slower than others.”
- “Get this kid to a doctor ... NOW!”

It doesn’t take a *Doctor* to figure out that the baby in our story is not normal. *Normal babies grow and mature.* It is *abnormal* not to!

When God placed His *Holy Spirit* in you at the moment you trusted Christ for Forgiveness, you were “*born again*” spiritually. *Instantly*, you became *a member of God’s eternal family*, a “*new creation*” in *Christ*, created to *grow* to maturity and *destined to glorify Christ* through your life.

❖ **Read 2 Peter 3:18 :**

*“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
To him be glory both now and for ever! Amen.”*

2 Peter 3:18

The next four lessons will teach you *principles* that will help you *establish a lifestyle* that will promote *spiritual growth* in your Christian life. As in the physical world, *growth takes time*, and *attaining spiritual maturity requires patience*. But if you will *discipline your life* and *apply these principles*, spiritual growth will be the inevitable supernatural outcome!

“Strength in Numbers!”

The First Principle to ensure Spiritual Growth is to establish strong relationships with other growing Christians.

On Fire for Jesus!

Even as coals burn hotter longer when piled together, in the same way Christians who join together in *Spiritual Fellowship* will *stoke* one another’s faith in God, and *inflamm*e each other’s love for Him!

Here are a few reasons why we should join ourselves together in Christian Fellowship.



1 Peter 1:23
John 1:12
2 Corinthians 5:17
2 Corinthians 6:18
1 Peter 2:2

Encouragement

*“Let us not give up meeting together,
as some are in the habit of doing,
but let us encourage one another and
all the more
as you see the Day approaching.”
Hebrews 10:25*

- ❖ **Underline** what we are *not* to do according to *Hebrews 10:25*.
- ❖ **Circle** the words “*give up*”. The words mean to “*completely abandon*” or “*utterly forsake*”. Christians are *forbidden* to forsake meeting together. *‘Giving up’ is not an option!*
- ❖ **Underline** what action we are *to do*.
- ❖ **Circle** the word “encourage”. The word is the translation of a *Greek* word that means “*to call alongside*”, and presents the beautiful picture of a person encouraging another while walking side by side together. We often find it easier to *criticize*, or *shame*, or *judge* another person who does not measure up to our standards, but God asks us to *encourage, to stand alongside*, those who are wavering.

Inspiration

*“Do not be misled:
‘Bad company corrupts good character.’”
1 Corinthian 15:33*

- ❖ **Circle** the word that describes what we should *not be* (*1 Corinthians 15:33*). The word “misled” means to *be led astray from the truth!* We find this admonition throughout the Bible, perhaps because we have a habit of thinking we know the way, even *after* God has told us the correct way!
- ❖ **Circle** the *word* that describes the *effect* of “*bad company*” on “*good character*”. The word “corrupt” means *to defile* or *destroy*.

Have you ever met people who, thinking they could help other people deep in sin, have instead been *drawn into sin* themselves? Life is full of examples of Christians who chose to remain with *bad company* only to find their faith *corrupted*.

“Do not be misled”! We will become like the company we keep! If our goal is to grow spiritually and become a mature Christian, then we must spend time with Christians who are growing spiritually to maturity!

 **MEMORIZE!**

“Never Give Up!”

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL
Shortly after the end of World War II, Sir Winston Churchill, who had just led England as Prime Minister through its Finest Hour during the war, was invited to speak to a gathering eager to hear his words of wisdom. Known for his eloquence and wit, the audience was prepared to be treated to a feast of words. They sat in rapt attention as the great orator strolled to the podium and, like a drum beat, repeatedly exhorted the crowd, **“Never give up, Never give up, Never give up, ...!”** After several minutes and the final cadence, he turned and took his seat before a stunned crowd.

 **MEMORIZE!**

 Matthew 24:4
Proverbs 13:20
2 Peter 2:17-22

- ▶ **In what** specific ways does bad company **corrupt** good character?
- ▶ **In what** ways can good company inspire good character?

Restoration

*“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin,
you who are spiritual
should restore him gently.”
Galatians 6:1a*

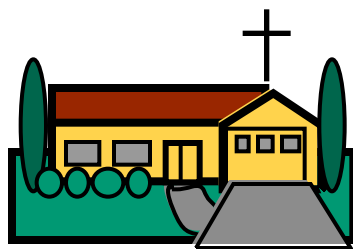
- ❖ **Circle** what can happen to the *unsuspecting* Christian. (*Galatians 6:1*)
The word “*caught*” means *to be entrapped by surprise*.

