THE DIAMOND MAKERS
DISCIPLESHIP MANUAL

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Below are some interesting facts about self-worth and understanding one’s value. It concerns the Smithsonian Institute Hope Diamond. A diamond is just a piece of charcoal that handles stress exceptionally well. At first, the charcoal seems to have no beauty at all. Yet, underneath all the charcoal is a beautiful, shining stone.

He has made everything beautiful in His time, also he has set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God makes from beginning to end (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

Embrace the diamond in the making in you and those you are called to reach!

1. Diamonds actually begin as the black carbon allotrope we know as charcoal. In the darkest, roughest places the most beautiful things emerge.

2. Diamonds are produced through pressure, heat, and time and you need the right combination of each of these three working together perfectly to create a diamond. In the fullness of time, the pressures of life, hot situations, and long seasons of what appear to be “nothingness,” create an undeniable testimony of God’s sovereignty, power, and grace.

3. Even after production, the beauty of the diamond is magnified with each cut, giving it the ability to reflect light, producing more sparkle and eye catching (and heart catching) brilliance as God saves us and uses others to disciple us in His Word. We are in a continual process, being beautified daily so that the light of Christ will break forth from our lives and His beauty shed abroad in us will capture the eye, touch the heart, and win the soul of mankind to Him!

As difficult as it may be, embrace the diamond at work in you. God need you to sparkle for Him that the world may see HIS good works in you, and glorify the Father which is in Heaven.

Many years ago, one of my church members asked me to visit her son in prison. He had been arrested on possession of crack cocaine. He had been in a gang for several years. He had been on drugs. He also sold drugs and shot to kill for drugs. At the time of my visit, he had been arrested 22 times. Although he tried to respect me as a pastor, his words were laced with profanity.

He told me how he had robbed in order to do drugs or survive. He had four children out of wedlock at the time with one baby on the way. He hated his father for not being in his life. He talked about wanting to kill him for how he treated him and his mother. He had already shot and killed other gang members.
I encouraged him and gave him a discipleship book and a Bible. I showed him how to use it and then prayed for him. This was back in 1983 or 1984. After 25 years of being incarcerated, he showed up at my church one Sunday. I did not know who he was, but he kept working to help me remember.

He told me that after I left him that day, he needed to hear a word from God. He took the book and Bible I gave him and began to devour it. He had nothing but time. He had no one after his mother died. He said, “God and that Bible became my friends.” He kept reading and meditating on God’s Word and began to hear God’s voice rising up inside him.

After reading the Word of God, he said his heart was filled with love toward his enemies and those who had hurt him in the past. He even made efforts to reach some through the mail to restore relationships if possible. He even contacted all the women he had children with along with his now grown children to repent to them.

Because of his new life and good behavior, he was actually able to get out of prison at least five years early.

Three years after he was released from prison, he became an engineer, made good money, and started his own business. He was professionally dressed and groomed handsomely. He got married to his present wife and had two children.

He told me how the Bible and discipleship book I gave him changed his life. When he went through a crisis in prison, he would resort to that book to find a scripture to believe. God brought him out many times. He even used that discipleship book to help and teach fellow cell mates. The book became so tattered and marked until he had to call the church several months later to request more copies, which we gave to him free of charge. He stated that this was the point when his life turned around. He was also in ministry helping other incarcerated men.

The comparison between the man I saw now and the young boy I had seen 25 years earlier was startling. What was shrouded and covered by drugs, dishonesty, profanity, murder, hatred, out-of-control sex life, out-of-wedlock children and gang life, was now a shining diamond in God’s eyes and kingdom. He gained hope as a result of one visit, a Bible, and a discipleship book. He was now a HOPE DIAMOND, involved in making other diamonds out of charcoal. All the rough places, like the graphite from the carbon in the bowels of the earth, were now gone. I had produced a diamond without realizing it. The day of the visit, I became a diamond maker after teaching him how to disciple himself.

God is also calling you to be a diamond maker, helping others cut away all their fluff of life and become useful to the kingdom of God. Every person you connect with has a hidden diamond or treasure inside them just waiting for someone to help them shine forth (2 Corinthians 4:7). They just need someone to show them the way out. Will you become a diamond maker?

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2).
DISCIPLING DIAMOND MAKERS

When you disciple one-on-one and the person you are discipling doesn’t show up for a meeting, you immediately call to find out what happened. That’s the benefit of one-on-one discipleship – it has relationship and accountability. Discipleship works best in a one-on-one relationship.

The Diamond Makers Discipleship Manual is about one-on-one discipleship. You can use this book to disciple another person. Please note, it is a notebook for a reason. When you use this notebook with the person you disciple, you can review and discuss the questions in the first part of each lesson, then share the outline, and finally share a specific and practical application.

As you disciple through this notebook, the Spirit of God will give you practical insights into making relevant applications of truth that are needed with the person you are discipling. You will observe your disciple maturing in Christ and find out something else. There is nothing more exciting in the Christian life than enjoying God work through you to impact the life of another person.

What is Expected of You As a Disciple

- Be committed to attending all the discipling sessions. A discipling relationship based on this notebook will help develop the foundational disciplines of prayer, Bible study, fellowship, and discipleship/evangelism in your life. Ask God to give you a desire for these disciplines.

- Disciple another to love Jesus. The ultimate goal of discipleship is not that you will be discipled but that you will disciple another person. Commit to discipling another to love Jesus.

- Be willing to change. This book presents a lifestyle: how to live as a Christian and how to disciple others. To disciple effectively you must be an example. When you disciple you must actually be doing what you are asking others to do. This is why older Christians who use this notebook must be willing to change their patterns of prayer and Bible study so that the principles taught in this notebook become their lives, lives that will be shared with others.

What Can You Expect from Your Discipler

- Prayer. Your discipler will pray for you daily.

- An example. Your discipler will be doing what is asked of you.

- No gain. Disciplers are not to gain from a discipling relationship – financially, professionally, or emotionally. Your discipler will not attempt to sell you anything, get you to join something, or try to manipulate you in any way.

- No control. Disciplers are not to tell you what decisions to make with your life. They will only teach the principles taught in this notebook and help you apply Biblical wisdom to the decisions that you need to make.

- Follow the plan. Your discipler will only use the material outlined in this notebook.

- Proper boundaries. Your discipler has made a commitment to lead you through this notebook in about 10 lessons. Some lessons may take two sessions. Your discipler does not have an obligation to spend more time with you than the ten required lessons. You should not look to your discipler as a counselor or therapist but rather as a friend who is walking with you. Your discipler will not be able to help you with severe emotional or financial difficulty. If you have difficulties outside the scope of this discipleship material, your discipler will help you find a Christian leader, pastor, our counselor who can help.
• **Lift up Jesus.** In all things we glorify Jesus. He alone deserves our praise.

**Next Steps**

*If you were responsible to teach and train a new Christian, would you know exactly what to do to maximize the chances that this new Christian would reach maturity?*

When you are finished with the discipling relationship defined in this notebook, you will be able to answer “yes” to the above question. You will know exactly what to do to maximize the chances that a new Christian will mature in Christ.

But what happens when your discipling relationship is over? Obviously the ten-week discipling relationship taught in this notebook is not enough. What next?

It is important that new believers get involved in a strong and biblical local church. One-on-one discipleship works best with a local church that has small groups. After the ten-lesson discipleship (often taking about three months) a disciple should join a small group in a local church or be involved in a local church even if it doesn’t have small groups.

One final point needs to be made: You will grow in Christ and gain His kingdom when you learn to lay down your life for His. Discipleship is not about you. Yes, in discipleship you will learn how to pray, overcome temptation, find God’s will, and many other necessary things, but discipleship is ultimately about you taking these same lessons and discipling someone else.

A prisoner in Ohio (USA), serving time for murder, felt helpless and worthless as a Christian because of his crimes. He wondered if God could ever use him again. He attended many Christian activities in prison, at the end of which, he would go back to his jail cell and wait for the next program. After being trained with a discipleship book, he went back to his cell and asked his cellmate if he would like to be discipled.

During the next 10 weeks, the prisoner experienced God working through him for the first time in his Christian life as he discipled his cellmate. Later he gave this testimony: *“It is true there is nothing more exciting than seeing God work through me to impact the life of another person.”*

That is what Diamond Makers is all about.

From the book *First Steps One-on-One Discipleship*, Specificity Publications
Chapter 1:
FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GOD

DISCUSSION QUESTION: What is your view of God? How would you describe Him?

1. **GOD IS INVISIBLE** because He is a Spirit being. No person has ever seen Him (John 4:24; 1 Timothy 6:15-16).

2. **GOD IS PERSONAL.** He will talk to, visit and relate to people (1 John 1:3, Genesis 2:16; Psalm 8:4).

3. **GOD IS EVERYWHERE.** There is nowhere we can go, and He is not there (Jeremiah 23:24; Psalm 139:7-10).

4. **GOD IS HOLY.** He cannot ignore sin and wickedness. He has to confront it (Isaiah 13:11; Proverbs 11:21).

5. **GOD IS RIGHTEOUS.** He always does what is right and seeks to bring right to pass in every situation (John 17:25; Zephaniah 3:5).

6. **GOD IS LOVING.** He loves us unconditionally, in spite of our weaknesses, shortcomings and sins. His love for us cannot be bought to an end like human love (Hosea 11:8-9). He is not there waiting to punish us for everything we do wrong.

7. **GOD IS GOOD.** Everything He does is good and for our good, no matter how things may look to us (James 1:7; Psalm 136:1).

8. **GOD IS ALL WISE.** He knows the answer to any and all problems (Romans 16:27).

9. **GOD KNOWS ALL THINGS.** He knows everything we think and do. He knows the past, present and future. Nothing is hidden from Him (Hosea 5:3; Proverbs 15:11).

10. **GOD IS ALL POWERFUL.** He has the power to do anything. No circumstance, power, or spirit is more powerful than Him. Nothing is impossible with Him.

11. **GOD IS UNCHANGING.** He is unchangeable in His Word, ways, laws, purposes, plans, and promises (Psalm 33:11; Malachi 3:6).

DISCUSSION QUESTION: What facts about God from this lesson are new to you?
Disciplers should tell what they once thought about God.

The Role of Jesus Christ in My Life

Disciplers should tell new converts their testimonies about what Christ has done for them in the following three phases:

A. Tell what their lives were like before Christ.
B. Tell how they found out about Christ.
C. Tell how their lives have been affected by Christ.

Who is Jesus Christ?
The Bible and all of Christianity revolve around one person Jesus Christ. He claimed to be God revealed in the flesh. This places Him in a league different from any other religious figure in history.
1. Jesus was and is God. What did Jesus say about Himself? (Read the scripture, then fill in the blank.)
   A. 25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. 26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he (John 4:25-26).

   B. I and my Father are one (John 10:30).

   C. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? (John 14:9).

2. What did others in the Bible say about Jesus, who is also called The Word?
   A. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1). (John)

   B. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God (John 5:18). (The Jews)

   C. Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: (Colossians 1:15) (Paul)

3. What do you say about Jesus? (check one blank)
   __ A. Yes, I do believe He is God.
   __ B. No, I do not believe He is God.
   __ C. I am not sure I believe at this time.

   NOTE: If convert marks any box other than A, discipleship must cease until this issue is settled. Use the Plan of Salvation prayer.

4. Jesus came for a purpose? What was it?
   The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

5. Jesus rose from the dead and defeated man’s greatest enemy – death. This resurrection now gives Him power over all problems, trouble, and power of the enemy. How many brethren saw Jesus after His resurrection from the dead?
After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep (1 Corinthians 15:6).

If Jesus rose from the dead as the Bible teaches, then that means He is still alive today. This proves He is God.

6. Jesus is the only way to God.

A. What did Jesus say about Himself?

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (John 14:6).

Jesus did not say He was “A” way. He said He was “THE” way.

B. Some may say, “Why do I have to go that route to get to God? I should have the right to get to God through any religion or route I desire.”

Jesus is necessary because God the Father is a holy God and has to confront and judge sin. If He allowed sin to go unpunished, then He would not be holy. Therefore, He had to find someone without sin to die for the sins of all mankind to satisfy His holy demand for justice. He would be a substitute and take the punishment that every person should have received. We all should have died for our own sins on the cross. This is why Jesus is the way. No other religion or religious leader makes this claim. All other gods and religions ignore the issue of sin. Jesus is the only way because He answers man’s sin problem.

Illustration of God’s Substitute

One day a boy named Jimmy was in his sixth grade classroom. He had polio in both legs and wore braces from his thighs to his feet. The teacher dealt with some previous discipline problems with her class. Before she left the classroom to go to the office, she warned the class that severe punishment would be given if anything happened while she was away, not only for the person who did it, but the entire class. One person could bring punishment to all the students.

The teacher left the room. Jimmy needed to sharpen his pencil. The pencil was on the teacher’s desk. Jimmy waddled his way with his braces to the teacher’s desk to sharpen his pencil. On the teacher’s desk was a beautiful vase with flowers and water. As Jimmy headed back to his seat, he accidentally knocked over the vase, and it broke in pieces on the floor. In fear, Jimmy waddled back to his seat as quickly as he could.

A few minutes later, the teacher returned and saw the broken vase. She asked the class several times who did it. In an effort to protect Jimmy, no one said a word.
The teacher said, “Since no one will tell me who did it, the entire class will receive licks and will be assigned extra homework.” Finally, a student named Billy raised his hand and said, “Teacher, I did it.” Everyone knew Billy did not break the vase. Yet, Billy decided to take Jimmy’s place and take the punishment for the entire class.

He came forward, took the licks and completed the extra homework to save Billy and the rest of the class. He became the substitutionary sacrifice for everyone. Jesus saw that all mankind had sinned, was in trouble, and was about to be punished. In Heaven, He told God the Father, “I will go and take the punishment for mankind and die for them.”

This is why Jesus is the only way.

7. Jesus is the only person who can change the heart of man.

A. Sin is in the heart. In order for us to change, then the motivations of our hearts must change. Our hearts are corrupt and desperately wicked. This causes us to make decisions that lead to destruction. No other god or religion makes the claim of changing the heart of man through saving him from his sins.

B. What are some things that come from within out of the heart of man?

21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: (Mark 7:21-22).

C. How does Jesus change our hearts?

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: (Hebrews 8:10).

God’s way of changing the heart is through applying His Word to the heart.

9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word... 11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee (Psalm 119:9, 11).

8. Jesus destroyed the works of Satan on the cross.
He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, it brought death to the whole human race (Romans 5:12). Satan robbed man of his right standing with God, his peace of mind, and his health and strength. He brought bondages, fears, worries, lack, poverty, curses, loss of direction, and many other problems. Yet, Jesus overturned every work of Satan against us on the cross. Every human need of mankind, every problem that needed an answer, and every demon that needed to be defeated was accomplished on the cross.

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (Romans 8:32).

What Jesus Did for Us on the Cross

The following list reveals the blessings, privileges, and benefits Jesus accomplished for us on the cross. These blessings are available for all who believe in Him.

- I am **SAVED AND FORGIVEN** of all my sins (Romans 10:9; Acts 16:30-31; Colossians 2:13).
- I am a **CHILD OF GOD** (John 1:12; Romans 8:16-17).
- I have **EVERLASTING LIFE** (John 3:36).
- I have **RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD** (Romans 5:19).
- I have **PEACE WITH GOD** (John 3:36; Romans 5:1).
- I have the **PEACE OF GOD WITHIN** (Philippians 4:7).
- I am **NO LONGER GUILTY OR CONDEMNED** by God (Romans 8:1; John 3:18).
- God is **NO LONGER ANGRY** with me (Romans 5:8-9; John 3:36).
- God is **MY HEAVENLY FATHER** (Matthew 5:45).
- I **NO LONGER** have to **FEAR DEATH** (1 Corinthians 15:54-56; Psalm 116:15; Hebrews 2:14-15).
- I immediately **GO TO HEAVEN** when I die (2 Corinthians 5:8).
- I **HAVE JESUS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT** inside me (Romans 8:9).
- I can **TALK TO GOD** through prayer (John 16:23; Hebrews 4:16).
- God **HEARS MY PRAYERS** (1 John 5:14-15).
- All **GOD’S PROMISES ARE MINE** (2 Corinthians 1:20).
- God **LOVES ME** in spite of my weaknesses (Romans 5:8-9).
- I am **FREE FROM MY PAST** (Philippians 3:13; Hebrews 10:17).
- I have **GOD’S WISDOM FOR LIVING** (James 1:5).
- I have **GOD’S GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION** for life (Proverbs 3:5-6).
- I have **VICTORY** in life (2 Corinthians 2:14).
- I have the **ABILITY TO OVERCOME** in life (1 John 5:4-5).
- **NO HABIT CONTROLS ME** (Romans 6:14).
- I **CAN DO WHATEVER GOD SAYS I CAN DO** (Philippians 4:13).
- I am **DELIVERED FROM** the control of the **POWERS OF DARKNESS** (Colossians 1:13).
- I have **VICTORY OVER WORRY** (Philippians 4:6-7).
- I can **WALK BY FAITH** and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).
• I have VICTORY OVER FEAR (2 Timothy 1:7).
• I am a JOINT HEIR WITH CHRIST (Romans 8:17).
• I have the BLESSINGS OF ABRAHAM (Galatians 3:9, 14, 29).
• God PROVIDES FOR ALL MY NEEDS (Philippians 4:19).
• I have GOD’S PROTECTION over my life (Psalm 91).
• I am BLESSED WITH ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS (Ephesians 1:3).
• I have GOD’S STRENGTH within (Ephesians 3:16).
• I have a SPECIFIC PURPOSE AND INHERITANCE in life (Ephesians 1:11).
• I have the ABILITY TO LOVE OTHERS (1 John 3:14).
• I can HEAR AND BE LED BY GOD’S VOICE (Isaiah 6:8).
• I have AUTHORITY OVER SATAN (Luke 10:19).
• I am REDEEMED FROM THE CURSE (Galatians 3:13).
• I have the ABILITY TO PROSPER IN LIFE (3 John 2).
• I have the ABUNDANT LIFE THROUGH CHRIST (John 10:10).

