

CHRISTIAN GROWTH STUDIES

"New Foundations"

*"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." 2 Peter 3:18*

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JESUS

said...

"If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:31, 32

Table of Contents

Introduction	4 -9
Lesson 1 “The Bible”	10-16
Lesson 2 “Prayer”	17-19
Lesson 3 “Fellowship”	20-23
Lesson 4 “Evangelism”	24-29
Lesson 5 “The Lordship of Jesus Christ/ Ministry of the Holy Spirit.....	30, 31
Scriptures of Ministry.....	32
Suggested Books.....	33
Notes.....	34-36

Introduction

Welcome to the family of God!

John 1:12 assures us:

"...to all who receive him (Jesus), to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God..."

Salvation is a free gift we receive by grace through (Ephesians 2:8, 9). The simplest description of what has happened to the new believer is that he or she has been born into a new life--with God as the source and sustainer of that life. Jesus says in John 3:3 we are "born again" when HE comes into our lives. Your commitment to Him has made you a new person, and like an infant at birth, you will need to grow and mature.

I Peter 2:2 says,

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."

What We Do in Coming to Christ

The Three R's

Realize that we have wronged God.

"...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."

Romans 3:23

"...the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23

Repent of the lifestyle we have lived apart from Christ.

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord..."

Acts 3:19

(To repent means simply "to turn around." We were living a life in a direction that led to death. When we repent we are enabled, by Christ, to turn around and start living for God.)

Receive Christ into our lives as Lord and Savior.

"...if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:9

"...God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

What God Does When We Receive Christ

1. Jesus comes into our lives (Revelation 3:20).
2. Our sins are forgiven (I John 1:9).
3. We become a child of God (John 1:12).
4. We receive eternal life (John 3:16).
5. We are given spiritual power to live a new life (II Timothy 1:7).
6. The Holy Spirit lives in us (I Corinthians 6:19).

The Road to Christian Maturity

Spiritual growth results from putting trust in Jesus Christ.

"...The righteous (man) will live by faith."

Galatians 3:11b

A life of faith will enable you to trust God increasingly with every detail of your life and to practice the following:

Go to God daily in prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

Read God's Word on a daily basis (Acts 17:11).

Obey the Lord moment by moment (John 14:21).

Witness for Christ by your life, words and attitude (Acts 1:8).

Trust God for every detail of you life (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

Honor the Lord through your worship and involvement in the life of the church (Hebrews 10:22-25).

Thoughts from Jesus...

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:9-14

In the family of God **we really do need each other** for growth, encouragement, and accountability. Who are some Christian friends with whom you can be open concerning your spiritual needs and challenges?

NAME ADDRESSES PHONE #'S

Baptism/ Communion

The English word for *baptize* comes from a nearly identical Greek word *baptizo*, which is the language of the original New Testament writings. The simplest meaning of the word is to "soak, plunge, drench, or sink in water." It is with this meaning that it appears in the New Testament of the Bible 74 times.

In the Old Testament, priests were taught to wash themselves before engaging in worship (Lev. 15:11, 13). In the New Testament, if people wanted to be converted to Jewish belief, they went through a ceremonial washing referred to as *baptism* (Mark 7:4; Luke 11:38; Heb. 9:10).

The second reference to *baptism* concerns the work of John the Baptist. This was pre-Christian *baptism*. After Jesus Christ rose from the dead, He appeared to His disciples. In His final charge, known as "The Great Commission," Jesus included a command to *baptize* (Matthew 28:18-20). This was not to be the cause of salvation, but was intended as an outward sign and mark of a believer who was obediently following Christ.

The Christians took this seriously. As soon as the church was born, about 3,000 new believers were *baptized* (Acts 2:41). Belief always comes first, then *baptism*.

It has been said that, "*Baptism* signifies that the old self in us is drowned, and the new person is risen to live before God in righteousness and purity forever."

"...and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. ...having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ...God made you alive with Christ."

Colossians 2:10, 12, 13b

Be sure to contact the leadership here at Calvary Chapel to arrange to obey this command to be *baptized*.

Another very important command for the church is what is called Communion or the Lord's Supper where we remember what Jesus did for us on the cross. Communion will be practiced regularly at the church. Now that you are a Christian enjoy this great experience (I Corinthians 11:23-26).