Have you ever found yourself in trouble and needing help, but *unable* to find someone to call? Nothing is more frustrating and dangerous! Like getting caught in a strong ocean current, Christians can find themselves being swept away by sin’s temptations. **Fortunate is the Christian who has a spiritual friend who will not hesitate to jump in and rescue him from danger!**

- ❖ **Underline** what “*spiritual*” Christians (*those filled with the Holy Spirit*) are to do with their fellow Christians *caught* by sin. (*Galatians 6:1*)
- ❖ **Circle** the *word* that describes *how* they are to restore their fellow Christian. ~ Too often we can be *harsh* and *judgmental* with other Christians caught in sin, but here we are exhorted to be *gentle*.

Gently: The word “*gentle*” is a translation of the same *Greek* word from which “*meek*” is translated. A person who is “*meek*” is one who is *humble toward God*. This *humility* comes from the realization that God is the Creator and we are simply His creation! This keeps us from the pride that would hinder us from helping other Christians caught in sin!

Application



- Meet regularly with other Christians who desire to grow in their faith.**
(*Acts 2:44-47*)
- Join a Church that honors God and teaches His Word, and attend faithfully.**
(*Hebrews 10:25*)
- Become involved in your Church’s ministry.**
(*Ephesians 4:11-12*)
- Support your Church’s ministry financially through regular giving.**
(*Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17; 2 Corinthians 9:7*)

Satan Our Adversary

📖 2 Corinthians 2:11
Luke 22:31
Ephesians 6:11-12
1 Peter 5:8

When you became a Christian, Satan became your enemy. He continually schemes to entrap you in Sin.

- ▶ **Think back** on sins you regularly commit. Can you see how Satan may have entrapped you into committing them?
- ▶ **What** can you do to avoid being caught in habitual sins?

📖 Acts 1:14
Acts 2:42
1 Timothy 5:17-18
1 Thessalonians 5:12
1 Corinthians 16:1-2

5. The Word

Introduction

How long do you think we can survive without eating?

1 day 3 days 10 days 20 days 40 days 60 days 100 days

If you checked '1 day', I can see *you've never missed a meal in your life!* No, it's not even 10 or 20 days. We can survive **40 days** without food, but after that, our bodies begin to starve and death is not far off. Just as our physical bodies need food to grow and survive, even so, *our spirits need to be fed* as well. Notice how the metaphor of **"milk"** and **"solid food"** are used in Scripture.

"In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!"

Hebrews 5:12

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,"

1 Peter 2:2

- ❖ **Underline** what *Hebrews 5:12* means by the metaphor *milk*.
- ❖ **Circle** how we are to *"crave pure spiritual milk"* in *1 Peter 2:2*.

In this lesson, you will learn:

- ❖ The **Source** of the Word
- ❖ The **Purpose** of the Word
- ❖ The **Power** of the Word
- ❖ The **Application** of the Word

The **Source** of the Word

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17

- ❖ **Circle** the **source** of Scripture according to *2 Timothy 3:16-17*.
The Greek word translated God-breathed is used nowhere else in the New Testament. Though the word does not explain **how** Scripture was given to us, it does indicate the **supernatural** and **divine origin** of it!
- ❖ **Circle** how **much** of Scripture is from God.
This verse teaches that **every** Scripture in the Bible **originates from God!**

 **MEMORIZE!**

► **How is God-Breathed** a good description of the divine origin of Scripture?



2 Peter 1:20-21
1 Peter 1:10-11

The *Purpose* of the Word

❖ Read *2 Timothy 3:16-17* on page 18 and write the four ways Scripture is useful to us in the blanks below :

- _____ ▶ *instructing us in the truth God*
- _____ ▶ *convicting us of the truth of God*
- _____ ▶ *restoring us to the truth of God*
- _____ ▶ *teaching us how to live the truth of God.*

❖ **Underline** the *result* of these four activities of the Word in our lives.

❖ **Circle** how *many* good works we will be equipped for.

The *Power* of the Word

*“Take the helmet of salvation and
the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God.”
Ephesians 6:17*

❖ **Underline** how the “*word of God*” is described in *Ephesians 6:17*. The “*word of God*” is the only *offensive* weapon listed in *Ephesians 6:10-17* which describes the Armor of God. The Christian who learns how to *wield* it can defeat his *spiritual enemies*. Unfortunately, many Christians, *ignorant of God’s Word*, wield something more like *a pocket knife* than *a sword!*

The *Application* of the Word

Memorization

*“I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.”
Psalm 119:11*

Psalm 119 is the *great anthem* to the *Word of God*, containing exhortations every Christian should *read!*

❖ **Underline** what we should *do* with God’s Word.