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Of the aforementioned points about Christ’s accomplishments on the cross, which point means the most to you? Why?

MEMORY VERSE: For this week, please memorize the three benefits you chose in the discussion question above along with their accommodating scriptures. Look up the scriptures in your Bible using the table of contents to find the passages. Be prepared to recite them by heart to the discipler next week.

ASSIGNMENT: Take this list of what Jesus did for us on the cross home and share it with a friend, relative, neighbor, or coworker to let them know what Jesus has done for them and be prepared to share what happened on next week.

PRAYER: Let’s pray and thank God for all He did for us through Jesus Christ on the cross.

Heavenly Father, Your Word says You would not even spare Your Son for us. Instead, You delivered Him up for us all. Now, everything we need to live godly has been freely given to us. You have taken care of every physical, mental, emotional, and physical need on the cross. God, I thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to die for me on the cross.
Chapter 2: HOW DO WE KNOW WE ARE SAVED?

What Are We Saved From?

To be saved means to be rescued from something, to be kept safe from harm or danger. Jesus saves us in three ways. He saves us from:

A. From the penalty of sin, which is eternal damnation to hell
B. From the power of sin that destroys our lives when we live contrary to God’s ways
C. From the powers of darkness and all their works to keep us in bondage, danger, sickness, oppression, lack, failure, fear, etc.

Define the Word “Saved”

The word saved in the Greek language featured in the New Testament is pronounced sozo. It means, “to bring to safety, cured, get well, made well, preserved, recover, safe, save, etc.”

When we are saved, God gives us a package deal designed to meet every human need.

God’s plan of salvation can be found in John 3:16.

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

A. Who was God’s love for? ___________________________________________ _________
B. What did God give to prove His love? _________________________________
C. What is required? __________________________________________________
D. Who qualifies to believe? ____________________________________________
E. What will be the results for those who believe? _________________________
F. What kind of life do we receive? _____________________________________

Everlasting life means that when we die, our spirit or inner man lives forever.

Why Do We Need to Be Saved?

Answers to the following questions will help us determine if we deserve to go to hell.

A. Can we say we have always loved God more than anything else in the world with all our hearts, minds, and souls?
B. Have we ever told a lie?
C. Have we ever placed anything before God?
D. Have we ever sworn or cursed, using God’s name in vain?
E. Have we ever taken anything from someone else that was not ours?
F. Have we ever committed sexual sin or had sex with someone to whom we were not married?
G. Have we ever disrespected our parents, talked back to them, or rebelled against them?
H. Have we ever not worshipped God on a Sunday?
I. Have we ever wanted to possess something that belonged to someone else, and pursued it?

If we answer yes to any one of these questions, then we are considered sinners before God. In order to go to heaven, gain acceptance with God, stand in His presence, and escape eternal separation from Him, then we cannot commit one sin. Not one sin can be accounted to our record.

Do we qualify to go to heaven?

**How God Views Non-Believers Before Salvation**

By nature we are spiritually dead. By nature we are all children of the devil. By nature all men are called children of disobedience and wrath. Every person is born as part of Satan’s kingdom of darkness. Every person is born with the devil as his/her spiritual father. Our minds are blind spiritually. Our understanding of God is darkened, and we are born alienated or separated from the life of God. When we do not have Christ, we have no hope and are without God in the world. We are enemies of God when we are sinners (Colossians 2:13; 1 John 3:10; Ephesians 2:2-3; Colossians 1:13; John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 4:18; Ephesians 2:12; Romans 5:10).

**Everyone is Born in Sin**

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me (Psalm 51:5).

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one...
23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (Romans 3:10, 23).

We are not sinners because of what we do. We are sinners because of how we have been born. We all inherited the sin nature of our parents that goes all the way back to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3).

**How Do We Qualify to Be Saved?**

God gives us two requirements. Name them below:

And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: REPENT ye, and BELIEVE the gospel (Mark 1:15).

A. 

B. 

**Define Repentance**

The word repent means “to change, to turn around, to reverse a decision, and to transform.” Repentance is Godly sorrow, meaning that we have a broken heart when we realize that we have offended a holy God. If we are heading in one direction, repentance means that we make a decision to turn around and head the other way.

It requires a change of mind and a change of actions. Repentance is like driving down a highway and discovering that we are going the wrong way. What do we do? We immediately make a decision to go the other way.
Once we become aware of our wrongdoing, then we must make the decision to turn toward God’s way. According to the scripture below, why is it that many people do not prosper?

*He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and Forsaketh them shall have mercy* (Proverbs 28:13).

**True Repentance Has Fruit**

*Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:* (Matthew 3:8).

The word *fruit* refers to the display of evidence, outward works, or sign of an inward work of repentance from the heart. Something in your heart will want to change outwardly.

1. If gambling is the sin and we have truly repented, then the fruit is not returning to the slot machines.
2. If drunkenness is the sin and we have truly repented, then the fruit is removing the alcohol from our lives.
3. If sexual sin is the problem and we have truly repented, then the fruit is terminating wrong, illicit relationships.
4. If unforgiveness is the sin and we have truly repented, then the fruit is being able to do our enemies good and bless them.

**Define Believe**

Believing is more than just head knowledge of Jesus and believing that He existed historically. It means that we trust Him to save us and trust Him with our lives. We trust that He will rescue us from hell. Just knowing Jesus intellectually or having an emotional feeling about Jesus is not enough. It means we choose to invite Jesus to be Lord of our lives by faith.

**How Do I Believe on Him Practically?**

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved* (Romans 10:9).

A. What are we told to confess or say with our mouths?

B. What are we to believe in our hearts?

C. What will the results be?

We receive salvation by a combination of what we say with our mouths and what we believe in our hearts. To confess means to acknowledge, agree with, and to say the same thing as. When we confess Jesus with our mouths and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, He will instantly enter our lives and cause our inner man (spirit) to be born again.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** Disciplers should ask new converts the following questions to make sure they are saved.
A. Do you believe that Jesus is Lord?
B. Do you believe God raised Him from the dead?
C. Would you like to invite Jesus into your life to be your Lord and Savior?

If the answer is yes to each of these questions, then please pray the following prayer by having participants repeat after you.

Salvation Prayer

Heavenly Father, I need You in my life. I acknowledge that I am a sinner in need of a Savior. Lord, I make the decision to repent of my sins. I turn now from my old life, and I give my life to You. I believe that Jesus died for my sins, and Father, You raised Him from the dead. I believe He is God in the flesh. Holy Spirit, come into my heart and make me the person You want me to be. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

Disciplers should let new converts know that because they have prayed that prayer, God has instantly forgiven them of all their sins. Their sins have been paid for – past, present and future.

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more (Hebrews 10:17).

Homework: Read the following stories of those who repented in scripture. What was the fruit of repentance in each story? What was the evidence that they repented?

3. The Publican (Luke 18:9-14)

MEMORY VERSE: Satan will attempt to come back and bring doubts to your mind about your salvation. Memorize the following scripture. Every time you hear him saying that you are not saved, speak this scripture back to him.

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

How to Be Sure We Are Saved

How do we know we are truly born-again Christians? How do we know we have eternal life? How do we counterattack the enemy when he works against our minds and feelings? The first thing we need to know is that our assurance of salvation is based on the authority of God’s Word, not on our intellect or emotional feelings.

We must go by the facts. Facts do not change. What are the facts? God’s Word contains the unchanging facts. God’s Word is the only source of stability concerning our Christian lives. God knows every fact. His Word contains the facts. Faith is our trust in God and His Word. Feelings are the result of our faith. We do not depend on feelings or emotions to be saved. We are saved by placing our trust in God.

Here are the facts of God’s Word that prove that we are saved.

A. How do we know Jesus Christ has received us?

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out (John 6:37).
B. How do we know we have become children of God?

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (John 1:12).

C. What have we become by being in Christ?

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

D. How do we know we have been born of God and know Him?

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God (1 John 4:7).

E. How do we know we are children of God?

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (Romans 8:16).

F. What have we received for our sins?

In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: (Colossians 1:14).

Eternal life does not necessarily refer to the length of our lives when we go to heaven, or a span of timelessness in which to live. It also refers to a quality of life, the God kind of life, to help us live the God life.

G. How do we know we have eternal life?

11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God (1 John 5:11-13).

H. How do we know we have become children of God?

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (John 1:12).

Remember, our salvation is not based on our feelings. It is only based on God’s promise of saving us when we believe His Word.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Disciplers should share their salvation testimony or the struggles or doubts they went through concerning their salvation.

2. Disciplers should ask new converts, “What other things have you tried to base your assurance on other than the authority of God’s Word? Have you ever tried to base your assurance on feelings?”

3. Disciplers should ask new converts, “Has the devil ever tried to make you doubt your salvation before? If so, please share your experience.”

Homework: Begin targeting 3-5 people to start praying for to witness to and disciple. Write them down on paper. Every day, ask God to give you a strategy to speak to them about the Lord. Ask God to open their hearts to receive Christ. Then prioritize them from the one you think is best to approach. Pray with your mentor by laying your hands on that list.

ASSIGNMENT: Go to the person whom you prioritized as the first one and tell them what God is doing in your life. Share something you have learned in this lesson. Tell them three more things:

1. What your life was like before you were saved
2. How you came to know about Christ
3. What your life has been like since you found Christ and/or share something He has done for you

For any doubts they may have about God or being saved, go to the Appendix and look up Answering Christianity’s Greatest Questions.

MEMORY VERSE: Please look up the following scriptures. Choose the best one you feel fits your need for assurance of your salvation and memorize it: Psalm 85:2; John 3:18, 36; John 5:24; John 6:37, 47; John 8:24; John 10:28; John 20:31; Romans 5:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9.

PRAYER FOR DISCIPLE:

*Heavenly Father, help this Your disciple become grounded in the truth that they are saved. Build their heart into assurance every day. I pray that the blood of Jesus covers their hearts and minds and protects them from any further doubts or thoughts of condemnation. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*
Chapter 3: BEING SAVED MEANS WE ARE RIGHT WITH GOD

(Homework)

Please take this lesson home and study it. Read the entire chapter and fill in the blanks.

Understanding Righteousness

One of the hindrances to our faith is a lack of understanding of righteousness, or right standing with God. A lack of knowledge about righteousness and the privileges it gives to the believer holds more Christians in bondage than anything else.

The Requirements for Righteousness

How does one become righteous?

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Romans 10:10).

A man becomes righteous by believing unto righteousness, because he believes on Him who is our righteousness, Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Do you feel you are righteous? If so, why? If not, why not?

Righteousness is a Gift

When we receive Jesus as Savior and are born again, we receive the gift of righteousness.

For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:17).

Good Deeds Don’t Make You Righteous

Many people think that, to be righteous, they must do good works, good deeds, and have right conduct. Of course, Scripture teaches us to do these things. However, all of our good works and deeds could never make us righteous or give us right standing with God.

Righteousness Cannot Be Developed

We cannot grow into some kind of high spiritual state in order to achieve righteousness. We can grow in the Lord. We can grow spiritually. We can grow and develop in the fruits of the Spirit. Yet, we will never be any more righteous than we are right now. We will never be any more righteous in heaven than we are right now.

Righteousness is a Work of God Only

When we are in Christ, we are made righteous. In and of ourselves, we are not righteous. In Christ, however, we are. He makes us right before God.
When a person stands before a judge in a court case, his/her attorney and their legal abilities make him/her right before the judge. In the same way, Jesus makes us right before God.

**In Christ, We Are Made Righteous**

_For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that WE MIGHT BE MADE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS of God in him_ (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Just like Jesus never knew sin and God made Him to be sin, God is able to make us righteous, even though we do not feel or always act righteous. To be righteous is to have right standing before God.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** If I asked you, “Are you righteous?” before the start of this lesson, what would you have said? “I’m trying to be.” “One day I will be.” “I know I’m not there yet.” “No. I’ve done too many bad things.” “Well, if I can just live long enough to develop spiritually. God would never hear me because I am not righteous.”

**Understanding Righteousness Provides Power in Prayer**

_Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN MAKES TREMENDOUS POWER AVAILABLE [dynamic in its working]_ (James 5:16 AMP).

Who has the power and/or ability to get prayers answered? __________________________

A righteous person in Christ, one who has been declared or made right or placed in the position of righteousness (relative to God’s perspective), has the right, privilege, benefit and ability to get his prayers answered. The reason God answers the prayer is because it is like Jesus is in us making the request, and God sees Christ.

**Elijah, a Righteous Man, Had Faults Like Us**

Elijah prayed and saw much power made available to him through his prayers. What does James 5:17 AMP say to let us know that Elijah was just like us?

_Elijah was a human being with a nature such as we have [with feelings, affections, and a constitution like ours]; and he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, and no rain fell on the earth for three years and six months_ (James 5:17 AMP).

Yet, he prayed and got results. His prayers had shut up the heavens from raining for three and a half years (1 Kings 17:1). He had prayed down fire with the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18). He also prayed for rain to come down and outrun the king’s chariots (1 Kings 18:19-46). Then Jezebel, the wife of Ahab, set out to kill him, and he wanted to die because he was afraid.

1 AHAB TOLD Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had slain all the prophets [of Baal] with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.
Then he was afraid and arose and went for his life and came to Beersheba of Judah [over eighty miles, and out of Jezebel's realm] and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a lone broom or juniper tree and asked that he might die. He said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am no better than my fathers (1 Kings 19:1-4).

Elijah was a man who was subject to the same passions or flaws as we have. Yet, he believed that he was in right standing with God to see his prayers answered. It means we are still righteous before God, even though we have flaws in our lives.

**Elijah Was Like Us**

We may not feel like it. Sometimes, like Elijah, we may not act like it. Elijah’s story helps us see that, even though we don’t always do or act right, we can still believe in the righteousness that Jesus gives me to get God to respond to me. **RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD IS A GIFT!** Read the first part of 2 Corinthians 5:21 again: “For he hath made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin...”

Do you believe this part of the verse is true? Let’s look at the second part of that same verse: “…that we might be MADE the righteousness of God in him (Christ).”

We have been MADE the righteousness of God in Christ. Do you believe that part of the verse is true?

He had to make or declare us righteous because in and of ourselves, we are not. Look again who God calls and qualifies to be righteous.

*Namely, the righteousness of God which comes by believing with personal trust and confident reliance on Jesus Christ (the Messiah). [And it is meant] for all who believe. For there is no distinction...* (Romans 3:22).

God accepts as righteous anyone who has true faith in Christ. God receives us based upon Christ. Your inward man (your spirit) has now been made perfect, recreated, born again, a new creature, because the Holy Spirit is now inside your spirit man.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Do you ever feel that God won’t hear you because of your flaws and inadequacies?

**Illustrations of Righteousness**

**HOW DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE?**

If I asked, “Are you a man and/or woman?” what would you say? I am a man and/or woman. My next question is, “How did you get that way?” You would probably answer, “I was born that way.” This is the same way we get to be righteous. We are born righteous. When we are born again, we are made the righteousness of God in Christ at that moment, in its fullness.
THE BOY, THE BASEBALL, AND THE FATHER

A young boy named Johnny was out on the streets with his friends, hitting balls with his bat. One ball accidentally broke the window pane of a nearby home. The man in the home came out the front door and asked who broke his window. All the boys took off running.

He saw Johnny with the bat in his hand, identified him as the one who messed up his window, and asked him to come to him right away. Instead, Johnny dropped the bat and took off running.

The next day, the man’s son Billy came home from school with a friend. Billy went in and talked to his father while his friend remained outside. Billy told his father how his friend outside had nowhere to live. His mother was taken to the hospital, and there was no one to keep him. The father told Billy, “Let me meet him first.”

They went outside on the porch and there stood Johnny, the boy with the bat who broke the window pane. The father said, “You are the one who broke my window.”

The father grabbed him, intending to punish him. All of a sudden, his son Billy stopped him and said, “Dad, he’s my friend and he needs help.”

The father stopped, thought about it, and then released Johnny’s collar. He told Johnny, “Johnny, since you are with my son Billy and know him, you can stay with us until your mom returns home from the hospital. My food is your food. My bed is your bed, and my home is your home, all because you know my son. I should punish you for what you did, but knowing my son gives you right standing with me because I trust him and how he feels about you. You don’t have to be afraid to come and ask me for whatever you need.”

Although Johnny deserved punishment, he received right standing with the father and all his benefits because he knew his son Billy. Everything that belonged to Billy now belonged to Johnny. That is righteousness.

One day, Jesus told His Heavenly Father, “Even though they deserve punishment and none of your benefits, they are My friends and are in good standing with Me.” As a result, we are now able to approach the Father for whatever we need without any condemnation. We are now worthy to come before Him with confidence.

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

The Benefits of Righteousness (or Being Right With God)

WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE BELIEVER

- God desires to bless us and meet our needs.
- We are now children of God who can relate to Him as a father.
We can approach God with no guilt or shame about our past.
We don’t feel condemned when we come to Him.
We believe God will hear us when we pray.
We can pray and expect our prayers to be answered.
We are now worthy to stand in His presence.
We can believe God for any promise He makes to us in His Word.
We have authority over Satan.
All our sins have been forgiven.
God accepts us and desires to bless us.
God loves us and no longer desires to demonstrate His wrath against us.
We can expect our faith to work.
Sin can no longer control our lives.
We no longer have to live in fear.

Assignment: Tell the priority person you have chosen to witness to what it means to be right with God. Be prepared to share your experience next week in the beginning of the discipling session.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Knowing these benefits, what does it mean to you now?

Confession of Righteousness

Now that you know you are right before God, let’s stand, make this confession, and apply it daily in our prayer time. As we keep repeating it each day, the image we have of ourselves on the inside will begin to change. Discipler should pray in unison with the new convert.

I know who I am in Christ. I am a new creation. Old things have passed away. All things have become new.

I am the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ. There is therefore now no condemnation to me because I am in Christ Jesus.

I am the faith seed of Abraham. All of the promised blessings of Abraham are mine.

God has not given me the spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. The works that Jesus did, I can do also. The joy of the Lord is my strength. The Word says, “Let the weak say, ‘I am strong.’” Therefore, I am strong!