Lesson One

The Bible

Scripture reading: Psalm 119

Memory Verse

Psalm 119:160

The Bible is the greatest book ever written. In it, God Himself speaks to people. He teaches men and women how to live life, to love, to laugh, to cry, to overcome in all situations...no matter what the circumstances. The Bible answers the questions of where we came from, why we are here, and also what happens when we die; but most of all the Bible teaches us about Jesus Christ: How much He loves man, women, and children; how He gave His life as a sacrifice so that men and women could be forgiven of their sins and be made right with God.

The Bible is not simply one book. The Bible is a collection of 66 books--written by approximately 40 different authors over a time span of 1,500 years. It is an entire library of books covering the whole range of literature. It includes history, poetry, drama, biography, prophecy, philosophy, science, and inspirational, reading. The Bible has been translated into more than 1,200 languages, and every year more copies of the Bible are sold than any other single book.

The Bible also promises the believer (the one who has given his or her life to Jesus and has turned from sin), that reading it (the Bible) daily will cause:

1. **Faith to grow** (Romans 10:17).
2. **Freedom** (John 8:31, 32).
3. **Maturity** (I Peter 2:2).
4. **Blessing** (James 1:25)!

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 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 3:14-17

The Bible is divided into two sections:

1. The Old Testament (before the time of Christ).
2. The New Testament (birth, life, death, resurrection of Jesus; beginning of the church; instructions for believers; future events).

Before you read the Bible, always pray and ask the Lord to open you heart up to Him, and to help you understand.

"Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law." Psalm 119:18

Don't just read the Bible once, but over and over again. You would not buy a musical cassette to listen to just once; but you would listen to it over and over until you became familiar with the music and words. Remember, the Bible is one of God's greatest ways to speak to you, teach you, and comfort you. Give it you best effort.

"Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens." Psalm 119:89

Psalms 1: Read Psalm 1 three times in a row.

What makes you happy? What causes you to really be content?

The word blessed means: "Oh how happy."

In Psalms 1 the Bible teaches us that we can be very happy - blissful, if we will **do** the following three things:

- ...walk not in the counsel of the wicked...
- ...stand not in the way of sinners...
- ...sit not in the seat of the mockers...

Psalm 1:2 tells us if we do two things we will be very happy. What are they?

1. _____
2. _____

Delight means "to feel great favor towards something." God wants you to delight yourself in His Word.

Meditate means "to ponder, think over, to imagine or to study."

God wants you to stop and think about what He is telling you in His Word. Do more than just read it - ponder it and ask the Lord to show you what He means.

Psalm 119:

Psalms 119 is the longest chapter in whole Bible. What is the main subject of the longest chapter in the whole Bible?

Psalms 119 starts off with the word blessed - "Oh how happy or blissful."

There are seven different words in the first eight verses of Psalms 119 that are used to refer to the Word. Can you name them?

- | | | |
|------------------|----|----|
| 1. e.g. His ways | 4. | 7. |
| 2. | 5. | |
| 3. | 6. | |

Psalm 119:9 teaches us that our life can be clean and our choices can be true, if we will heed God's Word.

The word heed means "to exercise great care over, do carefully or diligently."

In Psalm 119:10 how are we to seek for God?

Verse 11 tells us to do something with the Word of God. What is it?

Verse 12 says, "**...teach me your decrees.**"
(Take a few moments out right now and make this your prayer.)

Verse 18 is a prayer. What is this prayer all about?

In Psalms 119:89 we learn that God's Word is settled in heaven. What do you think that means?

What do verses 98, 99 and 100 teach us?

Read 119:105 and 119:160. In your own words explain what comfort you will get from believing and knowing these verses:

The Bible is God's way to help you with all the different questions you have about life. The more you know and do, the better off you will be.

Application: Establish a time to be alone with God (quiet time).

1. Choose a time and be consistent.
2. Choose a place that is quiet and secluded.
3. Have a plan:
 - a. Begin with prayer
 - b. Mark your Bible
 - c. Choose a favorite verse each day and write it out to carry with you. Memorize as much scripture as you can.
 - d. Pray for yourself and others in relation to applying that verse.
 - e. Spend time in silence (Psalm 46:10).