The word “*hidden*” means “*to hide or to treasure*”. God’s Word should be hidden in our hearts because it is something *treasured!* The word “*heart*” refers to our “*mind, soul, conscience, emotions, passions, will and desires*”. In other words, *memorizing* the Word is not just an intellectual exercise, but one that includes the *entire person!*

Memorization is simple if done in steps.

- Read** the verse 3 times.
- Write** the verse 3 times.
- Recite** the verse from memory 3 times.
- Review** every day regularly for the next 10 days.

▶ **What** pattern can you see in the **four uses** of Scripture?



Psalm 119:105

▶ **Why** do you think the Word of God is described as the sword of the Spirit?



Hebrews 4:12
Matthew 4:1-11



MEMORIZE!

▶ **How** does hiding God’s Word in our hearts keep us from sinning?

Meditation

*“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
or stand in the way of sinners
or sit in the seat of mockers.
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.”*

Psalm 1:1-3

- ❖ Circle the *one word* in *Psalm 1* that describes the person who keeps himself from the *wicked, sinners and mockers*.
- ❖ Underline *where* this person finds his “*delight*”?
- ❖ Underline what he *does* with God’s Word.
- ❖ Underline what this person is *compared* to.
- ❖ Circle the *result* of this person’s lifestyle.

Meditating on God’s Word involves *deliberately contemplating* a passage *over and over again*, absorbing all the *spiritual nutrients* in it! One way is to:

- Recite** a verse over and over in your mind. Then ...
- Emphasize** a different word each time to absorb the contribution of that word’s meaning to the meaning of the verse as a whole.

Application

*“Do not merely listen to the Word,
and so deceive yourselves.
Do what it says.”*

James 1:22

- ❖ Underline what people who “*merely listen to the Word*” do to themselves.
 - ❖ Underline what we should *do* with the Word instead.
- Below are **Five Applications** from God’s Word expressed in the acronym **SPACE**.

When you read, memorize or meditate on God’s Word, see if there are any ...

S *Sins to Confess*
P *Promises to Claim*
A *Attitudes or Actions to Adopt or Avoid*
C *Commands to Obey*
E *Examples to Follow*

We began this lesson thinking about how often we needed to eat to survive. Just as we need *daily nourishment* for a healthy body, even so, we need *a daily intake of God’s Word to ensure a healthy Spiritual life*. Too many Christians only hear God’s Word *once a week* on Sundays. **Make it a habit to read, memorize, meditate and apply God’s Word ... EVERY DAY!**

- ▶ **Why** is the tree a good illustration of someone who delights in God’s Word?
- ▶ If possible, **memorize** this passage and hide it in your heart!

MEMORIZE!

- ▶ **How** do we deceive ourselves if we merely listen to the Word?
- ▶ **What** does this verse tell us we should be doing whenever we learn what the Bible teaches?

- ▶ Without looking at this sheet, **recite** the **5 Principles** from the acronym **SPACE**.

 Matthew 12:50
Luke 6:46
James 1:22-25

6. Prayer

Introduction

Let's perform a test. Take three deep breaths and **hold the last one.** Now how long can you go without breathing? A few days? Of course not! Not even a few hours! The longest humans can last without air is *a few minutes* at best.

Prayer is like that. ***Prayer is to our Spiritual Lives as air is to our physical.*** It is what ***energizes*** our ***New Nature*** and ***refreshes*** our ***Soul***. Without it, our Christian lives become spiritually ***stagnant***. ***Why?*** Because ...

“Prayer is the one activity that brings us into an encounter with the Living God!”

Four Aspects of Prayer

- ❖ Adoration
- ❖ Confession
- ❖ Thanksgiving
- ❖ Supplication

Adoration

The word **Adoration** means to **worship** or to **praise** .

Praise

***“Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD?
who can show forth all his praise?”***
Psalm 106:2

The Psalmist in **Psalm 106:2** uses a common **literary tool** by expressing the same idea in **two different ways**.

- ❖ **Underline** the **equivalent thought** to **“show forth all his praise”**.
To praise God then is to **proclaim His “mighty acts”**.

List some **“mighty acts”** God has done in your life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

You can be involved in every kind of Christian activity without being empowered by the Holy Spirit, except Prayer. Conference speaker, the Rev. Ron Dunn, shares that Prayer alone requires you be right with God because it is a “Man to God encounter”!