Surely Jesus bore my sickness, diseases, and pains, that I don’t have to bear them anymore! By the stripes of Jesus, I have been healed! None of these diseases shall come on me! It is God’s will above all things that I will prosper and be in health.

My God shall supply all my needs according to His riches in glory. It is God who has given me the power to get wealth.
I have given to God, and He shall multiply His financial prosperity back to me in full and overflowing measure. Whatsoever I have sown, that shall I also reap.

I am blessed when I come in and blessed when I go out! Whatsoever I set my hand to do will be blessed by God. I will not be defeated. I am a new creation in Jesus Christ!”

WE ARE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST!
Chapter 4: WHERE DO WE GO AFTER WE DIE?

Understanding what happens when we die and where we go in the afterlife will motivate individuals to come to the Lord and walk upright before Him.

1. Man is a three-part being. God abides in his spirit; the soul represents the intellect of man; the body touches the physical world with its five senses.

   And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole SPIRIT and SOUL and BODY be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

2. Physical death means that man’s spirit (and soul) separate from his body.

   For as the body without the spirit is dead... (James 2:26a)

3. When the believer’s spirit is absent from the body, he/she goes immediately to be with the Lord.

   We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8).

4. When the sinner (lost or unbeliever) dies, his spirit separates from his body and goes to hell.

   ...the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes... (Luke 16:22c-23a)

5. All Christians, or all who died believing in Jesus Christ, are promised a resurrection of our bodies from the dead.

   And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day (John 6:40).

6. Our bodies will sleep in the grave until God reunites our spirits with our bodies at the rapture.

   For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him (1 Thessalonians 4:14).

   See also 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

7. The lost (unsaved) dead will remain in the grave.

   But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection (Revelation 20:5).

8. As a result of rejecting Christ, all unbelievers must demonstrate at the Great White Throne judgment their works to save themselves. Since the unbelievers rejected God’s plan of salvation through Christ, they must now prove perfection, which they cannot. Because they did not repent, all who were dead and in hell waiting for their judgment will be cast into the lake of fire.
And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death (Revelation 20:14).

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**: Ask disciples the following questions: “How does this knowledge change your life? Has this corrected some wrong or erroneous teaching you may have had about death and what happens after we die?”

**What Happens When We Die? (The Reality of Heaven and Hell)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTION**: Do you believe that hell is a real, literal place?

God has reserved an eternal prison for Satan, all his demons, fallen angels, and all people who reject Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. All who do not receive Christ remain as children of the devil and will therefore live with him throughout all eternity. The Bible states that hell is real (Matthew 10:28).

Jesus tells a true story about what happens when people die (whether saved or unsaved). Read Jesus’ story about the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31 and answer the following questions:

1. **What happened to the poor man Lazarus after he died? What happened to the rich man’s body?**

   And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; (Luke 16:22)

When we die, the inward man, the spirit and soul, separate from the body. The body goes into the ground, while the spirit and soul either go to heaven above or to hell below (James 2:26a).

Those who are saved, born again, or have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior immediately go to heaven when they die. Their spirits separate from their bodies and go to be with the Lord. Being in Christ secures us a place in heaven.

   We are...absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8). (See also John 14:2-3).

This is why receiving Christ is so important. We are secure that whenever we die, our sins have been removed from the mind of God, and we immediately go to heaven where He has prepared a place for us. However, those who do not accept Christ will face the same fate as the rich man in this story.

2. **Heaven was referred to as “Abraham’s bosom” before Jesus died on the cross, where all Old Testament righteous saved people went. How do we know that the rich man was conscious? Where did his spirit go? What was he experiencing?**

   And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom (Luke 16:23).
3. What else did the rich man say that lets us know he was conscious in hell?
   
   And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame (Luke 16:24).

4. What was Lazarus experiencing in Abraham’s bosom (heaven)? What did the rich man experience?
   
   But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented (Luke 16:25).

5. How do we know that there is a separation in the location from heaven and hell?
   
   And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence (Luke 16:26).

6. What did the rich man say that indicates that he still had his memory in hell?
   
   Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: (Luke 16:27).

7. What did Abraham say would be the way for his family to not come to hell?
   
   Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them (Luke 16:29).

   Hearing Moses and the prophets is equivalent to hearing the Word.

8. What did the rich man want to tell his family to do?
   
   And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent (Luke 16:30).
9. What did Abraham say was the key to the rich man’s family being persuaded?

And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead (Luke 16:31).

Bible Facts About Hell

Jesus uses this story to demonstrate to us that hell is real and that all who do not repent will perish. Here are some other characteristics of hell.

A. Hell is beneath us in the lower parts of the earth (Isaiah 14:9; Ephesians 4:9).
B. There is only sorrow in hell (2 Samuel 22:6).
C. Hell is everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46).
D. Hell is unquenchable fire (Luke 3:17).
E. Fire is never quenched, and worms do not die (Mark 9:43-48).
F. Hell is a place of pain (Psalm 116:3).

Who Goes to Hell?

A. The wicked are turned into hell (Psalm 9:17).
B. The fearful, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, whoremongers, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall go to the last and larger hell called the Lake of Fire (Revelation 21:8).
C. Those who have not repented will go to hell (Luke 13:3).

People Ask, “Why Would God Send People to Hell?”

What if all those who broke the city’s laws were not arrested and allowed to walk around free on the streets? Law-abiding citizens would not feel safe.

When people choose to break the laws, they can expect to go to court and be judged by a judge. The judge passes judgment based upon a man’s own choices and decisions. This means there are consequences for our actions. We all can expect that if we break the law, then we must be judged and face consequences.

So it is true spiritually and eternally. When we break or reject God’s laws of receiving Christ for payment of our sin, we are sentenced by God to the penalty for breaking that law, and that is punishment in hell below. Man makes the choice to reject God’s plan. God, by His own law, is forced to pass sentence on his sin (crime) and sentence him to hell’s prison. It would be unfair to all in heaven who obeyed God’s plan of salvation to allow into heaven those who did not obey. The saved would feel unsafe if unchanged robbers, thieves, gamblers, drug addicts, adulterers, murderers, witches, homosexuals, lesbians, alcoholics, and every other wicked person were in heaven with them. Heaven would not be the place of peace and comfort it was designed to be.

There must be an eternal prison for those who chose not to go to Heaven. In a sense, God sends people to hell. In another sense, people send themselves to hell.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: This lesson demonstrated that hell is a real place. Have you ever thought hell was not real? Explain.

ASSIGNMENT: Speak to the person you have chosen to witness to and ask them, “Do you believe there is a hell?” Share with them some of the things you found out here. Come back and share your experience.
MEMORY VERSE:

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, I have acknowledged and repented of my sins. I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, and God has raised him from the dead. Therefore, I am saved, and Heaven will be my home when I die, in Jesus’ name.
Chapter 5:
THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee (Mark 10:28).

Many people know Jesus as Savior, but they have never trusted Him as Lord. The word lord refers to one who has mastery over a given area; one who rules.

To trust Jesus as Lord is to allow Him to master or rule over our lives. This means we make the decision to allow Him to rule our lives. Do we trust the Lord to know what is best for us? Are we willing to live our lives for Him? Are we willing to behave in ways that are pleasing to the Lord? Will we trust Him to show us our purpose in life? God has a purpose and plan for our lives to serve Him in some capacity, but He needs a commitment from us.

Salvation is free. We have already received Him by faith, and it costs us nothing. However, following Him and being His disciple will require a commitment to obey Him, letting go of our plans to follow Him.

So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple (Luke 14:33).

What Commitment Looks Like

Jesus wants to be Lord over every area of our lives. This is how commitment looks:

A. If God required you to move to another city to serve Him or to find your calling and purpose, would you do it?
B. If God needed you to take a stand against a popular position, would you speak out against it, knowing that people may not like it?
C. What if God called you to let go of a high-paying job to go into full-time ministry possibly, paying half of what you made in your previous position?
D. What if you had to release your house, land, and property to follow Him? Would you let it go?
E. What if God told you to attend a church to learn of Him, but your family did not want you to go? Would you go?
F. If following God meant losing the affection and closeness of family and friends, would you go?
G. Would you be willing to give up all lifestyles, habits, and sins that are contrary to the Word of God in order to obey, honor, serve Jesus, and make Him Lord?
H. Would you be willing to stay away from places that are not conducive to the Christian lifestyle such as clubs, casinos, XXX-rated theaters, or strip bars?

This is how commitment to Christ and making Him Lord will look, if we want to follow Him and have the best life only He can offer. It involves living for Jesus in every way through our speech, actions, possessions, and our heart’s desires.
The Price of Living for Jesus

A. Following Christ means nobody comes before Him.

If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his [own] father and mother [in the sense of indifference to or relative disregard for them in comparison with his attitude toward God] and [likewise] his wife and children and brothers and sisters—[yes] and even his own life also—he cannot be My disciple (Luke 14:26, AMP).

The term “hate” in this passage means “to dislike less.” We must love family or people less than God. This means that God must be first priority over any other relationship.

B. Following Christ means that none of our property can be first, if He tells us to let it go to do His will.

29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life (Mark 10:29-30).

C. Following Christ means that we submit our will to Him and obey Him.

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? (Luke 6:46)

See also Matthew 7:21.

D. Following Christ may mean letting go of our plans and ambitions to find the life He has for us.

38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. 39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it (Matthew 10:38-39).

E. Lordship is a lifestyle; a continuous, lifetime walk with God.

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: (Colossians 2:6).

Making Sacrifices for Christ

Suffering for Christ does not mean that God wants us to suffer burdens, sickness, pain, poverty, problems, trouble, or bad things. Yes, these things happen, but that is not the definition of biblical suffering. Jesus died for us to be free of all these issues.

Suffering for Christ may mean:

1. Old friends will ostracize us because of our faith in Christ (Luke 6:22-23).
2. We cannot visit the old, ungodly places we once visited (1 Peter 4:1-4).
3. We cannot hold on to old sins that give us pleasure (Galatians 5:19-21).
4. Our names will be cast out as evil because of our relationship with Christ, even though it is untrue (Matthew 5:10-12).
5. We have to love people whom we know have done us wrong or who hate us (Luke 6:31-34).
6. Family may no longer feel comfortable around us (Matthew 10:34-37).
7. We may lose our jobs because we witnessed to or prayed for someone (2 Timothy 3:12).
Jesus’ Promise

Jesus promises us that anyone who chooses to follow Him; anyone who leaves all for Him or suffers loss and persecution for His sake will receive one hundredfold return in this lifetime, according to Mark 10:30. He gives it all back and more.

What is That One Thing?

When you get home, please read the story of the rich young ruler. What caused him to miss the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 19:16-24)? What meant more to him than God?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is the one thing that is difficult for you to release to follow the Lord?
2. What will it cost you to fully follow the Lord?
3. Discipler should share his/her challenges in making Jesus Lord.

Prayer of Commitment to Lordship

Heavenly Father, I believe and acknowledge that Jesus is my Savior. I now commit my life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Jesus is Lord over my life. Lord, use me. I will go where You want me to go. I will do what You want me to do. I recognize that a day may come when You will require me to follow You. I surrender all to You, oh Lord. I sell out to anything that hinders me from making You first in my life. Lord, I give You my family, home, ambitions, desires, job, finances, and material possessions to live for You and serve You. I will forsake all to follow You and to be Your disciple. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

Realize that no one is requiring this of us. However, to serve and follow God completely, we must expect that God will make a request one day for us to do something for Him.

What did God request of Abraham?

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: (Genesis 12:1).

MEMORY VERSE:

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him (John 14:21).

ASSIGNMENT: Do something this week that demonstrates your commitment to Christ. Speak to the person you have chosen to witness to about your commitment. Then tell the person you have chosen to witness to the decision you have made to commit to Christ.
Chapter 6:
DEALING WITH SIN AFTER WE ARE SAVED

Defining Sin

Sin is missing the mark of God’s standards; doing wrong; breaking God’s laws; and rebelling against God.

The Difference Between Your Life Before and After Salvation

BEFORE SALVATION

Before we were saved, we loved sin. We had no conviction when we sinned. We were comfortable in it. It dominated and ruled our lives. We did not care when we did wrong. We did not care what God thought or felt about it.

AFTER SALVATION

When we get saved, our inward desires begin to change. Although we may continue to do some things we did before we were saved, we do not feel the same. There is an awareness of God being there. Now we care about how He feels. We feel convicted or guilty when we do wrong.

Salvation does not mean that believers will never sin, but as we grow, sin no longer dominates us because of the Holy Spirit within us.

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace (Romans 6:14).

When we are saved, sin no longer has rule, control, or dominion. Salvation does not mean that we are sinless, but it does mean that we should SIN LESS than we once did.

The Test of Our Salvation

Here is a good way to test ourselves to determine if we are saved. Let’s read Romans 7:12, 15, 18-19, 21-22, NLT below and see if we can relate to this passage.

12 But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good. 15 I don’t really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do what I hate. 18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. 19 I want to do what is good, but I don’t. I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. 21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. 22 I love God’s law with all my heart (Romans 7:12, 15, 18-19, 21-22, NLT).

DISCUSSION: How do you relate to that scripture?

The key points in that passage are: I want to...; I do what I hate; The law is good; I want to do what is right or good; I don’t want to do what is wrong; and I love God’s law.

Those phrases and statements prove believers’ inner desire that only emerges after we are saved. They continue to commit acts of sin out of the flesh, but the inner man does not desire to do it.
**Ask Yourself These Questions**

1. Do you believe God’s commandments and laws are good, even though they do not condone your sin?
2. Are you able to recognize sin in your life?
3. Do you desire to do the right thing, but it is a struggle?
4. Do you hate doing the wrong thing? Do you feel bad, guilty, or convicted when you do wrong?
   - Do you have a desire to come out of that sin?
5. Do you have an inner desire to do what is good?
6. Do you delight in God’s Word inwardly, even though you see something else warring against you to compel you to do wrong?

If you answer yes to each of the above questions, then this is an indication that you are saved. This helps us stop Satan from making us feel condemned or lost if we sin in an area.

**When We Practice Sin, We Are in Trouble**

The Bible also lets us know if we are still in the devil’s family. A child of the devil will knowingly, habitually practice sin.

8 [But] he who commits sin [who practices evildoing] is of the devil [takes his character from the evil one], for the devil has sinned (violated the divine law) from the beginning... 9 No one born (begotten) of God [deliberately, knowingly, and [a]habitually] practices sin, for God’s nature abides in him [His principle of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him]; and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God. 10 By this it is made clear who take their nature from God and are His children and who take their nature from the devil and are his children: no one who does not practice righteousness [who does not conform to God’s will in purpose, thought, and action] is of God; neither is anyone who does not love his brother (his fellow [b]believer in Christ) (1 John 3: 8-10, Amplified).

1. If we call ourselves Christians, but we are unrestrained or unregulated by God’s laws, then we do not care.
2. Unsaved people still love their sin.
3. Deliberately and knowingly do wrong
4. Habitually sin and continue to practice it
5. No conviction, guilt, or shame when they sin
6. No desire to come out of sin
7. No desire to conform to God’s will and purposes

In summary, we encourage believers in their early walk with God. All Christians will commit acts of sin, but we no longer practice sin habitually. The key is testing our hearts. If we have a desire to do right and come out of sin; if we feel conviction when we do wrong; if we have a desire to turn from our wrongdoing; then this is a sign that God is there.

**The Dangers and Consequences of Practicing Sin**

Every Christian commits acts of sin. The issue is when we choose to practice sin. The Bible has much to say about the dangers of practicing sin and not repenting. In the following list, feel free to stop and look up any one of the accommodating scriptures.
1. **THE PLEASURE OF SIN IS ONLY TEMPORARY** *(Hebrews 11:25).*

2. **SIN CAUSES EVIL TO PURSUE US, AND WE REAP WHAT WE SOW** *(Proverbs 13:21; Job 4:8; Galatians 6:7-8; Colossians 3:25).*

3. **SIN GIVES SATAN ENTRANCE INTO OUR LIVES** *(1 Corinthians 5:1, 5; 2 Corinthians 2:10-11; Ephesians 4:26-27).*

4. **SIN WILL MAKE LIFE HARD & DIFFICULT** *(Proverbs 13:15; Job 15:20; Psalm 107:17; Proverbs 22:5).*

5. **SIN CAN POTENTIALLY AFFECT OUR PROVISION, PROSPERITY, SUCCESS AND/OR FINANCES** *(Psalm 84:11; Jeremiah 5:25).*

6. **SIN CAN BRING CURSES IN OUR LIVES AND ALSO IN THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN AND FUTURE GENERATIONS** *(Deuteronomy 28:15; Deuteronomy 11:28; Proverbs 3:33).*

7. **SIN BLOCKS FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD** *(Psalm 66:18; 1 John 1:6).*

8. **SIN CAN POSSIBLY CAUSE SICKNESS** *(John 5:5, 14; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 5; Deuteronomy 28:59-61).*

9. **SIN CAN POTENTIALLY BRING EARLY DEATH** *(Ecclesiastes 7:17; Ezekiel 18:32; Ezekiel 18:30-31, Romans 6:23 and 1 Corinthians 11:30-31).*

10. **ORIGINAL SIN NATURE CAN LEAD TO HELL IF WE DO NOT REPENT AND RECEIVE CHRIST** *(Revelation 21:8; Revelation 22:14-15).*

11. **SIN WILL CAUSE GOD TO TURN HIS FACE AWAY FROM US AND NOT HEAR OUR PRAYERS** *(1 Peter 3:12).*

12. **IF WE CONTINUE TO PRACTICE SIN WITH NO DESIRE TO REPENT, NO EFFORT MADE TO CHANGE, OR NO SENSE OF GUILT OR CONVICTION WHEN WE SIN, IT IS A SIGN THAT WE MIGHT NOT BE SAVED** *(1 John 3:9, Amplified Bible).*

13. **SIN AND ITS CONTINUED PRACTICE WILL IDENTIFY US AS CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL** *(1 John 3:7-8, Amplified Bible).*

14. **SIN WILL PREVENT US FROM INHERITING THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND ALL ITS BENEFITS** *(Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).*

15. **SIN BRINGS THE CHASTISEMENT OF GOD (GOD’S CORRECTION)** *(Hebrews 12:5-7).*

16. **SIN WILL AFFECT OUR PEACE OF MIND** *(Jeremiah 8:14-15).*

17. **SIN WILL CAUSE OUR ENEMIES TO DEFEAT US** *(Deuteronomy 28:2).*

18. **SIN AFFECTS MARRIAGES AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS** *(Deuteronomy 28:30, 32, 41).*

19. **SIN CAUSES US TO BE SERVANTS OF SIN** *(Romans 6:16).*

20. **SINFUL FRIENDS WILL KEEP US IN SIN** *(1 Corinthians 15:33-34, Amplified Bible).*

21. **IF WE STAY AROUND THE THINGS THAT TEMPT US TO SIN, OR OUR FLESHLY WEAKNESSES, THEN WE WILL ULTIMATELY YIELD TO THAT SIN** *(Romans 13:14).*
22. SIN HURTS GOD (Ephesians 4:30).