Conclusion: Here are some ways to follow-up in your reading and studying of God's Word:

Reading Through the Bible in a Year

Jesus said "...and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"

WEEK OF:

TEXT:

Jan 1-5	Genesis 1-16
Jan. 6-12	Genesis 17-39
Jan. 13-19	Genesis 40-50, Exodus 1-12
Jan. 20-26	Exodus 13-35
Jan. 27-Feb. 2	Exodus 36-40, Matthew 1-18
Feb. 3-9	Matthew 19-28, Leviticus 1-13
Feb. 10-16	Leviticus 14-127, Mark 1-9
Feb. 17-23	Mark 10-16, Numbers 1-16
Feb. 24-Mar 2	Numbers 17-36, Deut. 1-3
Mar 3-9	Deuteronomy 4-26
Mar 10-16	Deuteronomy 27-34, Luke 1-15
Mar 17-23	Luke 16-24, Joshua 1-14
Mar 24-30	Joshua 15-24, Judges 1-13
Mar 31-Apr. 6	Judges 14-21, Ruth, John 1-12
Apr. 7-13	John 13-21, I Samuel 1-15
Apr. 14-20	I Samuel 16-31, II Samuel 1-8
Apr. 21-27	II Samuel 9-24, Acts 1-8
Apr. 28-May 4	Acts 9-28, I Kings 1-4
May 5-11	I Kings 5-22, II Kings 1-6
May 12-18	II Kings 7-25, Romans 1-5
May 19-25	Romans 6-16, I Chronicles 1-12
May 26-June 1	I Chronicles 13-29, II Chronicles 1-6
June 2-8	II Chronicles 7-29
June 9-15	II Chronicles 30-36, I Corinthians
June 16-22	Ezra, Nehemiah
June 23-29	II Corinthians, Esther
June 30-July 6	Job 1-24
July 7-13	Job 25-42, Galatians
July 14-20	Ephesians, Psalms 1-15
July 21-27	Psalms 16-36
July 28-Aug. 3	Psalms 37-57
Aug. 4-10	Psalms 58-78
Aug. 11-17	Psalms 70-98
Aug. 18-24	Psalms 99-118
Aug. 25-31	Psalms 119-127
Sep. 1-7	Psalms 128-150
Sep. 8-14	Proverbs 1-23

Sep. 15-21	Proverbs 24-31, Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon 1-3
Sep. 22-28	Song of Solomon 4-8, Phil., Colossians, Isaiah 1-11
Sep. 29-Oct. 5	Isaiah 12-35
Oct. 6-12	Isaiah 36-59
Oct. 13-19	Isaiah 60-66, I & II Thess., Jeremiah 1-10
Oct. 20-26	Jeremiah 11-34
Oct. 27-Nov. 2	Jeremiah 35-52, Lamentations
Nov. 3-9	I & II Timothy, Ezekiel 1-14
Nov. 10-16	Ezekiel 15-37
Nov. 17-23	Ezekiel 38-48, Titus, Philemon Daniel 1-8
Nov. 24-30	Daniel 9-12, Hosea, Joel, Amos 1-3
Dec 1-7	Amos 4-9, Hebrews
Dec 8-14	Micah, Nahum, James, Habakkuk, Zephaniah
Dec 15-21	I & II Peter, Haggai, Zechariah
Dec 22-28	I, II, III John, Jude Malachi, Revelation 1-12
Dec 29-31	Revelation 13-22

Lesson Two

Prayer

Scripture reading: Luke 11:1-13

Memory Verse

John 16:24

For any relationship to become meaningful there must be constant communication. Prayer is the means of relationship whereby we have ongoing communication with God. It is essential for the Christian to realize that prayer is much more than simply going to God with a wish-list. Remember, the Christian life is a living relationship with the living God, and **not** a series of irrelevant spiritual duties for religious people.

Who can pray?

Hebrews 11:6 _____

John 14:6 _____

Psalms 24:3,4 _____

Mark 11:25 _____

Matthew 21:22 _____

Prov. 15:8 _____

How should we pray?

John 14:13 _____

I Thess. 5:17, 18 _____

Psalms 69:13 _____

Matthew 14:23 _____

Matthew 21:22 _____

Matt. 5:44, 45 _____

To whom do we pray? _____

Simply stated, we pray to the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Read and comment on John 14:13; 16:24; Mark 11:22-26; and I John 5:14:

When should we pray?

Psalm 119:164 _____

Daniel 6:10 _____

I Thess. 5:17 _____

What should be included in prayer?

- A** doration (read I Chronicles 29:11; Psalms 145: 1-6)
- C** onfession (read I John 1:9; Psalm 32:5)
- T** hanksgiving (read Ephesians 5:20; Psalms 100:4, 5)
- S** upplication (read Colossians 1:9-12; Matt. 7:7, 8; Phil. 4:6)

How can we pray with confidence? (Using a dictionary, define the following words and then look up the related scripture:)

Abide: _____

_____ (John 15:7)

Ask: _____

_____ (John 14:14)

Believe: _____

_____ (Matthew 21:22)

Obey: _____

_____ (Isaiah 59:1,2)

What are some of the spiritual disciplines exemplified in scripture?