Worship

The Hebrew word translated worship in Psalm 29:2 means to bow down or to prostrate oneself. It describes the Attitude of Worship.

In Psalm 100:2, the word worship is a translation of another Hebrew word. Here it means to serve or to work. This verse describes the Action of Worship.

Jesus brings both attitude and action together in Luke 4:8!

- ❖ Read *David's Prayer of Praise* found in **1 Chronicles 29:11-13** below.

"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name."

1 Chronicles 29:11-13

- ❖ Circle each *characteristic* David attributes to God.
- ❖ Underline David's *response* to God.

Application

Praise God for each item in YOUR list of God's mighty acts. Give Him thanks and praise His glorious Name!

Confession

Another important aspect of Prayer is the Confession of our sins. Read the following Scriptures on **Confession**.

"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

Psalm 66:18

"Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD' - and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

- ❖ Underline what happens if we cherish sin in our hearts according to **Psalm 66:18**. This verse teaches there is a relationship between **sin** and **prayer**. Sin **short circuits** our **Fellowship** with God, and keeps Him from hearing our prayers. (see **1 John 5:14-15** for the importance of God hearing our prayers.)
- ❖ Underline what the Psalmist *acknowledges* before God in *Psalm 32:5*, ?
- ❖ Underline God's *response*.
- ❖ Read the *confession* of *David* after he committed adultery with *Bathsheba* found in *Psalm 51* below.

"Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."

Psalm 51:2-5,10 & 12

- ❖ Underline the *four things* *David* asks God to do for him at the end of the passage.

Worship is enhanced as we come to know the Attributes and Character of God. These books will open your eyes to the Great God we Worship!

The Knowledge of the Holy by A. W. Tozer

The Attributes of God by Arthur Pink



Daniel 2:19-23
Romans 11:33-36



MEMORIZE!

► Can God forgive unconfessed sins? Why or why not?

► Why do you think God requires us to confess our sins in order to be forgiven?

Genuine Confession results in a desire to obey God. Notice that after acknowledging his sins to God, David prays that God would give him an obedient heart.

Thanksgiving

A third aspect to *Prayer* is Giving Thanks.

*“give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”*
1 Thessalonians 5:18

- ❖ **Circle** in *which* circumstances we are to *give thanks* (*Thessalonians 5:18*)
- ❖ **Underline** *why* we must give thanks. The verb ‘*give thanks*’ is a *command*. God requires that, *as an act of our wills*, we give thanks in *all* circumstances. *Romans 8:28* explains *why* we can do this.

*“And we know that in all things
God works for the good of those who love him,
who have been called according to his purpose.”*
Romans 8:28

- ❖ **Underline** the *reason* we can *give thanks in all circumstances*. (*Romans 8:28*)
- ❖ **Circle** how *many* things God is able to work for our good. This verse teaches that no matter what happens in our lives, *God is able to use all things, good or bad, for our good!*
Knowing this, can we genuinely give thanks in all things? **yes** **no**

Application

Spend time in prayer right now *thanking God* for all the things He is allowing in your life, *good or bad*, knowing that *He is absolutely able to use everything for your benefit*. *Giving thanks* to God demonstrates our faith!

Supplication

Supplication is the *bringing of our requests to God*. Too often, we become worried and forget the *one Person* who can help! Read *Philippians 4:6* below.

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

- ❖ **Underline** what *Philippians 4:6* teaches about being *anxious*.
- ❖ **Circle** the word that describes *what things* we can ask God for.
- ❖ **Underline** the *result* of bringing our requests to God.

 **MEMORIZE!**

- ▶ What are some benefits to being a thankful person?

 **MEMORIZE!**

- ▶ How does God use “bad” experiences for our benefit?

The Sovereignty of God
“The sovereignty of God may be defined as the exercise of His supremacy. Being infinitely elevated above the highest creature, He is the Most High, Lord of Heaven and Earth. Subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent; God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases. None can thwart Him, none can hinder Him.”
‘Attributes of God’ by Arthur Pink

 Isaiah 46:10
Daniel 4:35
Ephesians 1:11

 **MEMORIZE!**

- ▶ What are the two opposite emotions mentioned in *Philippians 4:6*?
- ▶ How is prayer related to each?