23. SIN CAUSES US TO LOSE CONFIDENCE IN GOD (1 John 3:21-23).

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Have you seen any of these consequences in you or your family’s life that you can connect to practicing sin? Would you like to share with us?

Disciplers should share their victories over sin with their disciples.

How to Overcome Sin’s Power in Your Life

1. Recognize that you are a baby Christian who is just beginning your walk with God (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

A baby Christian parallels to a baby physically. When a baby begins to walk, he/she initially gets up then falls down over and over again. One day he/she grows to a point where their walk becomes steady and consistent.

So it is with baby Christians. As new believers’ minds are renewed by the Word of God, they grow spiritually, and their walk with God becomes more consistent. They do not fall in sin as much as they once did.

2. Renew your mind daily with scriptures in the area of your weakness (Romans 12:2).

3. Do not make provision (or a way) for your flesh to sin. In other words, do not walk by the liquor store if you have a weakness for alcohol (Romans 13:14).

4. When you sin, repent immediately, acknowledging to God specifically the sin you committed (Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9).

5. Ask God to forgive you, help you, and strengthen your inner man not to sin.

6. Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. To walk in the Spirit means to indulge ourselves, time and energy in the things of God’s Spirit, such as prayer, worship, Bible study, and attending church.

Assignment - Apply the Word

Go to the Appendix and look up the scripture guide list. Find your area of weakness (es), look up the scriptures, write them out, and meditate on them every day this week.

Prayer of Repentance Confession

Once we confess and repent to God for a sin we have committed, God immediately forgives us. If we still feel guilty or condemned, we must remember that Satan is the accuser of the brethren, always reminding us of our wrong. If he can keep us feeling condemned, then it will rob us of our confidence and faith in God.

...for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night (Revelation 12:10).

Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we CONFIDENCE TOWARD GOD (1 John 3:21).

Let’s pray the following prayer whenever the enemy accuses us of a past wrong.
Heavenly Father,

I thank You that Christ died for all my sins on the cross: past, present, and future. I acknowledge my sin of ______________. You said in Your Word that if I confess my sin, You are faithful and just to forgive me and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I thank You that my fellowship is restored with You. You are always ready to forgive. I repent of my sins. I thank You that You have blotted out my sin, and You will remember it no more. I receive Your pardon for this sin, and I decide to forget about those things which are behind.

Satan, the blood of Jesus has cleansed me. My sin has been thrown in the depths of the sea. If God has forgotten it, then you have no authority to bring it to my remembrance. I plead the blood of Jesus over my mind, my conscience, my soul, and my heart. Therefore, I can come boldly to Your throne of grace with full assurance and confidence that You will hear my prayer and help me in my time of need. I am the righteousness of God by faith through Jesus Christ. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

ASSIGNMENT: Go and share with the person you are witnessing to your desire to change your life and the area of sin you are working on to overcome. Share with them the steps herein you are taking to overcome it.
Chapter 7: WE HAVE AN ENEMY (AND IT IS NOT GOD)

Now that we are believers, Satan, who once controlled our lives, is now our enemy. He is angry that he has lost us. God often gets the blame for many things that happen to Christians. Yet, the Bible states that an evil presence known as Satan exists in the earth and is the originator and influence behind all sin. He leads an entire kingdom of darkness filled with demons, evil spirits, and fallen angels. His kingdom can be described in five categories:

1. **The Kingdom of Darkness** *(Colossians 1:13)*
2. **The Kingdom of Sin and Unrighteousness** *(1 John 3:8)*
3. **The Kingdom of Sickness and Disease** *(Luke 13:11, 16)*
4. **The Kingdom of Deception** *(Revelation 12:9)*
5. **The Kingdom of Sorrow and Death** *(Hebrews 2:14; Psalm 116:3)*

If Satan cannot stop us from being saved, then he will work hard to try to make our lives miserable and prevent us from reaching God’s plan for our lives.

A. SATAN’S WORK

1. **They cause sickness and disease** *(Job 2:7).*
2. **They cause mental oppression, depression, and insanity** *(Acts 10:38).*
3. **They blind the minds of unbelievers, keeping them from seeing the truth of the Gospel** *(2 Corinthians 4:4).*
4. **They tempt people to sin** *(Matthew 4:1).*
5. **They come to kill, steal, and destroy.** They will try to take our lives and steal our joy, peace, finances, relationships, and health *(John 10:10).*
6. **They bring habits, addictions, and bondages** *(Romans 8:15).*
7. **They use the weapon of accusations.** They keep us feeling guilty, condemned, and ashamed *(Revelation 12:10).*
8. **They come to entice and seduce people into heresies and false religions, and/or cause us to depart from the faith** *(1 Timothy 4:1).*
9. **They speak lies** *(John 8:44).*
10. **They afflict people with all kinds of physical pain and maladies** *(Matthew 4:23).*
11. **They torment people with the bondage of fear and phobias** *(2 Timothy 1:7).*
12. **They wage war against the church, ministers of the gospel, and the work of God** *(Ephesians 6:12).*
13. **They need us to sin in order to control our lives** *(1 John 5:18).*

B. THE INCREASE OF WICKED ACTIVITY IN THE EARTH IN THESE LAST DAYS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO SATAN’S KINGDOM:
Divorce and family breakdown, child abuse, violence, terrorism, crime, drug epidemics, murder, rape, serial killings, New Age and cults, witchcraft, unclean spirits, prostitution, pornography, homosexuality, fear, AIDS epidemic, and government corruption.

_How the Enemy Enters Our Lives and Causes Us Problems_

The devil chooses the weakest moment and the weakest place to enter our lives. Below are several examples of moments or places of weakness through which demons habitually gain access to human personalities.

Remember, Satan is a legalist. He understands God’s laws and commands. That’s why he works to entice and tempt man to sin. Through sin or the breaking of God’s laws, he gains a legal right to attack, oppress or enter. God has given Satan the domain of darkness (Colossians 1:13). Therefore wherever he finds darkness, he has a legal right to operate. Whenever a spirit is present, something has given it the right to be there. There is always a cause (Proverbs 26:2-3).

The following is not an exhaustive list of all the possible ways spirits can enter. However, here are the most significant ones:

1. **Family Background/Personal Participation in the Occult or False Religions**
   - _Exodus 20:3-5_ – To be involved in the occult or a false religion breaks God’s first commandment: _“Thou shalt have no other god before me.”_ This sin would affect the generation of the family down to the fourth. Families can feel the consequences of their ancestors’ actions years later.
   - **b.** Occult – Psychics, Witchcraft, Handwriting Analysis, Palm Reading, Fortune Telling, Séances, Black Magic, Horoscopes, Crystal Ball Reading, etc.
   - **c.** Cults (False Religions) – Mormons, Christian Science, Jehovah’s Witness, Islam Freemasonry, Hare Krishna, Buddhism, Scientology, New Age Philosophies, Hinduism, Christadelphians, Worldwide Church of God (2 John 7-11; I John 4:1-3, 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 10:19-21). Behind every false religion, doctrine of error, and cult is a demon spirit. For more information, see the cult section of this book.

2. **Generational/Hereditary Sins** – Alcoholism, Divorce, Sexual Immorality, Suicide

3. **Rejection** – in the Womb, During Childhood, Adolescence, Adulthood, and in Marriage
   - **a.** Rejection comes from people. People will hurt us.
   - **b.** That’s why God advocates forgiveness with no exception clauses (Matthew 6:12, 14; Mark 11:25-26; Matthew 18:33-35).

4. **Victimization** – Molestation, Rape, Abuse of any kind, Incest, etc. (Deuteronomy 22:25-27; Judges 19:25; Malachi 2:14-17)

5. **Pressures from Early Childhood** – Divorce, Broken Home, Domineering Abusive Parents, Alcoholic Parents, Negative Words

6. **Emotional Shock or Sustained Emotional Pressure**
   - **a.** Men in the army seeing friends die and hearing bombs fall near them
   - **b.** Witnessing a father kill his mother or vice versa

Yielding to the flesh and its lusts and practicing unclean lifestyles can open the door to demons. They have entry into our lives if we sin with our bodies and live in rebellion against God and His Word. Sowing to the flesh means we will reap corruption.

8. Sexual Sins (Leviticus 18, 20)
Fornication, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, pornography, incest, and all forms of illicit sex, sexual immorality, and sexual perversion allow demons free access into a person’s life.

9. Idle Words
a. A person may say, “I don’t want to live anymore.”
   b. Proverbs 18:21
   c. Vows that need to be broken (ungodly)

10. Drugs and Alcohol (1 Corinthians 10:21; Proverbs 23:29-33)
People under the influence of drugs and alcohol are highly susceptible to demons because they are not in control of their minds. Their minds become an open doorway for demons to enter.

11. A Person’s Thought Life (2 Timothy 1:7)
When one’s mind is open to all kinds of lustful, sexual fantasies, or has turned against God, or has yielded to suicidal thoughts, fear, or depression, demons can enter.

12. Unforgiveness, Bitterness, and/or Hatred (Matthew 18: 21-35)
Persistent bad attitudes toward others can become strongholds.

13. Transference of Spirits (1 Corinthians 6:15-18; Ephesians 5:11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-17)
   a. Submission to or influence by people who are not Christians
   b. Movies, television, and videos that are full of fear, horror, violence, and/or sexual lust

C. CHRIST’S VICTORY CONQUERS SATAN

Jesus conquered all of Satan’s power when He died on the cross. What He did on the cross has been made available to all believers. Satan was stripped of all his authority over mankind. Christ has overcome every tactic, strategy, and weapon of the enemy. We can come out of anything Satan brings to our lives.

1. What was the purpose of Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

   He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

2. What power of the devil did Jesus destroy?

   Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; (Hebrews 2:14)

3. Principalities and powers are part of the devil’s kingdom. What did Christ do to them?
And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it (Colossians 2:15).

D. CHRIST GIVES THE BELIEVER HIS AUTHORITY

Through Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection, He has now bestowed His authority upon us, and we now have the right to use our faith to overcome Satan.

1. Is there any power of the enemy Satan that we cannot overcome? Why?

   Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you (Luke 10:19)

How Do We Experience Victory Over Satan?

Through faith in Christ, we can walk in victory over every attack of the enemy.

1. We must fight the good fight of faith with God’s Word (1 Timothy 6:12).
2. We must renounce and repent of all sin (Acts 20:21).
3. We must forgive every person who has wronged us (Mark 11:25).
4. We must ask and receive Christ’s cleansing and forgiveness through the blood of Jesus (1 John 1:7, 9).
5. We must pray daily and speak the Word of God against Satan and our problems (Mark 11:23-24).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Do you sense that the enemy has a foothold or control over your life in some area? If so, what area? How have you sensed Satan in your life?
- Disciplers should share testimony of how Christ has delivered them. Then ask if they can pray for the new converts.

MEMORY VERSE:

1Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.2And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick (Luke 9:1-2).

The Importance of Attending Encounter Weekend

Encourage your disciple to go through Encounter Weekend and share why it is important. Many Christians today fail to bear fruit in their lives because of some adverse force operating within them. Hindrances may include: rejection in childhood, traumatic moments during adolescent years, sinful relationships and lifestyles, involvement in the occult, conflictive family relationship curses, and other such occurrences. The Encounter Weekend will use diagnostic tools to determine the roots of generational curses and other various problems converts may be experiencing. We help you deal with those past issues that hinder your progress so that you can be liberated.
Encounter Weekend addresses:

- How early childhood pressures and emotional shock or sustained emotional pressure can cause bondages
- How false religions and cults bring curses
- How negative family background plays a role in your life
- How to forgive when you have experienced rejection
- How to break generational curses
- How to break the effects of negative words and vows we speak
- How occult participation affects our lives and brings demonic activity
- How rebellion and disobedience against God brings curses
- How to break sexual soul ties
- Victory over victimization and so much more

We believe you will exit this encounter with God free from any hindrances that would prevent you from growing and engaging in God's plan and purpose for your life. You will be liberated from generational curses and emotional scars, and you will receive internal healing through the name of Jesus.

For more details about Encounter Weekend, please call Elder Mary Fondren in the Deliverance Ministry office at (901) 844-3924.

Let's stand and pray the following prayer together in unison.

**Taking Authority Over the Enemy Prayer**

*Heavenly Father, thank You for the authority You have given to me to be victorious over the enemy in every area of my life. Through the authority given to me through the blood of Jesus, Your most holy Word, Your Holy Spirit, unfeigned faith, and the blessed name of Jesus Christ, I will always prevail over the enemy. Hallelujah! I am more than a conqueror through Jesus Christ who loves me. With Your continuing help, Lord God, I will be sober and vigilant because I realize that Satan, as a roaring lion, is walking about, seeking whom he may devour. I will resist him, steadfast in the faith. I submit myself to You, Father, and I resist the devil. Therefore, I know he is fleeing from me. Thank You, God. Above all, I take the shield of faith – Your mighty Word – and I use it to quench all the fiery darts that the enemy hurls in my direction. I will overcome him at all times through the blood of the lamb and the word of my testimony. I will refuse to believe every spirit, and I will try the spirits to see whether they are from You. How I praise You, Father, for the realization that the weapons you have given to me for spiritual warfare are not carnal. Instead, they are mighty through You to the tearing down of evil strongholds. I will use the weapons You have given to cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against knowing You. I will bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. Thank You so much, God of peace, for bruising Satan under my feet, and for giving me the grace of my Lord Jesus Christ in all things. Amen.*

**Scripture References:** 1 John 1:7; John 8: 31-32; Luke 24:49; 2 Timothy 1:5; Mark 16:17; Romans 8:37; 1 Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7; Ephesians 6:16; Revelation 12:11; 1 John 4:1; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Romans 16:20

*Bible Prayers for All Your Needs, Victory House, Inc., Tulsa, Oklahoma*

Whenever you sense Satan operating in your life, just pray the above prayer.
ASSIGNMENT: Go to the person whom you have prioritized to witness to and help them understand that Satan is behind the evil they go through.

MEMORY VERSE: Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you (Luke 10:19).
Chapter 8:
WHY CHURCH IS SO IMPORTANT

Now that God has saved us from hell and purchased us by the blood of His Son, He now wants us to serve Him in the earth through His local church.

There are other lives we are called to reach for the Lord. We are called to help them find the Lord and avoid hell below.

God wants us to share with others what He has done for us.

*Howbeit Jesus suffered him not,* but saith unto him, *Go home to thy friends,* and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and *hath had compassion on thee* (Mark 5:19).

We should now be able to tell others why we have hope in the Lord and explain why they should get saved.

... and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (1 Peter 3:15).

The ultimate call of every believer is to win and disciple others, which this book will help us accomplish.

19 *Go ye therefore,* and *teach all nations,* baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:* and, lo, *I am with you always,* even unto the end of the world. Amen (Matthew 28:19-20).

We have purpose in the Lord. The key to finding our purpose is to begin serving the Lord in what many call the “small things.” As we are faithful in the small things, God will entrust us with more responsibility and promote us to our ultimate destiny.

*He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much* (Luke 16:10).

God places us under spiritual authority in a church where we can be equipped and serve Him. He proves us to determine if we will submit to authority.

*And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?* (Luke 16:12).

Once we have been found faithful, He will then help give us our own ministries, purpose, destiny, calling, etc.

1. What does God say He will do for those who serve Him?

*If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour* (John 12:26).

2. What will we receive from the Lord if we serve Him?
Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ (Col. 3:24).

3. Who does God call the greatest or chief in His kingdom?

26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: (Matthew 20:26-27).

Remember, our personal growth in the Lord is enhanced and developed through serving. We find connection while working with other believers who will help strengthen us.

We must put our hands to something in order for God to take us further.

Church will always look too big to us if we are not connected or part of anything in God’s house.

The Importance of Church Membership and Worship

1. God commands us to not forsake our times of assembling together (Hebrews 10:24-25).

2. Church worship attendance encourages us to keep our spiritual fires burning (Hebrews 3:13). We need to be encouraged, edified, and strengthened. We need to have our faith built up each week.

3. We need a spiritual family where we can grow and fellowship with other believers (1 Peter 2:2). Like a natural baby needs a support system to survive and grow, so do spiritual babies. We need the love and care of others who are mature in faith.

4. We need spiritual covering for protection (Isaiah 4:2-6). Our parents protect and cover us from outside forces that would try to take advantage of us. God’s church and its spiritual leaders are intended to protect believers from Satan’s attacks, wickedness, perversion, deception, and judgment.

5. Be equipped to do Christian service or work (Ephesians 4:11; Titus 1:5).

6. The church corrects and protects us from spiritual traps, dangerous activities, and false doctrines (Ephesians 4:14).

7. God loves to be praised and worshipped in a corporate setting (2 Chronicles 29:28-29; Psalm 107:32; Psalm 111:1).

8. God’s presence is stronger and can touch and affect people in a corporate setting (2 Chronicles 5:13-14).

9. We find friendships. True friends have our best interests at heart and never lead us away from God and His Word (Proverbs 17:17).