Mark 1:35 _____

Mark 6:31, 32 _____

Matthew 4:2; Isa. 58:6 _____

Psalms 5:1; 19:14 _____

General comments, questions, and needs: _____

Lesson Three

Fellowship

Scripture reading: Hebrews 10:19-25

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 10:24,25

Now that you are a Christian, it is only natural for you to want to be with fellow believers. The best way to discover new friends who also love Jesus, and to become a part of the family of God, is to be part of a local Bible-teaching church. There is a certain chemistry that takes place as Christians come together. They learn from one another and also encourage each other. The result is the building up of the body of Christ. No Christian is higher or lower than another Christian. It has been said, "that ground is level at the foot of the cross." All Christians have the privilege of being intimate members of God's family. God has given every believer at least one spiritual gift to use to build up the church.

"...speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."
Ephesians 4:15, 16

Define what a church is to you? _____

What are some of the responsibilities we have to one another?

Romans 12:10 _____
Romans 15:5 _____
Romans 15:7 _____
Ephesians 5:21 _____
Galations 5:13 _____

Ephesians 4:2 _____

I Thess. 5:11 _____

What is the result of the church living out the Christian life like it should?

John 13:34, 35 _____

Church involvement is important because God commands it.

1. What two things does Hebrews 10:24, 25 tell us will be the result of believers assembling together?

a. _____

b. _____

2. What does Hebrews 10:25 challenge us not to do? _____

3. What words in Hebrews 10:25 suggest regular church participation?

4. When would a Christian be tempted not to go to church?

Church involvement is modeled by the New Testament church.

In Acts 2:41-47, list four of the things that the early church was devoted to?

a. Devoted to _____

b. Devoted to _____

c. Devoted to _____

d. Devoted to _____

Church involvement brings the body of Christ together.

1. Who is the Head of the church? Ephesians 5:23 _____

2. Describe the importance of the church to Jesus Christ? Ephesians 5:25

3. How does one member's "hurts" affect the rest of the body?
I Corinthians 12:14-26 _____

4. What attitude should members have toward each other? Romans 12:10

5. How should I treat a fellow member of the church? Galatians 6:2

6. Consider Galatians 6:1, 2 and Hebrews 3:13 in association with Acts 2:42, 46.
How can we be more accountable to one another?

Read I Corinthians 12 and Romans 12 – ask God to speak to you about what spiritual gift or gifts He has given you.

Based on these Scriptures what gift or gifts to you believe God has given you?

What did you learn from these Scriptures about spiritual gifts?

Application Goals:

1. Worship regularly in a church that is true to the Scriptures.
2. Contact the church leadership about *baptism*.
3. Commit yourself to the local body of believers by being regularly involved in ministry, church attendance, and tithing.
4. Discover your spiritual gift (s) and use it.
5. Think about ways you can convey to others what you have found in Jesus Christ.
6. Think about ways you can apply the love you have found in Christ to your community, your city, your country, and the world.

Lesson Four Evangelism

Scripture reading: Acts 9

Memory Verse

Matthew 28:19,20

The word *evangelism* is a combination of two Greek words; eu: which means well, and angelos: which means messenger.

Evangelism is the act of bringing good news to people, i.e telling people of God's good news.

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" Romans 10:14, 15

Ephesians 4:7-16 teaches us that God has given different gifts to His church (the members of Christ's body) to help encourage, teach, pastor, and *evangelize* others.

Many people spread the news about many different things. Advertisers are constantly spending billions of dollars to inform and then influence people into buying their products. The news broadcasters spend millions of dollars to tell people each day of all the various news items that happen on the planet earth, but only a true follower of Jesus is given the high calling and privilege of being a witness to broadcast the good news of Jesus Christ.

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

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

Matthew 28:18-20

1. According to Romans 10:14, 15 the result of the gospel message is that men

and women would call on the Lord Jesus, that they might be saved.

...but before they call they must _____

...and before they believe they must _____

...before they hear, someone must _____

...and in order to preach, someone must be _____

**"...How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"
Romans 10:15b**

2. In Luke 19:10, why did Jesus come to earth?

3. What does Mark 16:15 tell us to do?

4. What did the Apostles pray for in Acts 4:29?

In the book of Acts, we learn about some of the ways the followers of Jesus fulfilled the Lord's commission to go and preach the gospel.