Have you ever wondered why some of our prayer requests are not answered? *The Scriptures below explains why.*

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

*“This is the confidence we have in approaching God:
that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.
And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--
we know that we have what we asked of him.”*
1 John 5:14-15

*“If you remain in me and my words remain in you,
ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.”*
John 15:7

*“If you believe,
you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”*
Matthew 21:22

- ❖ Underline *why* we sometimes don't receive what we ask for in *James 4:3* .
- ❖ Circle what James *means* by 'wrong motives'.
- ❖ Underline the *condition* for answered prayers in *1 John 5:14-15* .
- ❖ Underline the *condition* for answered prayers in *John 15:7* .
- ❖ Underline the *condition* for answered prayers in *Matthew 21:22* .

For Whom Should We Pray

*“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving
be made for everyone-- for kings and all those in authority, that we may
live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”*
1 Timothy 2:1

*“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you
may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”*
James 5:16

*“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and
requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all
the saints.”*

Ephesians 6:18

- ❖ Circle *all* the people we are to pray for in the verses above.

Application

- Spend a few minutes praying for all the LORD brings to your mind.

 MEMORIZE!

 MEMORIZE!

 MEMORIZE!

 MEMORIZE!

- ▶ *Why* does God establish conditions for answered prayers?
- ▶ *What* would you say is the main condition for answered prayers?

▶ When the apostle Paul wrote 1 Timothy 2:1, the governing authority was the **Roman Emperor Caesar**. How do you pray for governing authorities that you may not agree with?

▶ What is the value of confessing our sins to each other?

7. Witnessing

Introduction

What would you say is the greatest threat to Christianity?

- Ungodly people.**
- Our culture.**
- Antagonistic governments.**

Someone has *perceptively* suggested that ...

“The greatest threat to Christianity is Christians trying to sneak into heaven without ever sharing their faith.”

One of the great privileges we have as God’s children is the authority and privilege to invite others to be reconciled with God! ***There is no greater decision people can make than trusting Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.*** In this lesson, we will learn *five ways* to share our faith in Christ with others.

Sharing our faith, or Witnessing, is one of the most important factors in growing as a Christian. It keeps our faith *fresh* and *exciting* as we watch others being transformed by a miracle from God! But we need to remember the following to be effective Witnesses for Christ:

- 1. Be Available:** Yield your life to God. God uses *Available* Servants.
- 2. Be Prayerful:** Ask God to *lead you* to people to share with. Pray that God will make them *open* to His Word!
- 3. Be Filled with the Spirit:** Only God can bring others to Himself. Our part is simply to be filled with His Holy Spirit and allow Him to share His love with others *through* us!

Sharing Christ With Your Testimony

We may not know much about the Bible or Theology, but all of us are experts *in our own lives.* Although people may not be interested in hearing what we have done for God, they are interested in hearing what God has done for us! Our Testimony is the story of what Christ has done in our lives! Use the following outline to prepare your Testimony.

► **How** could Christians **not** sharing their faith be the greatest threat to Christianity?

► **Why** do you think many Christians do not share their faith?