10. This is where we are able to give to God (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
11. We can fulfill our call to discipleship. We should first be disciples of Christ, and then we should teach others to follow Him (Matthew 28:19-20).

12. The church provides fellowship.

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ (1 John 1:3).

Fellowship means communion and sharing things in common. It is partnership. It is giving yourself to others. The church is intended to be a loving community.

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another (John 13:34-35).

Many have been hurt and wounded in their families and other relationships that were unhealthy. The church should be a community where believers can experience healing in the context of Christ-loving relationships.

Psychological healing occurs when we serve others and care more about them than being consumed with our own hurt.

13. You can find God’s purpose for your life. (See the WOOMC Process – From Pew to Purpose in the Appendix.)

There Are No Perfect Churches

As long as human beings attend church, there will never be a perfect church.

Our Love Walk Will Be Challenged

Our love walk will be challenged. We can expect someone to offend us. Satan will use this tactic to run us away from where God has assigned us. We are surprised because we do not expect offense to occur in the church. Our love muscle is exercised, and it grows when we learn how to love people who are not easy to love (Luke 6:31-34). God commands us to love our Christian brothers and sisters, which is proof that we have passed from spiritual death to spiritual life.

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death (1 John 3:14).

Fellowship Opportunities in Church

A. Corporate Worship (Large Group)
   1. Praise and Worship
   2. Preaching and Teaching
   3. Tithes and Offerings
   4. The Lord’s Supper

B. Serving in Church (Through Ministry of Helps)
   1. Various ministries
   2. Get to know and serve other people.
   3. Work with others.
C. Discipleship One-on-One

1. Relational discipleship
2. Sustains new Christians through the first weeks after new birth
3. Develop foundational disciplines of prayer, Bible study, discipleship and fellowship
4. Accountability to a mature believer
5. Learning about salvation, prayer, faith, witnessing, the Holy Ghost, the Lordship of Christ, the Word of God, dealing with sin, and Satan
6. Learning how to disciple others
7. Committing to discipling one person a year

D. Small Groups (Fellowship Groups, Men, Women, Singles, Married Couples, Young Adults)

1. Experience belonging, connection and support.
2. Work on personal issues.
3. When personal discipleship is over, we need groups to stay connected.
4. Receive care and personalized ministry.
5. Gain an opportunity to develop close relationships.
6. Groups help the church become more personal.

E. Commit to the Vision of the Church

(See next lesson.)

1. Basic Foundations
2. Advanced Discipleship (Groups)
3. Serving
4. Encounter With God
5. Knowledge
6. Ministry

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: Disciplers should share their positive experiences of church and then ask the following questions.

1. Are you an active member of a local church?
2. Have you ever been discipled one-to-one or in a small group setting before now?
3. Are you obeying Jesus’ call to make disciples? Who are you teaching to obey God’s Word?
4. Do you have at least three Christian friends whom you can call for help in case of a spiritual emergency? Can you trust them to tell you what God says?

MEMORY VERSE:

If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour (John 12:26).

ASSIGNMENT: Invite the person you are witnessing to attend church the next Sunday or whenever they can attend. Make a commitment to attend church with your disciple for at least the next two weeks to hear God’s Word. Then the disciple should tell the discipler how church services have impacted his/her life.
Chapter 9: HOW TO HAVE POWER OVER THE ENEMY
(The Baptism with the Holy Spirit)

Now that we are saved, we can receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and receive the following benefits: experience God on a deeper, more intimate level; be empowered to live the Christian life; become greater witnesses of Jesus to others; have power over Satan and the evil he tries to bring to our lives; better hear God’s voice; receive His direction; know the mind of God for events to come; receive joy and peace, even in tough times; gain boldness and courage to talk about Jesus to others; receive help to pray the perfect prayer to God, even when we do not know how to pray; and receive guidance and direction in our daily lives.

The Holy Spirit’s Identity and Purpose for the Believer

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?
   A. He is God (Acts 5:3-4).
   B. He is the third Person of the Godhead – Father, Son and Holy Ghost (1 John 5:7).
   C. He is not a thing or some force. He is a person. (The Bible refers to the Holy Spirit in the personal pronoun He or Him.) (John 16:13-15)
   D. The Holy Spirit is all-knowing, all-powerful, and everywhere present.

2. What is the Holy Spirit’s purpose?
   A. Jesus said, “I will send you another Comforter, or Someone just like Me” (John 14:16).
   B. The Holy Spirit was given the special responsibility of taking the place of Jesus on the earth.
   C. The Holy Spirit’s responsibility is to reveal and show Jesus to the world.
   D. The Holy Spirit empowers us to do the works that Jesus did (the continuation of His ministry).
   E. “Comforter” in the Greek is called Paraklesos. It means that the Holy Spirit is the comforter, standby, advocate, intercessor, teacher, friend, guide, counselor, strengthener, leader, helper, and partner.

3. What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit?
   A. The Holy Spirit draws people to Jesus (John 16: 8-11, 14).
   B. The Holy Spirit dwells within every believer to produce Christ (Romans 8:9).

4. Why is the Holy Spirit important to the believer?
   A. Helps us love God and walk in love (Romans 5:5).
   B. Helps us obey God (1 Peter 1:22).
   C. Helps us worship God effectively (John 4:24).
   D. Helps us pray effectively (Romans 8:26).
   E. His anointing helps us minister God’s Word (1 Peter 1:12).
   F. Helps us witness for Jesus Christ and reach the lost (Acts 1:8).
   G. His anointing helps us cast out demons (Matthew 12:28).
   H. The Holy Spirit working within us helps us have joy (Romans 14:17).
   I. Strengthens us to gain victory over flesh and sin (Galatians 5:16).
The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

The baptism with the Holy Spirit supernaturally equips Christians with power from heaven for effective witness and service.

A. The experience is subsequent to salvation (it does not happen at salvation) (Acts 19:2).

B. It is evidenced by believers speaking in a language given by the Holy Spirit and is unknown to the one speaking.

C. The baptism with the Spirit enables Christians to build up our own spiritual lives by direct communication with God, and it is the doorway to the nine supernatural gifts of the Spirit.

D. The baptism with the Holy Spirit gives us the endowment of power to do the works of Jesus in the earth (Luke 4:1-18).

E. Through the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we receive God’s power to: heal the sick, cast out demons, witness and win the lost with a greater passion, do supernatural miracles, boldly preach the Gospel, flow in the supernatural gifts of the Spirit (Mark 16:17-18; John 7:37-38), flow in a new dimension of praise and worship, resist Satan and overcome the flesh.

F. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is a free gift available to every believer (Luke 11:13; Acts 2:38-39).

G. Receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit is accompanied by the believer speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:6). God wants us to receive this gift of the Holy Spirit to enhance our Christian life and to be empowered for service. The discipler is ready to minister the baptism with the Holy Spirit to you.

Group Exercise

Disciplers will share their experiences with receiving the Holy Spirit and explain what He has done for them personally. Disciplers will then ask who would like to receive this experience. Read over the following steps, then minister the steps to group members. If you do not feel you are prepared to minister the Holy Spirit, go to the church and ask a minister to help you.

Steps to Receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

1. The scripture says that we must ask for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13). Pray a prayer asking God to baptize and/or fill you with the Spirit. Have the disciple to pray, “Heavenly Father, I desire to receive the Holy Spirit. I ask You to fill me with the Holy Spirit. I expect to speak with other tongues.”

2. Begin to praise and thank God for filling you with the Holy Spirit.

3. After praising God in your natural language for a few moments, as an act of faith, open your mouth and start speaking out the new language that God gives you.

4. There are two hindrances to receiving the Holy Spirit:
   A. A lack of faith, or
   B. A lack of yielding your tongue to the Lord.

   The Word of God gives us the faith to believe God. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Many people struggle with yielding their tongue because they are waiting for something to overtake them and make them speak in tongues. Yielding the tongue involves opening our mouths and moving our tongues to allow the Holy Spirit to give us the utterance. It is us and our tongues that do the speaking, not the Holy Ghost.
The Holy Ghost waits for us to open our mouths, and then He gives the utterance (Acts 2:4).

**NOTE TO DISCIPLER:** If new convert needs further understanding, or if you sense there is some doubt, encourage them to read Apostle Williams’ book *Understanding and Receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit*.

**The Benefits of Our New Prayer Language**  
(Understanding the Need for Tongues)

1. When we pray or speak in tongues, we spiritually **build faith** inside our spirits (1 Corinthians 14:4; Jude 20).

2. We experience more of the Holy Spirit’s power to **help fulfill the Great Commission** (Mark 16:17-18).

3. We call forth **God’s secret truths** and hidden things (His mysteries) (1 Corinthians 14:2).

4. We speak the **wonderful works of God** (Acts 2:11b).

5. When we do not know what or how to specifically pray the Holy Spirit **helps us pray and intercedes for us** (Romans 8:26).

6. We offer **perfect prayers** to the Lord when we pray in tongues (Romans 8:27).

7. We pray for things **beyond our knowledge** and comprehension (Romans 8:26).

8. Tongues causes our spirits to stand side by side with the Holy Spirit, **claiming all God’s promises regarding our heritage** (Romans 8:16, 26-27).

9. Speaking in tongues **builds up our spirits and refreshes us** (Isaiah 28:11-12; 1 Corinthians 14:2).

10. Praying in tongues gives us an **assurance of the Lord’s presence** through every challenge as we magnify God (Acts 10:45-46).

11. Praying in tongues **releases wisdom, guidance, and discernment** (1 Corinthians 2:7; 14:2).


13. We can speak in tongues at will. We do not have to wait for a special feeling (1 Corinthians 14:14-15).

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** The discipler should ask the disciple the following question: “**Which one of these prayer language benefits do you need the most?**” Pray for the disciple if he/she needs to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues.

**ASSIGNMENT:** If you receive the Holy Spirit experience, go share it with the person you are witnessing to.
Chapter 10:
HOW DO WE FIND GOD?
THE BIBLE – THE WORD OF GOD

- The Bible is God’s Word to us. It is God speaking to us.
- The Bible is God’s will and way for us.
- The Bible is our spiritual lifeline (John 6:63). It feeds our spirits and gives us life.
- The Bible is God’s intensely personal correspondence to us.
- The Bible is about Jesus, and it is intended for us to know Him.

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name (John 20:31).

- The Bible is written by men, but all of it is inspired by God’s voice (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- The Bible will help us know if our hearts are in line with God (Hebrews 4:12).
- The Bible has final authority in our lives over all churches, denominations, pastors, apostles, and priests.
- The Bible will correct every wrong doctrine of any group that teaches contrary to the scripture.
- The Bible helps us evaluate what is truth or error.

Below is a list that outlines the importance and the benefits of God’s Word.

**The Importance of God’s Word**

The Word of God should be priority over our lives. Look at each scripture below and find what the Word of God will do for your life.

A. It provides ____________________________________________ of God and His ways.

*But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty* (Matthew 13:23).

B. It prevents our lives from being ____________________________________________.

*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children* (Hosea 4:6).

C. If you hear God’s Word, it means you are ____________________________________.

*He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God* (John 8:47).

D. When you know the truth of God’s Word, it makes you ____________________________________.

*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free* (John 8:32).

E. When we take the book of the law (God’s Word), meditate on it, do it, and speak it, we will make our way in life ____________________________, and we will have good __________________________.
This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success (Joshua 1:8).

F. When we ask God anything according to His will (which is His Word), He ____________________.

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: (1 John 5:14).

G. What do we need in our prayers to get God to say yea (or yes) to us? ____________________

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us (2 Corinthians 1:20).

H. God gives unto us ___________ __________ for everything we need to escape corruption in the world.

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (2 Peter 1:4).

I. God will ______________ to perform His Word.

Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12).

J. He sends His Word and ______________ and _________________.

He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions (Psalm 107:20).

K. When we renew our minds by the Word of God, it causes us to be ____________________.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God (Romans 12:2).

L. When we take heed to God’s Word, it will cause a man to _______________ his way.

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word (Psalm 119:9).

M. When God’s Word is hidden in our hearts, it keeps us from ________________________.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee (Psalm 119:11).

N. When God’s Word abides in us, we are able to overcome ________________________.

I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one (1 John 2:14).

O. As we hear the Word of God, it causes ________________________________ to come.
So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17).

P. God’s words are ____________________, and they are (or give us) ____________________

... the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life (John 6:63b).

Q. The promises from God’s Word give us ________________________________

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: (Ephesians 2:12).

R. When the voice of God’s Word is spoken, His __________ excel in strength to do His commandments.

Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word (Psalm 103:20).

S. The Word of God causes us to ________________________________

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: (1 Peter 2:2).

T. Jesus resisted the devil’s temptation by saying three words, “It __________ __________.” This meant the Word of God.

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4).

U. Renewing our minds by the Word of God helps us find and prove the perfect ____ ____ ____ for our lives.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God (Romans 12:2).

V. The Spirit of Truth (Word of God) keeps us from the spirit of ________________________________

We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error (1 John 4:6).

Everything we need to live this life successfully and in godliness is found in God’s Word.

**Satan Will Try to Challenge the Word**

When the enemy sees us beginning to commit our lives to being discipled in God’s Word and gaining understanding, he will challenge, distract and attack us. Many new Christians have felt that life got worse after they came to Christ and got saved. This is why:

And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts (Mark 4:15).

Satan will send at least six things to distract us from God’s Word. Name them.
And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word’s sake, immediately they are offended... And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful (Mark 4:17, 19).

1. ________________________________ (verse 17)
2. ________________________________ (verse 17)
3. ________________________________ (verse 17)
4. ________________________________ (verse 19)
5. ________________________________ (verse 19)
6. ________________________________ (verse 19)

Conclusion

The Bible is the final authority for what we believe and how we live. It is vital for our spiritual growth. We will die spiritually if we do not eat from God’s Word daily. We are to speak, pray, and plant God’s Word in our hearts to keep us from sin, cause our faith to grow, prosper, succeed, and know God’s will for our lives.

The measure of our spiritual progress is not how much of the Bible we know, but how much we obey (James 1:22; Matthew 7:24-27).

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Disciples should review The Word of God section and list the five most important statements to them. Disciplers should share what the Word of God has done for them.

How to Start a Daily Devotional in the Word

Many people ask, “Where do I start reading the Bible?”

1. Start with a modern English translation such as the NIV, the NKJV, the ESV, or the NLIV versions. Purchase daily devotionals that will give you a thought to meditate on each day.
2. Read John to know more about Christ as the Son of God.
3. Read Psalms to receive comfort, joy, and strength.
4. Read Proverbs to gain wisdom about life.
5. Read Romans to understand salvation.
6. Set a time and place for daily Bible study.
7. Buy books, booklets, and mini-books that strengthen your faith.
8. Join a Bible study or discipleship group.

ASSIGNMENT: Go tell the person you are witnessing to what you found out the Bible can do for you. Share why it is so important. If they have questions about trusting the Bible, go to the section in the Appendix entitled “Why the Bible Can Be Trusted.”

MEMORY VERSE:

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success (Joshua 1:8).
Chapter 11: I WANT TO KNOW HOW TO TALK TO GOD

How Do We Begin Our New Walk With God?

Below are the benefits to us as believers when we start a new relationship with the Lord.

A. We now qualify to enjoy a personal relationship with the Lord.
B. We now qualify for the Lord to clean our lives up and make us brand new.
C. We now qualify to find out God’s plan and purpose for our lives by how we can serve Him.
D. We now qualify to receive all the promises God has for our lives. The word *salvation* refers to soundness, wholeness, deliverance, healing, peace, and everything we need to succeed in life.

> Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not (Jeremiah 33:3).

Prayer is simply communicating with God. It is a two-sided conversation: us talking to God and listening to Him. God wants to talk to His children. When we speak to God by faith, He hears us.

1. **God lets us know how we can know He hears us.**

> And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: (1 John 5:14).

God says we can have the confidence of knowing that when we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. How do we find God’s will? His Word is His will, and His will is His Word.

This means that when we find something He has promised in His Word for us as Christians, we can be confident that God hears us and wants to answer us.

2. **Therefore, knowing that God gives a promise of something in His Word, we pray the promise (the answer) instead of the problem.**

For example, “My God shall supply all my needs” (Philippians 4:19).

**Wrong Way to Pray:** “God, I beg You. Please give me a job.”

**Right Way to Pray:** “God, You said in Your Word that You would supply all my needs. I need a job. I thank You for my new job by faith.”

Apostle Williams’ mini-book *A Roadmap to Life: How to Turn Your Life Around*, offers over 30 principles that help us as believers achieve God’s success in our lives. It is available for purchase in the WOOMC Bookstore.

**Why is Prayer So Important?**

1. **Causes us to succeed in life** (John 15:5).
2. **Involves God in our situations** (James 4:8).
3. **Neutralizes the devil’s attacks against us** (Ephesians 6:16, 18).
4. **Direction and guidance** (Proverbs 3:6).
5. Sends angels out to protect us (Psalm 34:7; Matthew 26:53).
6. Gives us dominion over Satan (1 Peter 5:8-9).
8. Gives us inner strength when we get weak (Ephesians 3:16).
10. Causes God to reward us openly (Matthew 6:6).
11. Causes God to meet our daily needs (Matthew 6:9, 11).
12. Helps us hear from God (Psalm 85:7-8).
13. Helps God show us our calling (Ephesians 1:16, 18).
15. Helps our hearts to love (Philippians 1:9).

What Does God Promise Us If We Pray?

Please look up and read the scriptures below. Fill in the blanks with God’s promises for us if we pray.

1. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened (Matthew 7:7-8).

2. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive (Matthew 21:22).

3. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them (Mark 11:24).

4. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly (Matthew 6:6).

Jesus’ Outline for Prayer

When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, He gave them the following prayer called the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). It is not intended to be prayed repetitiously each day. Instead, it offers components that should be included in our prayers each day.

1. OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN – Always direct your prayers to the Father.
2. HALLOWED BE THY NAME – Give God praise or bless His name.
3. **THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN** – Ask God’s will to be done in your life, family, friends, etc.

4. **GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD** – Ask for daily sustenance and needs (job, finances, etc.).