In Chapter 9, we read of the story of Paul, who was first known as Saul of Tarsus.

Read Chapter 9 of the book of Acts, verses 1-31. (Remember to pray, and ask the Lord to teach you about evangelism.)

1. What happened to Saul in verse 4? _____

2. What would you say happened to him in verses 5 & 6? _____

As the story progresses, we see that Saul was blinded by the light that shone round about him from heaven. He was led to Damascus, and waited there for three days without sight, food, or water.

In verses 10-16, we learn of the way God worked in Saul's life. We learn also of the call upon his life.

3. In verses 15 & 16 what did the Lord call Saul? _____

4. What was Saul to do for the Lord? _____

In verses 15-19, we learn how Ananias went and laid hands on Saul and told him all that the Lord wanted. Saul received his sight and was filled with the Holy Spirit. Saul then got up and was baptized, after having food and rest.

5. What does verses 20 and 29 tell us that Saul did? _____

Paul (Saul of Tarsus) met the Lord on the road to Damascus (reflect on Romans 10:14, 15 again).

Paul **heard** the Lord Jesus (verse 4).

How did you hear the Lord call you? _____

Paul **believed** the Lord Jesus, and called out to Him (verses 5 & 6).

Do you truly believe in the Lord Jesus? _____

Have you truly called out to Him to save you? _____

Paul **preached** the Lord Jesus (verse 20)

If so, are you ready to tell others about Jesus? _____

Paul was **sent** by the church (verse 30) and by the Lord Jesus (Acts 26:17) . . .

Are you sending (i.e. praying, encouraging, supporting) others who are sharing Jesus? _____

"But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

II Timothy 4:5

Practical Ways to Evangelize

What are some practical ways I can share my faith?

Some people seem to be a little fearful when it comes to actually verbalizing their faith in Jesus Christ. They say things like , "I can't talk." "I get nervous talking to people." "I just go blank when I have to speak to people about Jesus."

The good news is that there are many ways a person can evangelize. Being an exemplary neighbor, friend, employee, husband, wife, brother, sister, parent, child. Think of ways to bless those around you with the love of Christ.

Some people distribute Christian literature (e.g. laundry mats, hospitals, phone booths). Be creative and use sensitivity towards others!

Writing letters or sending cards are also good ways to speak to someone.

Do special acts of love for those in your acquaintance (be especially sensitive during times of crisis).

Support ministries who evangelize with your prayers. Giving financial support is another way you can speak to people.

Make a list of non-believing friends and family members you want to begin praying for and reaching out to:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Things I will do to share God's love</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____

"And if anyone gives a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."
Matthew 10:42

Be a Person of Love!

"A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."

John 13:34, 35

And be a Strong . . .

Walk in the Spirit

Intercede for non-believing acquaintances

Testify what Christ has done in your life

Nurture a friendly rapport

Enthusiastically share the Word of God

Sensitively listen to needs and opinions of others

Share Christ's love through your attitude, actions, and words.

OBJECTIONS AND EXCUSES

I'M TOO BAD	Hebrews 7:25 Isaiah 1:18
THERE'S TOO MUCH TO GIVE UP	Mark 8:36 I John 2:15-17
I'M AFRAID OF WHAT OTHERS MIGHT THINK	Matt. 10:32, 33
NOT NOW, SOME OTHER TIME	Proverbs 27:1 2 Cor. 6:2
I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN	Ephesians 2:8, 9 Isaiah 64:6
I'M NOT SO BAD	James 2:10 Isaiah 53:6
GOD WILL NOT CONDEMN ANYONE	John 3:18, 36 Hebrews 9:27
HOW DO I KNOW THAT GOD WILL ACCEPT ME	John 6:37 2 Peter 3:9
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE	I Cor. 2:14 2 Cor. 5:7
HOW DO I KNOW CHRIST IS THE ONLY WAY	John 14:6 Acts 4:12
I'D RATHER HAVE MY FUN NOW	Eccl. 11:9 I Cor. 6:2
FOLLOWING CHRIST COSTS TOO MUCH	Mark 8:36 Luke 18:29, 30
JESUS WASN'T REALLY GOD	Hebrews 1:3 John 10:30
IT DOES NOT SOUND REASONABLE	Isaiah 55:8,9 I Cor. 1:18, 23
I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES	Hebrews 10:31 Luke 12:16-21
I DON'T BELIEVE IN CHRIST	Romans 3:3 Acts 4:12