Romans 10:13-14



John 6:44



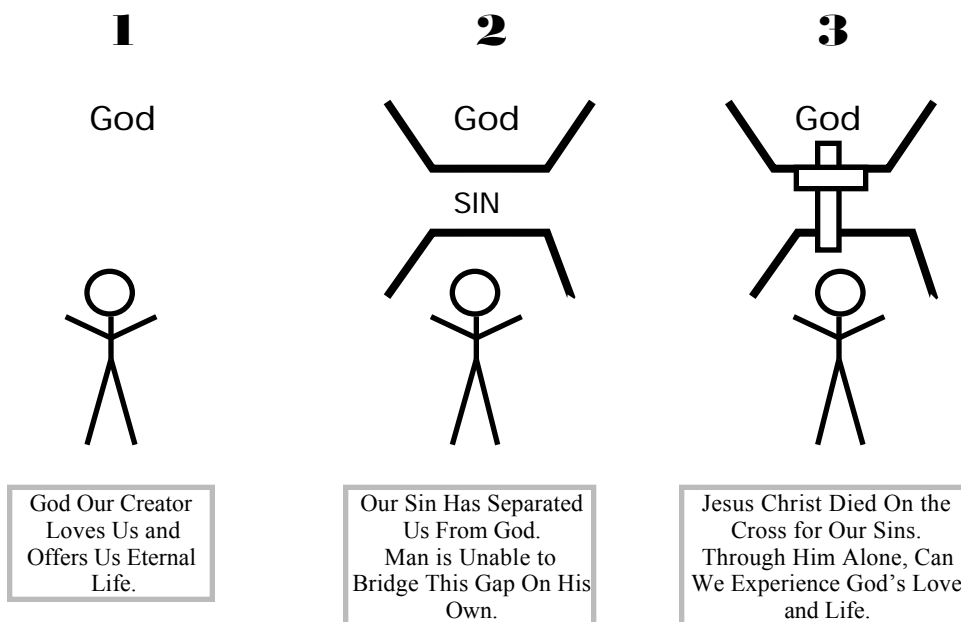
Acts 26:1-29

Preparing Your Testimony

- 1. Your Life Before Christ:** Share specifically about *an area of your life* in which Christ changed you. Resist the temptation to dwell on how bad you were.
- 2. How You Came to Know Christ:** Explain *clearly how* you heard about Christ, and *how* you made the decision to trust in Him for forgiveness. This will help the person you are sharing with hear *a clear presentation of how to know Christ in your Testimony!*
- 3. Your Life After Receiving Christ:** Share *how Christ changed you* in the area of your life mentioned above.

- ▶ **Pray** before you develop your Testimony and ask God to give you His Story to tell.
- ▶ **Write out** your Testimony and look for a theme that will tie it together.
- ▶ **Develop** your Testimony along that theme following the outline at left.

Sharing Our Faith with Pictures



- ▶ **Draw just one** picture and simply add to it as you share. (You do not have to draw three separate pictures.)
- ▶ **Memorize** the Scriptures that accompany the **Four Truths** on pages 4 & 5 and use them as you share and draw these pictures.

The Gospel can be quickly and easily drawn using simple stick pictures. After completing the pictures, use the final one to illustrate how we must choose to come to God through faith in Jesus Christ who is the bridge. This is an excellent way to share Christ with children!

Sharing Our Faith After a Presentation

After reading, seeing or hearing a Gospel presentation through a booklet, video, drama, movie, tape, etc., use the following four questions to introduce the Gospel.

1. *What did you think about the (booklet, video, concert, etc.)?*
2. *Did it make sense to you?*
3. *Have you ever trusted Christ to forgive your sins as presented by the (booklet, video, drama, concert, etc.)?*
4. *You would like to wouldn't you?*

- ▶ **Recite** these Four Questions without looking at them.



Romans 1:16

Sharing Our Faith With a Booklet

There are a wide variety of booklets available, but each contains the same message ~ **How to Find Eternal Life in Jesus Christ**. Described below is a method developed by *Campus Crusade for Christ*.

Benefits

1. **Easy:** Booklets make *Witnessing* easier by including the *essential truths* of the Gospel, as well as a *Prayer* to help a person trust in Christ.
2. **Clear:** Booklets present the Gospel in a *logical* manner, usually in four statements supported by Scripture.
3. **Small:** Booklets are *easy to carry* wherever we go.
4. **Concise:** Booklets usually take only *10 - 15 minutes* to read.
5. **Givable:** Booklets *can be left with people* we share with so that they can read them later. *Many people have come to Christ this way.*
6. **Transferable:** Booklets can be *passed from one person to another* several times.

Introducing the Booklet

The biggest *obstacle* to overcome is *introducing the subject of Christ to others*. It is always best to relate the Gospel to a *need* in the person's life. Here are some ways you can introduce a Booklet in order to share it with them.:

1. *"The message contained in this booklet has helped me more than anything else. May I share it with you?"*
2. *"Has anyone ever shared with you how you can know God in a personal way? This Booklet explains how. May I share it with you?"*
3. *"If you died right now, would you be absolutely sure you will be in heaven? This Booklet shares how you can be. May I share it with you?"*

► Can you think of other ways to introduce the Gospel to others?

Presenting the Booklet

1. **Hold the booklet steady** between both of you. Make sure the person you are sharing with is able to see the pages easily.
2. **Maintain the person's attention** by pointing to relevant words or illustrations as you read. Sometimes it helps to fold the pages back to ensure you are both on the same page.
3. **Simply read through the booklet!** Resist the temptation to add to the message of the Booklet. This often only confuses the person you are sharing with, and can lengthen the time needed considerably.



John 4:7-14
Acts 8:26-35

Sharing Our Faith With Prayer

Although many people are hesitant to talk about God, most people are happy to have you pray for them. This opens up a great opportunity to share Christ with others.

Offer to pray for the needs of *friends, co-workers, acquaintances, neighbors, etc.* Pray that God draws them to Himself and look for opportunities to share Christ with them as God provides.