5. **FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES** – Ask God to forgive you of your sins.

6. **AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US** – Forgive anyone who has hurt or offended you.

7. **LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION** – Ask God to keep and protect you from sin.

8. **BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL** – Take authority over Satan to keep you from evil.


These things should be mentioned before God every day. This is how we come into His presence. In summary, we should direct our prayers to the father; praise God; pray for God’s will, our needs, forgiveness, and God’s protection; take authority over the enemy; then end in praise.

**Hindrances to Prayers Being Answered**

1. **Wrong Motives** (James 4:3 NLT)

2. **Lack of Integrity in Marriage and Relationships** (1 Peter 3:7 NIV; Matthew 5:23-24, NIV)

3. **Unconfessed Sin** (Psalm 66:18, NIV)

4. **Continuous Practice of Sin** (1 John 3:9-10, AMP)

5. **Not Praying According to God’s Will (Word)** (1 John 5:14)

6. **Unforgiveness** (Mark 11:25-26)

7. **No Specific Requests Made to God (Supplication)** (Philippians 4:6)

For example, a general prayer would be, “God, give me strength today.” A specific prayer would be, “God give me strength to say no when I am tempted to get drunk tonight.” This specific request allows us to know if the prayer has been answered.

8. **No Persistence Until We Receive** (Matthew 7:8, AMP; Luke 11:8, AMP)

**How to Start Your Prayer Life**

1. There are principles of prayer you need to know in order to be successful in prayer. Please go to the Appendix section entitled “Principles of Getting Answers to Prayer.”

2. Pray in the morning before you begin your day. In the mornings, our minds are clear. Once our workdays begin, we usually will not pray effectively or at all. We are usually tired after our workday. Wake up a little earlier before going to work. God also loves when we give Him the first of our day.

3. Start off giving God at least 15 minutes every morning, and work your way up to more time.

4. Try to give God at least one hour a day. You can split the time; do 15 to 30 minutes in the morning, and the other 30 minutes later on in the day.

5. Background worship music playing can help keep your mind focused while praying.
6. Use a prayer book or prayer guide to help guide you until you become mature and can pray on your own. Apostle Williams offers several prayer guides to assist you in your prayer time, including: The Lord’s Daily Prayer Guide, Prayers for Your Daily Life, and The One-Hour Prayer Clock. Find books that will give you the promises of God for every area of your life.

7. Learn how to get quiet and listen to God speak to your heart and mind. Do not do all the talking. Give God a chance to speak to you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What have your feelings been about praying to God before this lesson?
2. Do you believe prayer will work for you now? If not, why not?
3. Do you believe God will answer your prayer?

**Prayer Demonstration**

Let’s say a prayer that demonstrates all the components mentioned in this lesson. Let the new believer pray.

*Heavenly Father, I come into Your presence by the blood of Jesus that gives me access to You. I come boldly to Your throne of grace to obtain mercy and help. I have right standing with You, oh God, through faith in Jesus Christ.*

*I forgive everyone who has hurt or offended me. Search my heart, oh Lord, and show me if my motives are not pure, or if there is anything not pleasing in Your sight.*

*Lord, I ask You to __________________________.*

*Your Word says that __________________________.*

*Right now, I believe I receive it by faith. I give You praise, and I thank You for it right now, in Jesus’ name. Amen.*

**ASSIGNMENT:** Go ask the person you are witnessing to if they have any prayer needs. If so, pray that God will answer or bless them.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need* (Hebrews 4:16).
Chapter 12:
HOW TO BELIEVE GOD FOR OUR NEEDS
(Homework)

Go home and study this lesson. Be prepared to discuss at the next session.

1. Through receiving Christ as Lord, God freely gives us all things that we need for life and living godly.

   He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (Romans 8:32)

   According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
   (2 Peter 1:3)

2. God uses the precious promises of His Word to give us all we need in life.

   Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (2 Peter 1:4).

3. God has never failed to deliver on any promise He has made in His Word. Anything God speaks in His Word will come to pass.

   ...not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you: all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed...
   (Joshua 23:14)

   ...there hath not failed one word of all his good promise... (1 Kings 8:56)

4. For any prayer or faith request you make according to God’s will, God hears us. Remember, God’s Word is His will, and His will is His Word.

   And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: (1 John 5:14)

5. A promise found in God’s Word is always “Yes.”

   For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us (2 Corinthians 1:20).

   In summary, faith is simply believing God’s Word (promises) and acting like they are true until what we are believing for comes to pass or is manifested. We must believe it before we see it. We must meditate and speak what we believe every day until the manifestation comes. This is how we apply God’s Word.

Discipleship Exercise

We receive from God through applying His promises by faith. Name an area in which you need to believe God for His promises (ex: sickness). The group should read through these steps to believing God’s promises. Each group member will select a promise from the list of promises and use it with the steps given.
Step 1: Ask the Lord for what you desire. Make your request known unto the Lord (Philippians 4:6).

Heavenly Father, my body needs healing. I suffer from (insert illness here). I'm asking You to heal my body.

Step 2: Remind God of His Word (promises).

For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham his servant (Psalm 105:42).

Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified (Isaiah 43:26).

You said in Your Word that healing is the children's bread, and it belongs to me. Your Word says (choose at least two promises for healing).

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed (1 Peter 2:24).

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses (Matthew 8:17).

Step 3: When you pray, believe that you have received God's promise before it manifests.

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them (Mark 11:24).

I believe that I receive Your healing power for my (insert illness here), in the name of Jesus.

Step 4: Instead of asking for the promise every day, thank the Lord daily. Until the promise manifests, your prayer should reflect that you believe that you have received it (Philippians 4:6 – see above Step 1).

Step 5: Speak aloud (confess) the promises of God three or four times a day based upon the scriptures you use.

- With His stripes I am healed (1 Peter 2:24).
- Himself took my infirmities and bore my sicknesses (Matthew 8:17).
- He takes sickness from my midst (Exodus 23:25).
- He heals all my diseases (Psalm 103:2-3).

List of Promises

ABUNDANCE – The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

FINANCES – But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

HEALING – Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed (1 Peter 2:24).

LONG LIFE – With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation (Psalm 91:16).
MARRIAGE – Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder (Matthew 19:6).

PEACE – And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful (Colossians 3:15).

PROTECTION – He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91:1).

OVERCOMING FEAR – For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).

OVERCOMING WORRY – Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7).

VICTORY – But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57).

DISCUSSION QUESTION: What area do you have a need?

MEMORY VERSE: And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform (Romans 4:21).

ASSIGNMENT: Go to the person you are witnessing to and find their area of concern. Then go to the Appendix, view the list of scriptures, and select one or two to give to them to read. Pray the scripture in prayer form. Tell them you will help them find scriptures that answer any problem they may have. If you have difficulty locating the books of the Bible, use your Table of Contents in the front of the Bible.
Chapter 13: 
WHAT CHALLENGES WILL I FACE 
AS A NEW CHRISTIAN? (Homework Reading)

All new Christians will find themselves going through struggles in their new walk with God. The Christian life does not guarantee a perfect life. In fact, Christians face many challenges that are intended to prevent us from doing the will of God and fulfilling our purpose in Him. The following list reveals the issues you will face once you become a Christian and how to overcome them.

1. Persecution – The Apostle Paul said that everyone who lives or stands for godliness or godly living will be persecuted (2 Timothy 3:12). Jesus tells us to expect persecution from the world. If they persecuted Him, then they will persecute His followers (John 15:18-19). If Christians act like the world by being vain, sensual, and given to pleasure, money, possessions, and worldly ambition, then the world will not oppose us. Christians must learn to rejoice even in the midst of persecution because there is a blessing in it (Luke 6:22-23). Our motivation is love and holiness, which bothers the world. When we are persecuted, we share with Christ in the fellowship of His sufferings (Philippians 3:10). Persecution is good for us in that it develops our endurance and maturity. We must continue to love those who persecute us; ask God for inner strength to endure it; and seek God in prayer and His Word.

2. Temptation – Temptation itself is not a sin. Even though we all as Christians desire to do good, we are all tempted. Even Jesus was tempted (Matthew 4:1-9). All evil and evil thoughts originated with Satan, who is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). Temptation happens when our own selfish nature becomes an ally with Satan’s evil suggestions to do wrong. Temptation becomes a sin when we allow the temptation to become action. When we yield to the temptation, we commit sin. The first defense against temptation is to flee or run from it, as Joseph did Potiphar’s wife and her advances. Avoid situations that can lead to potential sin (Romans 13:13-14). Ask and expect God to provide a way of escape for you (1 Corinthians 10:13). Pray and ask Jesus to lead us not into temptation (Luke 11:4).

3. Trials – We as Christians are not immune to trials. The Bible states that God works all things together for the good of His children who love Him (Romans 8:28). This means that the trials of every believer have a divine purpose. God uses the trials for us to grow more and more into the image of His Son. Our faith is made sure by the trials we experience. We develop godly character that teaches us how to rejoice in our sufferings. Some trials and sufferings are a result of our wrongdoing, and we can expect the accommodating consequences of punishment (1 Peter 4:15). God will forgive our sin because their eternal punishment was paid on the cross. However, we will suffer the natural consequences in this life for our choices. The Bible tells us to consider it joy when we are tried because it produces faith and endurance. We must believe that, through every trial, we have the victory, and we will never be given a test beyond our ability to bear it (1 Corinthians 10:13). Praising God through them is also a key to overcoming them (Isaiah 61:2-3).

4. Carnality – To be carnal means to be fleshly or governed by one’s flesh. Yes, it is possible for a person to be a Christian and yet carnal (1 Corinthians 3:1-3). Paul calls these Corinthians brethren. The Bible is clear that no Christian is sinless (1 John 1:8). Christians may be carnal for a time, particularly in the early days of their walk with God.
Paul shares his early carnal days as a Christian in Romans 7:14-25. A Christian who has a heart for God and fears God will not want to remain carnal for a lifetime. But even a carnal Christian is still saved. Salvation cannot be lost because it is a gift of God that He will not take away (John 10:28; Romans 8:37-39; 1 John 5:13). However, carnal Christians will suffer loss of rewards (1 Corinthians 3:15). Christians who remain carnal can expect God to lovingly chasten or discipline them so they can be restored to a close fellowship with Him (Hebrews 12:5-11). We must be delivered from our sinful flesh by allowing our flesh to be crucified (1 Peter 4:1-3).

5. **War Between the Flesh and the Spirit** – New believers must realize that they have two natures competing or battling for supremacy within them. Unbelievers only had to yield to their old man, old nature, or flesh nature that leads to sin, the former way of life. Once we receive Christ and become believers, we have two capacities in us – the old capacity that attempts to pull us to sin, and the new capacity that desires to resist sin. Sinners or unbelievers do not have this dual capacity because they do not have a godly side within them. We as believers have the Spirit of God within us (1 Corinthians 3:16) and can live godly. We must realize that we are no longer slaves to sin (Romans 6:6). We have been set free from the dominion of sin (Romans 6:12, 14). Sanctification is the process by which God develops our new nature, enabling us to grow into more holiness through time. Paul gives the answer in Galatians 5:16-17 when he tells us to WALK IN THE SPIRIT. This means we should indulge ourselves in the things of God’s Spirit such as prayer, worship, Bible study, serving God, fellowshipping with believers, and any other spiritual disciplines. When we consume ourselves in these activities, we are less prone to become involved in sin and the things of the world.

6. **Offense** – Our love walk will be challenged with offense. Jesus states that we can expect offense to come (Luke 17:1). We will be offended in life. Satan will send circumstances, people, and even other Christians to bring offense or hurt to cause us to stumble in our faith. Offense turns to hurt. Hurt turns to bitterness. Bitterness turns to unforgiveness. Unforgiveness stifles fellowship with God (Mark 11:25). God will not hear our prayers if we are in offense. Offense can occur in many ways. For instance, the pastor preaches the Word on something with which we disagree. Someone may not speak to us at church. Someone else may act contrary to what we expect. Offense is an act that brings displeasure, resentment, annoyance, insult, or moral outrage. Offenses are open doors to the devil. We must learn how to immediately release those who have offended us by forgiving (Mark 11:25).

7. **Worldliness** – Worldliness is the condition of being concerned with worldly affairs, especially to the neglect of spiritual things. The Word of God makes a distinction between friendship with God and friendship with the world (James 4:4). Friendship with the world means hatred toward God. Those who choose worldliness choose to live in the enemy’s camp because all that is of the world is under Satan’s control (2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19). If we love the world, then the love for the Father is not in us. All that is in the world is lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Lust of the eyes is to possess what we see. The coveting of money, possessions, or other physical things is not from God. Satan gives us visual images of things to cause desire in the flesh. The world is full of eye candy and glamour. Materialism beckons with its promise of happiness and fulfillment. Fame, fortune, and finery quickly fade (Proverbs 23:5). Our goal as Christians is to know Christ and the power of His resurrection (Philippians 3:10). Our focus should not be on the world, but on eternity.
8. Guilt and Condemnation – We will experience guilt and condemnation after we commit a sin. We will feel bad about doing wrong or failing to keep God’s laws. Sometimes, we feel we need to do something to pay for it and make it right. Some people go to church and try to serve and do good things to make up for their guilty feelings. Guilt comes when we do not feel or receive forgiveness. Satan will also seek to keep us feeling condemned through accusing us in our minds. If we keep listening to these accusations, then he will make us feel as if God Himself is condemning us. He is called the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10). The remedy for guilt and condemnation is to read 1 John 1:9 and then say, “Lord, I have sinned in the area of __________________. I acknowledge that I was wrong and ask You to forgive me. By faith, and because of Your Word, I receive my forgiveness and believe You have forgiven me and cleansed me of all unrighteousness.” Once you have prayed that prayer, get up, believe and act like you have been forgiven based upon God’s Word.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
1. What did you learn the most about persecution?

2. What did you learn the most about temptation?

3. What did you learn the most about trials?

4. What did you learn the most about carnality?

5. What did you learn the most about the flesh and the Spirit?

6. What did you learn the most about offense?

7. What did you learn the most about worldliness?

8. What did you learn the most about guilt and condemnation?

PRAYER: Which one of these areas do you need prayer for? Tell your discipler to pray for you in this area in the next session.
Chapter 14:
The Importance of Obedying God
A Personal Bible Study (Homework)

In order to walk with God, we must learn how to obey Him. God is not harsh. He is a loving father. Just like a natural father who gives His children the best of His wisdom to help His children avoid harm, so does our Heavenly Father. Please look up the following scriptures in your Bible using your table of contents and fill in the blanks. Complete this lesson as homework and be prepared to discuss it at the next session.

1. How do we demonstrate to God that we love Him?
   
   *If ye love me, keep my commandments* (John 14:15).

2. To whom does God manifest or reveal Himself?
   
   *He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him* (John 14:21).

3. Can we love God and not obey Him? (see John 14:21 above)

4. If we don’t obey God, what are we saying to Him? (see John 14:21 above)

5. Is it really possible to obey God?
   
   *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous* (1 John 5:3).

6. Who do we look to in order to help us obey God?
   
   *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me* (Philippians 4:13).

There is nothing we can’t do with Christ’s help. As we seek to please God, He works in us both the desire to want His will and the ability to do His will.

7. Under the New Testament, how are we to fulfill God’s law?
   
   *Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law... Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law* (Romans 13:8, 10).
8. What was Jesus’ new commandment?
   *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you (John 15:12).*

The Benefits of Obedience

9. A person who hears the Word but does not obey is doing what?
   *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves (James 1:22).*

10. A person who hears and obeys the Word is promised what?
   *But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed (James 1:25).*

11. What are we promised if we keep or obey God’s commandments?
   *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love (John 15:10).*

12. **Obeying God is for our benefit, not God’s.** When we obey God’s Word, we actually bless ourselves. If we continue to disobey the guidelines in His Word, however, God is grieved because He knows the troubles we will face. His laws are intended for our wellbeing. Please read the following passage.

   46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? 47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: 48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. 49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great (Luke 6:46-49).

A. Who heard the Word? ____________________________________________________________
B. Who obeyed the Word? _________________________________________________________
C. Who faced the storm and flood? ________________________________________________
D. Whose house was not shaken? __________________________________________________
E. Whose house fell apart? ________________________________________________________
13. Then what is the difference between a Christian who stands the storms from a Christian who falls apart in the midst of the storms?

14. What are we told to seek first? What are we promised?

   But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33).

15. What are the blessings of obedience? What are the consequences when we refuse and rebel?

   If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it (Isaiah 1:19-20).

Assignment

1. Make a quality decision to change your thinking or behavior so that it lines up with God’s Word. What areas in your life do you need to bring into obedience to God? Please list them here.

2. Starting today, what are you going to do to obey God in those areas?

Obeying God’s Command to Love

Look up the following passages in your Bible and discuss ways you can begin practicing these principles with the people whom you come in contact with every day. You may want to memorize one or two scriptures that touch you the most. Share what the passages are saying to you.

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Romans 12:10-18; Matthew 5:43-48; Galatians 5:13-15; Philippians 2:1-4; Colossians 3:12-17; John 4:7-11

ASSIGNMENT: Go tell the person you are witnessing to one of the reasons why it is so important to obey God. Come back next week and share with your discipler.
Chapter 15: HOW DO I GET MY LOVED ONES SAVED?

A Story About Hell

The late pastor Jack Hyles of Hammond, Indiana had one of the greatest soul-winning churches ever in the 1960s and 1970s. Tens of thousands of people came to Christ because of this pastor's evangelistic efforts.

One day a religious news reporter asked him, “Why do you have such a drive for winning souls? What is your motivation? Why is it so important to you?”

Pastor Hyles said:

“Many years ago, as a teenager, God allowed me to have a vision of hell. He actually permitted me to walk through the deepest, lower parts of hell. I saw people in torment on fire with smoke coming through their skeletal eyes, nostrils and mouths. I saw the worms. I heard the shrills and screams, the taunts, the wailing that never stopped. I saw new people coming in every minute as they went into immediate torment. I heard cursing and profanity and requests to leave and get out of there.