Lesson Four

Lordship of Jesus Christ/The Work of the Holy Spirit

Scripture reading: Luke 9:23-26; Acts 1:8

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"
Luke 6:46

As Jesus Christ truly becomes Lord and Savior of our lives, we are enabled by the Spirit to surrender control of our lives to Him:

- 1) We will be transformed into the image of Christ! Romans 12:1, 2
- 2) We will decrease that He might increase. John 3:30
- 3) We will die to self and come alive in Christ. Galatians 2:20

How do we surrender control of our lives to God?

- 1) I Cor. 6:20; 7:23 _____

- 2) Matt. 26:39; Phil. 2:5-8 _____

- 3) John 14:26; 15:26, 27; 16:13 _____

As Christ reigns in our lives, what do we surrender control of?

- 1) Matt. 6:24; Luke 14:33; Psalm 24:1 _____
- 2) Psalms 90:10-12; Eph. 5:15, 16 _____
- 3) James 3:2-12; Psalm 19:14 _____
- 4) Mark 8:35 _____

What are the characteristics of a disciple?:

- 1) Matt. 12:49, 50 _____
- 2) Matt. 16:24 _____
- 3) Matt. 10:32, 33 _____
(see also Matt. 26:35)
- 4) Matt. 28:19, 20 _____
- 5) Luke 6:40 _____
- 6) Phil. 2:3-8 _____
- 7) John 13:34, 35 _____
- 8) I John 4:7, 8 _____

The ministry of the Holy Spirit can best be described by three prepositions (with, in, and upon).

Before we are saved the Holy Spirit is *with* us. He convicts us and draws us to salvation. When we accept Jesus the Holy Spirit is *in* us (John 14:16,17). We become His dwelling place (I Corinthians 6:19,20). After we accept Jesus we need Him to come *upon* us to empower us for our service and witness (Acts 1:8; 2:1-4). This last experience is what we call the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit. It is important that you ask the Lord to baptize or fill you with the Holy Spirit so you can serve Him with boldness and power .

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him! Luke 11:13

What does it mean to you to put the Lord Jesus Christ first in your life? Pray and ask the Lord to come upon you so you can serve Him with boldness and power.

SCRIPTURES OF MINISTRY

AFFLICTIONS

Are often providential
God will deliver

Psalms 119:67, 71, 75
Psalm 34:19

ANXIETY

Is relieved through prayer
Remember ... God cares for you

Philippians 4:6, 7
I Peter 5:7

COMFORT

Jesus - the Good Shepherd
He will never forsake you

Psalms 23
Hebrews 13:5, 6

DISCOURAGEMENT

Don't give up
God will help and strengthen

Galatians 6:9
Isaiah 41:10

EMPTINESS

God can satisfy
He will fulfill your desires

Psalms 107:8, 9
Psalms 37:4, 5

FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness and cleansing promised

I Jn. 1:9

GUILT

No condemnation

Romans 8:1

JUDGMENT

Everyone accountable

Rom 14:12; Heb. 9:27

LONELINESS

His presence promised
In His presence is joy

Hebrews 13:5, 6
Psalm 16:11

SUFFERING

Deepens the faith
Is to be expected
God's grace is sufficient

I Peter 1:6, 7
I Peter 2:19-23
2 Cor. 12:9, 10

TEMPTATIONS

How to avoid them
What causes failure
God provides a way out

Matthew 26:41
James 1:13, 14
I Cor. 10:13

VICTORY

Is in Christ
Your inner resource

Philippians 4:13
I John 4:4

WORRY

God will provide
Claim His promises
Jesus on worry

Philippians 4:19
I John 5:14, 15
Matthew 6:25-34

SUGGESTED BOOK LIST

JON COURSON'S APPLICATION COMMENTARIES (Old & New Testament)

FRESH WIND FRESH FIRE _____ Jim Cymbala

THE JESUS STYLE _____ Gayle Erwin

HALLEY'S BIBLE HANDBOOK _____ H. Halley

CHARISMA VS. CHARISMANIA _____ Chuck Smith

EFFECTIVE PRAYER LIFE _____ Chuck Smith

LIVING WATER _____ Chuck Smith

THE HARVEST _____ Chuck Smith

STRONGS EXHAUSTIVE CONCORDANCE _____ J. H. Strong