Application

1. **Review** each of the above ways to share your faith and practice each one.
2. **Pray** and ask God to show you people who need to hear about God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ, then make a list of the names God brings to mind.
3. **Pray** for each person daily asking God to draw them to Himself.
4. **Take advantage** of every opportunity God gives you and share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.
5. **Be available** to share with people you meet through the day. You never know when God has set up a Divine appointment for you to share with someone!
6. **Always remember** that it is God who brings people to Himself ~ not our techniques or charm. Be continually filled with God's Spirit and expect God to use you!

- ▶ **Keep a journal** of prayer requests and answers. Record the dates the requests were received and answered.
- ▶ **Pray diligently** for each request expecting God to work in people's lives!
- ▶ **Find out** if God is answering your prayers and look for opportunities to share His love!



Colossians 4:5

8. Spiritual Multiplication

How would you answer the following?

Why Am I Here Instead of In Heaven?

- Because my home in Heaven is not finished yet.*
- Because I must not be good enough yet.*
- Because God is having second thoughts about me.*
- None of the above.*

The reason we are here instead of in Heaven is to fulfill Jesus' final command to all Christians.

❖ Read Jesus' final command below.

*"Then Jesus came to them and said,
'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptising them in the name of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and
teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Matthew 28:18-20*

The Great Commission

Christ's final instructions to His disciples in *Matthew 28:18-20* above is commonly called The Great Commission because in it, Jesus commissions them to *take the Gospel to the world*. The main verb in this command is "**make disciples**". **Three other verbs** that connect to the main verb explain **how** this is to be accomplished. See if you can find them.

❖ Circle each one.

Go ~ you can't reach people for Christ unless you **go** to them. This verb implies that God **assumes** we will go.

❖ Circle **where** we are to go according to Christ's Commission.

Baptising ~ the word '*baptize*' symbolizes the **cleansing** and **new identity** Christians have in Christ when they place their faith in Him.

❖ Underline into what **new** identity Christians are **baptised**.

Teaching ~ making disciples involves **teaching**.

❖ Underline **what** we are to teach new disciples.

 John 4:34
John 17:4
Acts 20:24

 MEMORIZE!

► Why does Jesus begin the Great Commission with the declaration 'all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me'?


 John 17:2

The Plan

Where do you start when you're trying to "make disciples of all nations"? Acts 1:8 gives us the The Plan to follow.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8

 **MEMORIZE!**

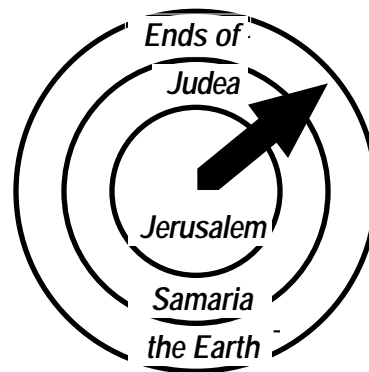
 Acts 2:14-42
Acts 8:1
Acts 22:17-21

❖ Underline *three geographic areas* where we are to be Christ's witnesses.

Jerusalem ~ the city of Jerusalem represents the *disciples' home*. (ie. their family, friends, home town/city)

Judea & Samaria ~ these two provinces represent the *surrounding area*. (ie. State, Province, or Country.)

Ends of the Earth ~ this includes *everyone else* to be reached with the Gospel ~ to the farthest reaches of the earth. (*all nations*)

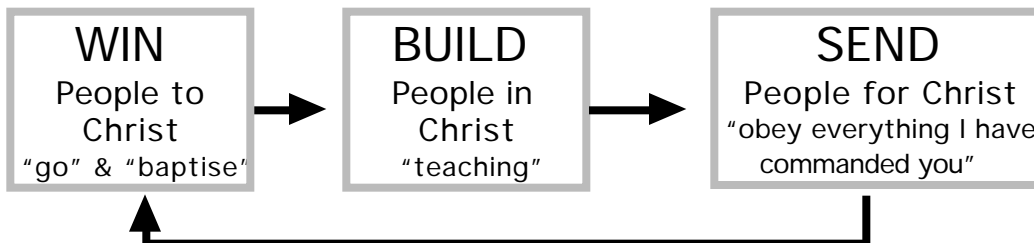


We can all witness to people in our Jerusalem, as well as *work with other Christians* to reach everyone in our Judea & Samaria. But to reach the ends of the earth requires Christians to *go and live among the people in other nations*. **Every Christian should be willing to go**, but even if *we* do not, **we must all support those who do go with our prayers and finances!**

- ▶ Where is **your** Jerusalem?
- ▶ Where is **your** Judea & Samaria?
- ▶ **How** do you plan to reach the ends of the earth?