As I walked through the corridors of hell and watched the thousands who were locked in prison-like cages, I heard a voice way over in a corner. The voice cried out, ‘Jack! Jack! Jack!’ I looked over to my left and heard someone say, ‘It’s me, Jack. Your dad. Don’t come here, Jack. Whatever you do, don’t come here, and don’t let your brothers and sisters come.’ Just as I was about to ask my dad some questions, I immediately woke up in my body again, breathing hard and sweating.

I began to holler out, ‘Mom! Mom!’ My mother ran in to see what was wrong. I began to cry and say, ‘Mom, I was in hell, and I saw Dad. Mom, Dad is down in hell. He’s there, Mom, and he told me to make sure that I did not let my siblings go there.’

Immediately Pastor Hyles began witnessing to his family and ultimately won them all to the Lord. Will you allow your family, loved ones, and friends to go to hell below?

When we die, there are only two eternal destinations: heaven above or hell below. Our decision about Jesus Christ will determine where we and our loved ones will spend eternity. If we repent of our sins, believe, and put our trust in Him, then we will not perish (go to hell) (Luke 13:3; John 3:16).

Simple Ways to Reach Others for Christ

In court, witnesses are called to tell the truth about what they have seen, heard, or done. As God’s witnesses, we are called to tell the truth about Christ and what we have seen, heard, or experienced. Below are some simple ways we can reach others for Christ.

1. Jesus states that it is our responsibility to win our friends and loved ones. Therefore, we must accept that it is our responsibility to tell them about the Lord.

2. We must work to build more positive personal relationships with our friends and loved ones if we do not already have them.

3. Make sure they sense that we care about them.
4. We must share our personal stories about the difference Christ has made in our lives, offering personal information or testimonies about what has happened to us, how our lives have changed, how He has blessed us in some way, the peace we have, etc.

5. We should invite them to church and give them a specific time and place to meet us. If they come, we should meet them and sit with them through the service.

Other Methods We Can Use

1. USE DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS. A doctor will ask questions to diagnose our health problems. The following diagnostic questions will help us determine anyone’s spiritual condition:

   A. If you died tonight, where would you go?
   B. If God asked you why He should let you into heaven, what would you say?
   C. Do you believe God loves you? How do you know?
   D. What do you think it would take for someone to go to heaven?
   E. Do you believe you are good enough for God to accept or receive you into heaven?
   F. Do you know you will have to be perfect to go to heaven? Do you qualify?

These questions force people to consider where they are at that moment with God. Find a way to talk about something that leads to this, then pop the question. The way they answer will immediately indicate where they are spiritually. If they say, “No” or “I’m not sure,” then we know to automatically pray the prayer of salvation.

If they say, “Yes,” ask them, “How do you know?”

If they say, “Because I am a good person,” “I do good works,” or “I go to church,” this is a good sign that they are not saved.

A saved person should always say, “I am going to heaven because Jesus Christ died for my sins.” If they cannot say that or something similar to it, pray the prayer of salvation with them.

Ask them first, “Would you like me to help you make sure that when you die, you will go to heaven?” If they say, “Yes,” pray it (see Prayer of Salvation).

2. THE PRAYER NEED METHOD – One of the greatest ways to open a person’s heart to Jesus is to get them to talk about their problems. After they have shared, we ask them if we can pray for them. If they say, “Yes,” pray the following prayer:

   Heavenly Father, bless my loved one/friend/ coworker with the money they need to pay their bills. You said in Your Word that You would supply us with our every need.
   We thank You that the finances they need are on the way in Jesus’ name.

If the person is dealing with marriage, children, job issues, or whatever, pray the prayer of faith (pray with expectancy or as if it is already done). People are always open to God when He is seen as a God who wants to help them. The prayer alone will open their hearts. Then, as the Holy Spirit gives wisdom, we can share with them about going all the way and asking Jesus into their hearts (pray Prayer of Salvation).

3. SHARE A SCRIPTURE – If we are in a conversation with someone about how to be saved, and we have our Bibles near, then we can share two scriptures with them: Mark 1:15 and Romans 10:9.
A. Tell them that God requires repentance, which means we have a change a mind, heart, and direction about our past lives. We decide to turn and give it to Him. Once the person has made this decision, He only asks that we believe on Him.

B. Turn in your Bible to Romans 10:9 and let them see it in your Bible.

   That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved (Romans 10:9).

C. Read the Romans 10:9 scripture out loud, and then ask the person some simple questions.

   Can you verbally confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus?
   If they say, “Yes,” ask, “Can you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead?”
   If they say, “Yes,” tell them, “Well, the Bible says that if you are willing to confess Him as Lord and believe that God has raised Him from the dead it says, ‘Thou shalt be saved’ which means you will not go to hell, but to heaven above.

4. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS METHOD – This method is for those family members or friends who are hard-hearted and feel they do not need God. They must be convinced about why they need to be saved. When we use the law (Ten Commandments) to show people their true state, many people will see for the first time what Christ did for them as an expression of love and concern for their eternal welfare. Please see Chapter 2: How Do We Know We Are Saved? under the topic “Why Do We Need to Be Saved?”

5. GOD FORGIVES EVERY SIN – People are always aware of the things they have done wrong. Many feel there is no hope for them and that they are going to hell anyway. Give them the good news that Jesus died for all their sins and paid for them on the cross.

Tell them that when they receive Christ, every sin they have ever committed will be wiped out of the mind of God (Hebrews 10:17). Ask them if they would like to receive God’s forgiveness right now. Pray the Prayer of Salvation above and have them repeat it after you. Remind them that God loves them right now, just the way they are.

6. THE TESTIMONY METHOD – Sharing our own personal testimonies is also an effective witnessing method. There are three parts to our testimonies:

   A. Briefly describe life before Christ.
   B. Carefully explain what brought us to submitting our lives to Christ.
   C. Joyfully describe life since Jesus became Lord.

   **Prayer of Salvation**

   Heavenly Father, I acknowledge and recognize that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior and that God raised Him from the dead. Today I repent and I make the decision to turn from my old lifestyle. Thank you for forgiving me of all my sins. Jesus, come into my heart and help me to be the person you want me to be. I am saved. If I died tonight, heaven would be my home. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** What method do you feel you will be most comfortable using?
MEMORY VERSE:

*Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee* (Mark 5:19).

**How to Share the Gospel**

A. ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE SINNERS, OR LOST.

B. REPENT. God loves us so much that He does not want to see us perish in our sin *(2 Peter 3:9)*.  
It is God’s will that we do not die in our sins, because our sins demand a terrible penalty *(Romans 6:23)*.

If we live in sin and outside of God’s will, then we will receive spiritual death (separation) from God for all eternity.

The word *repent* means “to change, to turn around, to reverse a decision, and to transform.” Repentance is Godly sorrow, meaning that we have a broken heart when we realize that we have offended a holy God. If we are heading in one direction, repentance means that we make a decision to turn around and head the other way.

It requires a change of mind and a change of actions. Repentance is like driving down a highway and discovering that we are going the wrong way. What do we do? We immediately make a decision to go the other way. Once we become aware of our wrongdoing, then we must make the decision to turn toward God’s way. According to the scripture below, why is it that many people do not prosper?

*He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy* *(Proverbs 28:13)*.

__________________________________________________________________________

C. BELIEVE – Repentance precedes believing. Once we make a decision to leave our sin, we then turn to Christ, believing in our hearts that He is Savior and Lord, that God raised Him from the dead. It is trusting Him to save us.

9*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*10*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation* *(Romans 10:9-10)*.

Ask, “Do you believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord and Savior, that He died, and that God raised Him from the dead?”

D. CONFESS- We must verbally acknowledge Him with our mouths.

Ask, “Are you willing to confess or acknowledge that Jesus is Lord?”

Let’s pray right now. Repeat after me.
Salvation Prayer

Heavenly Father, I need You in my life. I acknowledge that I am a sinner in need of a Savior. Lord, I make the decision to repent of my sins. I turn now from my old life, and I give my life to You. I believe that Jesus died for my sins, and Father, You raised Him from the dead. I believe He is God in the flesh. Holy Spirit, come into my heart and make me the person You want me to be. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

God has just forgiven you of every sin you have ever committed.

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more (Hebrews 10:17).

Ask, “If you died tonight, where would you go?”

- From now on, if anyone asks how you know you are saved, you must say, “Because I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.”
- If a person says they are still not sure where they will go, or if they still do not feel they are saved, then take them back to Romans 10:9.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved (Romans 10:9).

Ask the person the following questions:

- Have you made the decision to repent?
- Have you believed that Jesus is Lord and Savior?
- Do you believe God raised Jesus from the dead?
- Have you confessed this with your mouth?

If they answer “Yes” to all these questions, then tell them, “Well, according to Scripture, you are saved. You are saved not by how you feel, but by what He promised.”

Assignment

THE COMMITMENT STATEMENT

I commit before God, Jesus, the Holy Ghost, my church, and my discipler to pray for and witness to at least one family member, loved one, friend, or coworker. Name the person whom you want to reach:

___________________________
Print Name

___________________________
Signature

___________________________
Date
Chapter 16:
PREPARING YOU TO BE A DIAMOND MAKER

There is an old expression that states, “There is a diamond in the rough.” This means, as it applies to individuals, once we get people saved, we help them cut away all the rough edges of life. We disciple them, help them find deliverance, and help them find their new walk with God. They find purpose and destiny in God. All the rough edges are smoothed out, and a diamond for Christ comes forth.

When we get saved, we have a responsibility to become a diamond maker by discipling others.

*But Jesus said, “No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been”* (Mark 5:19 NLT).

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* (Matthew 28:19, NIV).

*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others* (2 Timothy 2:2, NIV).

*You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God’s word.*[a] *You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food* (Hebrews 5:12 NLT).

**What Does It Mean to Disciple Someone?**

- Define Discipleship - It means learning how to follow Jesus and be, think, and act like Him.
- It is helping them learn how to do things God’s way and live His way.
- It is learning how to handle life the way He prescribes, living according to Christ’s character.
- It means surrendering our lives to the Lord and making Him the Lord of our lives.
- It is sharing with another person what God has done for us and sharing the changes God has made in our lives.
- It is helping people get their lives aligned with God.
- It is sharing what we know about God and how He helped us overcome issues in our lives.
- It is allowing God’s love to flow out of our lives to other people.
- It is fellowshipping and spending time with a person.
- It is helping people with their problems.
- It is not just giving people information. It’s doing life with another person. It is showing them how we handle life in all kinds of situations.
- We help answer their questions about life, God and church. If we don’t know the answer, we tell them that we don’t know and ask them to give us time to find it. It is okay to say we don’t know.
- It is sometimes sharing a scripture or two to help comfort them or give them wisdom in life.
- We constantly tell people how God can use them and wants to use them.
- We encourage them to attend church and worship God.
- It is reminding them that God loves them, even when they have doubts. When needed, it is reminding them that they are forgiven.
Discipleship is reproducing ourselves in others.
Discipleship is helping others grow in God.
Discipleship is like being a spiritual coach, a partner, a mentor, or a spiritual parent.
Discipleship is coaching a person out of their weaknesses and bringing them to full maturity.
Discipling is praying for the people we are discipling.
Discipleship is providing connection for someone to God and in the church. It is introducing the person we disciple to other believers.
Discipling is being there for the disciple when in crisis (death in the family, etc.)
Discipling is thriving in a relationship with the Lord.
Discipleship is being there at the most vulnerable time in a believer’s life, right after they get saved. Satan is angry now and wants to destroy their lives. If they do not have a discipler to hold them by the hand, the devil will reclaim them.

**Picture of a New Baby Christian**

Picture in your mind a small, two-month old baby wrapped in a blanket laying by itself in a forest under some trees. Suddenly, a full-grown wolf emerges from the trees drooling at the mouth and creeps toward the baby, ready to devour it.

This is exactly what happens when we get people saved without caring for them or discipling them. We leave them alone for the devil to devour them as babes in Christ. Will you allow the souls you win to the Lord to be devoured?

**How Do I Start?**

If the church you attend has a one-on-one discipleship program, these questions can be answered through the discipleship point person at your church. If you are on your own, do this:

- Ask the Lord to show you someone to disciple.
- When the Lord indicates someone, ask the person, “Would you like to know what the Bible says about living a successful and fulfilled life?”
- If the answer is “yes,” give that person a Diamond Makers workbook, explain the general plan of the workbook, and ask to meet with the person to get started.

One-on-one discipleship is not about a scholar, pastor, or great theologian sitting down to explain deep mysteries to a new Christian. Discipleship is about relationship – a relationship that includes sharing scriptural truth and insights found in this workbook, and the encouragement of the relationship itself. Both information and relationship are essential for successful one-on-one discipleship.

Don’t feel intimidated to begin a discipling relationship. Your disciple will appreciate your efforts and be gracious toward your beginning attempts. The most important thing is to begin!

**Common Sense Guidelines**

- Do not seek personal gain through the discipling relationship. Be a servant!
- Do not give advice. Stick with the material in the workbook.
- Be a good example. Discipleship is effective because you are sharing your life with your disciple.
- Discipleship is one-on-one relationship.
- Disciple the same sex: men with men and women with women.
- Do not allow your discipleship times to become counseling sessions.
- Do not give the person you are discipling large amounts of time, money, or other resources.
- Get the person you are discipling involved in large group worship and small groups!

**Define and Limit the Discipling Relationship**

**Expectations**

Let your disciple know what he/she can expect from you: that you will pray for them and that they can contact you during moments of discouragement or temptation. Also let your disciple know that you expect commitment to the discipling sessions and that the ultimate goal is not for them to be discipled but for them to disciple another to love Jesus. Do not give the impression that you will be available for hours on end at any time. If difficulties arise that are outside the scope of the discipling relationship or too complicated, get help!

**The Ten-Minute Rule**

A discipling session should last about 90 minutes. Allow only 10 minutes for introductory comments and then begin. Get through the notebook. It is easy for discipleship sessions to devolve into chit-chat, discussion of problems, and sharing about family or personal matters. Remember to get into the notebook material within ten minutes of starting the discipleship session.

**Help But Don’t Fix**

Discipleship will give a new believer the foundations to live the Christian life and seek God’s guidance. The discipleship session is not the place to fix problems but an opportunity to develop foundations. A discipling session that just “talks” about problems will probably “talk” about problems the next session and the next as well. Problems can be endless, but with foundational principles shared and understood, the disciple will be able to fix his/her own problems.

**The Discipling Relationship Should Last About Three Months**

A discipling relationship that lasts too long has the potential to cause many problems. A discipler can begin to exert too much influence into the life of a new believer. A disciple will begin to imitate the weaknesses along with the strengths of the discipler. The burden itself of an overly-long relationship will hinder the yearly discipling commitment.

**Discipleship Needs Small Groups**

A one-on-one relationship is best for the initial nurture of a new believer. But what happens at the end of the one-on-one relationship? Hopefully the new believer will be attending a small group in the church. A small group offers resources and a variety of spiritual gifts to provide a more balanced long-term influence, teaching, and encouragement of the disciple.

**Be on the Alert for the Similar Temptation Patterns of New Believers**

- Watch for moments of doubt and discouragement.
- There will be moments of temptation.
- Doctrine without love can cause confusion and legalism.
- A mature Christian learns how to receive grace and extend it to others.
- The new Christian must learn Kingdom perspective for proper priorities.
- Prayer and Bible study can become boring until the Principle of Specificity is learned.
- Cults often seek out new believers.
Bad decisions will render a new believer ineffective. Help new believers learn the cycle of confirmation!

- There will be many enticements to keep a new believer from fellowship.
- Love, faith and hope define how all believers should live until the return of Christ.

From the book First Steps One-on-One Discipleship, Specificity Publications

**Principle of Diamond Making**

God intends for Christians to have prayers answered, find victory over temptation, use their talents and gifts to serve others, and be used to disciple others. Christianity is not about inadequacy, fear, boredom or doubt.

The Principle of Specificity teaches a new believer how to:

- Pray specific prayers that can be answered. What joy!
- Learn specific Life Verses that will bring victory over personal temptations.
- Serve others with specific spiritual gifts and talents.
- Disciple another to love Jesus...what a thrill to experience God using you to impact the life of another!

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** What are your questions or concerns about discipling others?

**MEMORY VERSE:**

> And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2).

**YOUR ASSIGNMENT:** The Word of God states that we are to go and disciple others as we have been discipled. This book now becomes your resource to disciple another person right away. Go now to the person you have prioritized for discipling and ask if they would let you disciple them. If not, select someone else. We ask everyone to commit to discipling at least one person a year. If you are ready to do that, please sign the following commitment form.

**MY COMMITMENT TO GOD**

**NOTE:** This commitment is between you and God. Your signature represents your official commitment to God to fulfill its obligations.

I _________________________ do hereby commit to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit to disciple at least one person a year using the lessons in the Diamond Makers Discipleship Manual. I commit to living for Christ and helping those I disciple to know God, find victory in life, overcome challenges, use their talents and gifts to serve others, and to become disciple makers themselves.

______________________________  _______________________
Signature                                      Date

**Finding Your Purpose**

If you desire to go further with God in finding your purpose and God’s plan for your life, see the next section.
APPENDIX

- Appendix A: You Have A Purpose, Assignment and Destiny
- Appendix B: The WOOMC Process - “From Pew to Purpose”
- Appendix C: Psalms Bible Reading Plan
- Appendix D: Proverbs Bible Reading Plan
- Appendix E: New Testament Bible Reading Plan
- Appendix F: Scripture Reference List
- Appendix G: Why the Bible Can Be Trusted
- Appendix H: Principles of Getting Answers to Prayer
- Appendix I: Answering Christianity’s Greatest Questions
- Appendix J: Casting Vision to Encourage Participation
APPENDIX A: YOU HAVE A PURPOSE, ASSIGNMENT AND DESTINY

- You are here on earth for a specific purpose.
- God has designed you for a special assignment.
- God has a ministry for you to fulfill (Luke 16:10, 12).
- You have a destiny in God.
- God created everything to solve a problem on earth.
- Somebody needs you today.
- You are somebody else's reward.
- You have been assigned to a group of people somewhere.
- Look for opportunities to heal, strengthen and bless others.
- The Creator has already decided what He has intended for you to become.
- You must seek the Creator to know how and for what you were created.