The Strategy ~ Discipleship

Now that we *know* our mission is to make disciples of all nations, the question is 'How?'. The **Discipleship Process**, developed by *Campus Crusade for Christ*, is outlined in *Matthew 28:18-20* and diagramed below.



- ▶ How does teaching disciples to obey everything Christ has commanded us result in them winning and building others for Christ?

The **Discipleship Process** results in *growing numbers of Christians becoming involved in discipleship* as they are built up and sent out for Christ. This results in "**Spiritual Multiplication**".

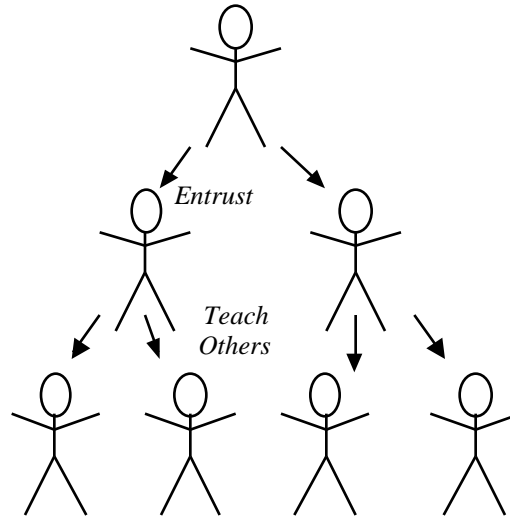
Spiritual Multiplication

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”
2 Timothy 2:2

The principle of *Spiritual Multiplication* is found in *2 Timothy 2:2*.

- ❖ **Underline** what *we* are to do with the things we are taught.
- ❖ **Underline** what *‘reliable men’* are supposed to do with what they have learned.

Spiritual Multiplication is diagrammed at right.



Compare the numerical results between Spiritual Addition and Spiritual Multiplication.

Spiritual Addition <i>(Reach 100 People for Christ Each Day)</i>	<i>Year</i>	Spiritual Multiplication <i>(Win, Build & Send One Person Every 6 Months)</i>
<i>(thousand)</i> 36,000	1	4
72,000	2	16
108,000	3	64
144,000	4	256
180,000	5	1,024 <i>(thousand)</i>
216,000	6	4,096
252,000	7	16,384
288,000	8	65,536
324,000	9	262,144
360,000	10	1,048,576 <i>(million)</i>
396,000	11	16,777,216
432,000	12	67,108,864
468,000	13	268,435,456
504,000	14	1,0736,741,824 <i>(billion)</i>
540,000	15	4,294,967,296
576,000	16	17,179,867,184

Each Person CAN Make a Difference!

MEMORIZE!

► **How** would you **define** a ‘reliable’ person?

1 Corinthians 4:2
 Luke 6:40
 Luke 14:26

Notice that each succeeding generation grows as those who have learned now teach others. This is the magic of *Spiritual Multiplication*.

Spiritual Addition

Winning people to Christ but never Building them up or Sending them out to Win and Build others.

Spiritual Multiplication

Continually Winning, Building and Sending others to Win, Build and Send still others.

*If we are to reach the world, we must move from **Spiritual Addition** to **Spiritual Multiplication!***

The Chart

*The chart represents how many people are reached for Christ by the end of a year. Notice that by continually discipling 1 person every six months, who will then continue discipling others, it is possible to reach the entire world in only 16 years! Through **Spiritual Multiplication**, one person can reach the entire World.*

A Significant Life

*If you have ever wanted to do something **significant** with your life, you will not find a more significant work than Winning, Building and Sending people for Christ. Your efforts will not only result in Abundant Lives, but Eternal Lives!*

***Commit yourself** to be part of God’s movement to reach the world for Christ by completing the Discipleship Covenant on the following page.*

Discipleship Covenant

*“Only One Life Will Soon Be Past,
Only What’s Done for Christ Will Last!”*

In Obedience to the Great Commission of
My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

I, _____ ,

Pledge Myself to Help

WIN People to Christ,
BUILD People In Christ and
SEND People for Christ,

In Order That the Whole World May Know
Jesus Christ is Lord!

I Make This Covenant
On This _____ Day of _____ , _____ !

GOD is My Witness!