GROUP EXERCISE: Have you ever sensed an assignment from God on your life? If so, what do you think it might be?

Every Believer is a Minister

Biblical proofs that God has called all believers to ministry:

1. God is restoring the priesthood of the believer (1 Peter 2:5, 9).

2. God gives gifts to all believers for a reason (Romans 12:6-7). God gives gifts to bless others. God would not have given gifts to believers unless He intended them to be used to minister to others.

3. God’s original intent has always been that His people be used to minister (Exodus 19:6).

4. Believers are called ministers of the New Covenant (2 Corinthians 3:6).

5. Believers are called ministers of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18).

6. Believers are saved for a holy calling (2 Timothy 1:9).

7. The believer is God’s workmanship created for good works (Ephesians 2:10).

8. The believer is commissioned by Jesus to go and preach (witness) the Gospel, cast out demons, minister the Holy Ghost, lay hands on the sick, teach faith and minister the Word (Mark 16:15-20).

The discipler should say: In order to find your purpose in God, He has a process for you to go through that will involve every step you will need to find your purpose or destiny. World Overcomers will equip, teach, train and carry you through a five-step process that will release you into that destiny. You can go as far as you want to go and stop at any point. You have just completed the Basic Discipleship. The following four steps are all that’s left for you to be on the road to purpose.

The discipler should quickly go through the diagram then read and explain the specifics of the process on the next two pages.
I. BASIC FOUNDATIONS

**BASIC DISCIPLESHIP**
- Join Church
- Discipleship
- Eight (8) Lessons

**ADVANCED DISCIPLESHIP**
- Fellowship Ministries
- Group Interaction
- One-on-One Discipleship
- Discipler/Disciple Others

**SERVING**
- Helps Training (Two (2) Lessons)
- Personality Evaluation
- Join a Destiny Team
- Serve One Year

II. MINISTRY

**MINISTRY PREPARATION**
- Encounter With God
- Biblical Knowledge
- Equipping and Training
- Spiritual Gift Evaluation

**MINISTRY PARTICIPATION**
- Team Ministry
- Healing
- Intercession
- Prophecy
- Deliverance
- Teaching
- Evangelism
- Holy Spirit
- Youth
- Children
- Administration
- Pastoral
- Counseling
- Apostolic (Church Planting)

**MINISTRY RELEASE**
- Fivefold Ministry
- Operate in Ministry in the Church
- Operate in Ministry Outside the Church
THE WOOMC PEW TO PURPOSE PROCESS

The WOOMC vision has been established to help believers love God, embrace others, and touch destiny. New believers are challenged to grow in an exciting, step-by-step process that involves discipleship, serving, fellowship, biblical knowledge, training, and ministry. This process is designed for believers to find their purpose and destiny in life.

BASIC FOUNDATIONS

**Phase One – Discipleship** *(Matthew 28:19 NIV)*

When new converts join church, they are immediately assigned to a trained believer/member in one-on-one discipleship. The trained believer meets with the new convert to impart the eight (8) foundational lessons in our One-on-One Discipleship pamphlet. Lessons cover basic foundational teachings of the Christian faith: salvation, the Lordship of Christ, sin, prayer, the Word of God, Holy Spirit, the enemy, church life, and witnessing. New believers receive immediate connection with another believer and with the church. Believers learn how to do life together as they experience life transformation.

**Phase Two – Serving (Destiny Teams)** *(John 12:26)*

The first obligation of every believer after being born again is to seek to serve God. God honors those who serve Him *(John 12:26)*.

Members are free to serve God according to their personality, gifts and passions. The Bible states that before we reach our destiny in life, we are required to serve the Lord through someone over us in authority *(Luke 16:12)*. We believe that the Great Commission is not fulfilled until believers are actively serving God’s house in some capacity. Personal growth in our walk with God is enhanced and developed through serving. We find connection with the vision of the house, other believers, and our destiny as we put our hands to something. This is accomplished through our Destiny Teams.

New believers receive a personality analysis to assist us in helping them discover possible areas of service.

**Phase Three – Advanced Discipleship** *(2 Timothy 2:2)*

New converts/believers must now become rooted and grounded in God’s Word. This phase will offer pastoral care and counsel. New believers can deal with their issues, problems, hurts, pains and addictions. They find interaction with groups or one-on-one with other individual believers. New converts are given choices of assignments to one of five fellowship ministries: men, women, singles, married couples, or young adults. They learn how to overcome in life. Once this is completed, believers are asked to become disciplers by discipling at least one new believer.

New believers who complete this process are encouraged to witness and disciple those who are in their circle of influence such as family, friends, neighbors and coworkers. Every person who discipes others must train them to disciple others.

**MINISTRY**

**Phase Four – Ministry Preparation**

Believers who complete and mature through the Basic Foundations Division now qualify to pursue ministry opportunities.
A. **Encounter Weekend** - This one weekend (Friday-Saturday) is designed to help you experience an encounter with God and remove barriers of the past, any hurt and pains that will hinder you from finding your destiny. During the Encounter Weekend, believers leave behind family, work, and worries to focus solely on the teaching. Encounter participants feel completely free and uninhibited to release pain, hurts, strongholds or anything else in their lives that interferes with their relationship with God. Believers leave the Encounter liberated from generational curses, emotional scars, and bondage to vices.

B. **Biblical Knowledge** – All individuals who want to be in ministry or who sense a call upon their lives must have a foundation of Bible knowledge to sustain that call. A variety of subjects and topics are offered in the form of classes in our Destiny Institute. Perfecting Class and at least one other class of the person’s choice are needed for ministry preparation.

C. **Equipping and Training** – Believers must learn how to minister to others through personal ministry and at least one class on the area of ministry they want to pursue.

D. **Spiritual Gifts Evaluation** – All individuals seeking ministry preparation should complete a spiritual gifts evaluation inventory. It offers a personalized profile of your God-given spiritual gifts that will offer direction for ministry preparation. Those who discover and exercise their God-given gifts will experience maximum fulfillment for their lives and ministries.

**Phase Five – Ministry Participation**

Team Ministry – Believers are given an opportunity to participate in ministry in one of several ministry teams such as: healing, intercessory prayer, prophecy, deliverance, teaching, evangelism, counseling, Holy Spirit, administration, youth, and children. Believers gain an opportunity to exercise their gifts on these teams.

**Phase Six – Ministry Release**

Once believers have successfully and faithfully completed team ministry, then they are released into the fivefold ministry participation. These ministers, as the Levites of the Old Testament, will take care of the ministry to the House of God (altar, personal ministry, prayer room, pew pastors, etc.).

Opportunities for ministry outside the church are also available such as house church, workplace Bible study, apartment complex ministry, prison ministry, ministry at church plants, etc.
# APPENDIX C: Psalms Bible Reading Plan (KJV)

Read the Psalms in a month, about five (5) chapters each day. Most chapters are short.

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**APPENDIX D:**

**Proverbs Bible Reading Plan (KJV)**

*Read Proverbs in a month, one chapter a day.*

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## APPENDIX E: New Testament Bible Reading Plan (KJV)

*Read the New Testament in a month.*

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- 1 Corinthians 6:10

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- Malachi 2:14-16
- Colossians 3:19-26

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- Psalm 34:4-5
- Romans 12:17-21
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#### Physical Abuse
- Psalm 58:2
- Proverbs 28:17
- Isaiah 59:6-8
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#### Sexual Abuse
- Deuteronomy 22:25-26
- Judges 19:25

#### Verbal Abuse
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### Overcoming Alcohol/Drugs/Substance Abuse
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- Psalm 107:6, 26-29
- Proverbs 20:1
- Proverbs 21:17
- Proverbs 23:19-20, 29-35
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- Luke 1:34
- John 8:36
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- Proverbs 28:13
- Isaiah 55:7
- Hosea 14:1
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### Overcoming Bad Habits, Sin
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- Matthew 3:8
- Romans 6:11-19
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- Matthew 7:1-5
- Luke 6:37
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Overcoming Depression/Discouragement/Disappointment
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- Psalm 55:22
- Psalm 107:19
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- Isaiah 66:13a
- Jeremiah 31:13
- Matthew 6:33
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- 2 Corinthians 1:4-5
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Overcoming Envy/Jealousy
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- Proverbs 26:14

Overcoming Fear/Fear of People
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- Joshua 1:9
- 2 Kings 6:16
- Psalm 23:4
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- Psalm 56:4, 11
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- Proverbs 3:24-26
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- Isaiah 43:2
- Isaiah 51:7
- John 17:27
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APPENDIX G: Why the Bible Can Be Trusted

Many ask, “How can we know the Bible is true?” Some people believe others have tampered with the Bible. Some say it is out of sync with scientific discovery and is no different from any other religious book such as the Quran and the Book of Mormons. The following overview offers evidence that proves the Bible is trustworthy as the Word of God.

1. Fulfilled Prophecy – This sets the Bible apart from all other 26 religious books that people believe today. None of them contain any specific prophecy spoken hundreds of years before that came to pass. Yet, the Bible is filled with hundreds of specific prophecies that have come to pass. For example, the Old Testament prophesied that He would rise from the dead (Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:27-32).

2. Archaeological Evidence – James Mann of U.S. News and World Report said, “A wave of archaeological discoveries...is affirming that the Bible is more historically accurate that many scholars thought.” Until 1993, not one shred of evidence could be found outside the Bible that King David ever existed. In 1993, a nearly 3,000-year-old inscription was unearthed in Israel mentioning that David was the king of Israel. There have been discoveries of Pontius Pilate who had Jesus crucified; that there were crucifixion-style deaths in the first century. Other discoveries include ruins of Jericho, accounts of the biblical flood, Jacob’s well, ruins of Babylon, Herod’s palace and so many more.

3. The Bible’s Consistency – This refers to the Bible’s internal harmony. From the first book of the Bible Genesis to the last book Revelation, the Bible is consistent with what it teaches. This is evidence of divine origin. The Bible addresses life’s most controversial questions such as: “What is the universe like? What is God like? Why does man exist? What is our purpose for being here? Why are evil and suffering in the world? and What happens after we die?” The Bible features 40 different authors who lived in different places and in different times over a 1,500-year period, yet the message remained consistent. The Bible is written in three different languages: Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic, yet it is still in harmony.

4. The Bible’s Amazing Scientific Accuracy and Foresight – The Bible makes known amazing facts about our world and the universe thousands of years before scientists discovered that they were actually true.

*Sun* – Psalm 19:6 states, “It’s rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end.”

*Shape of the Earth* – Job 26:10 states that God has inscribed a circle on the surface of the waters. This means the earth is round. See also Isaiah 40:22, which discusses the circle of the earth.

*The Suspension of the Earth* – Job 26:7 states that He hangs the earth on nothing. Scientists did not discover this until 1650.

5. The Bible’s Forthrightness About Its Authors and Character Failures – Unlike the authors of other religious writings, the authors of the books of the Bible did not seek to cast themselves in a good light or to elevate themselves at all. This proves that the Bible is an honest work. It mentions Noah’s drunkenness, Abraham’s lying, Moses’ murder, David’s adultery and murder, Peter’s denials, the disciples’ fears, competitiveness, betrayal, and much more.
6. **The Bible’s Transforming Power for Good**  – No other book in the world has had the transforming effect upon lives and societies for good than that of the Bible. The Bible was given for us to know God, be reconciled to Him, and to live our lives in a way pleasing to Him. Millions have been saved and converted by its words. Sins have been forgiven. Healing has come. Deliverance has come through the Word of God. No other book makes that claim. The Bible has changed the world. Even the Muslim’s Quran refers to the Bible as *The Book.*

7. **The Testimony of Jesus, the Son of God**  – Jesus Himself said the Bible was trustworthy. If there is anyone we can trust regarding the Word of God, it is Jesus. Jesus taught that the Bible was without error (*John 17:17*). It is historically reliable because He mentions Jonah, Noah, etc. He quoted scripture from the Old Testament when He said, “*It is written.*” He affirms the creation of man. He affirms that the Word is indestructible and will never pass away.

8. **The Bible States That It Is Without Error**

   *The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times* (*Psalm 12:6*).

   *For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven* (*Psalm 119:89*).

   *Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.*

   *Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar* (*Proverbs 30:5-6*).

9. **The Miracles in the Bible Are Happening Today**  – Miracles are a supernatural alteration of the natural world – a great way to get man’s attention. The miraculous nature of the Bible demonstrates the involvement of God. The miracles in the Bible, particularly in the New Testament, are still happening today. People are being healed and delivered. Some are being raised from the dead and having their needs met.
APPENDIX H: Principles of Getting Answers to Prayer

1. ENTER INTO GOD'S PRESENCE THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS. Christ died for us and accomplished everything we need in this life through His blood and sacrifice on the cross.

   *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?* (Romans 8:32)

   *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus...*(Hebrews 10:19)

2. COME TO GOD IN BOLDNESS. Believe with confidence that God is obligated to answer your prayer as a natural father is obligated to take care of his son.

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

3. REALIZE THAT YOU ARE RIGHTEOUS. You have the right to stand before God as if you have never done anything wrong. Through Jesus Christ and faith in Him, you have right standing with God.

   *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:* (Romans 3:22)

4. EXERCISE FAITH BY BELIEVING BEFORE YOU SEE RESULTS. Faith is not hoping, doubting, or questioning God's Word or will. It is believing that you receive and not wavering in what you are believing and receiving.

   *Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them* (Mark 11:24).

   *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)* (Hebrews 10:23).

5. MAKE SURE YOU ARE IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS. We cannot afford to walk in strife, bitterness, resentment and unforgiveness (home, family, career, church).

   *And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses* (Mark 11:25-26).

6. MAKE SURE YOUR MOTIVES ARE PURE. God looks at our motives each time we pray.

   *Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts* (James 4:2-3).

7. KNOW THAT WHAT YOU ARE PRAYING FOR IS GOD'S WILL AND THAT YOU HAVE A PROMISE TO PRAY. God will hear and answer any prayer that is prayed according to His will or His Word.
14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he heareth us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him (1 John 5:14-15).

8. END YOUR PRAYER IN PRAISE OR THANKSGIVING. Praise is faith in action. When you truly believe you have received from God, you will thank Him before you see anything.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name (Psalm 100:4).

9. ADDRESS YOUR PRAYER TO THE FATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS. We come to God on the basis of who Jesus is, not who we are.

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it (John 14:13-14).

10. PRAY IN TONGUES. Praying in our prayer language by the direction of the Holy Spirit is a key weapon in prayer and spiritual warfare.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; (Ephesians 6:18)
APPENDIX I:
Answering Christianity’s Greatest Questions

1. HOW DO I KNOW THERE IS A GOD?

Just like a watchmaker designs watches and a carpenter designs woodwork, design proves there is a designer. The world reveals, beyond all doubts, that a supernatural mind designed it. Someone made the earth habitable for people. The atmosphere contains just the right combination of oxygen and nitrogen to maintain an atmosphere that will sustain life. Just look at the design of the human body, the universe and all creation. Only the fool hath said, “There is no god” (Psalm 53:1). Design proves there is a designer.

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: (Romans 1:20).

2. IS IT TOO LATE FOR ME? I AM TOO GREAT A SINNER. THERE IS NO HOPE FOR ME.

Those who say, “I am a great sinner” are really not far from the Kingdom of God. Salvation begins with the realization of the enormity of sin. God places all sinners in the same category. Those who confess that they are sinners can receive God’s help (1 John 1:9). Jesus died for sinners, and we must know that God has provided a way of escape (or atonement) through Jesus Christ (John 3:16). Look at those in the Bible who had sinned greatly who received God’s forgiveness.

A. The thief on the cross (Luke 23:32-43)
B. The publican (Luke 18:13-14)
C. The Apostle Paul, who called himself the chief sinner (1 Timothy 1:15)
D. Peter, who declared his sins (Luke 5:8-10)
E. The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24)
F. David committed adultery and murder (2 Samuel 11-12)
G. The woman at the well who had five husbands (John 4:18)

No one is beyond a sin limit that God cannot forgive. Where sin abounds, grace much more abounds (Romans 5:20).

3. WHEN I BECOME BETTER, I WILL BE A CHRISTIAN.

No man can lift himself to heaven by his own boot straps. We cannot make ourselves better. Our own self-righteousness is like a dirty rag in the eyes of God (Isaiah 64:6). We can only accept the righteousness of Christ alone to merit salvation in God’s eyes (Galatians 2:16). We are only made right or righteous by the blood of Jesus and believing in Him (Romans 3:22). The moment we believe we are saved (Romans 10:9). If righteousness is based on how good we think we need to be, then how do we know if we have done enough? God takes sinners just as they are and places His Spirit inside them to begin cleaning them up. Therefore, we cannot become better until Christ is in us.

4. WHY DOESN’T GOD JUST SAVE EVERYONE?

It is God’s will that none should perish (2 Peter 3:9). God allows us the free will to determine if we want God, want to obey God, want to go to heaven, or want to be saved. God will not force us to do what we do not want to do. God gives us a qualification for salvation:
believe in His Son Jesus Christ according to John 3:16. God saves those who qualify. He leaves the choice with us. God will not save those who do not want to be saved (Romans 10:9, 13).

5. WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL AND SUFFERING IN THE WORLD?

God must permit evil and suffering because man chose it in the beginning. We still choose it today. God told man not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. He told them not to do it. He said that if they ate from the tree, their actions would open the door to death, which releases evil and suffering.

*Therefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:* (Romans 5:12).

God gave man dominion in the earth. We have the right and authority to choose what we want in our own domain (Genesis 1:26). God only gets involved when He is asked. God must allow what man allows. Evil and suffering exist in the world because of man’s choice, and God has to permit it. God would be unjust if He took man’s choice away after giving it to him.

6. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS SIN.

Some religious groups and cults teach that sin does not exist. Sin is doing what is wrong or breaking His laws (1 John 3:4). To say there is no such thing as sin is to say there is no God. He is the one who makes the laws and reveals what is right or wrong. Our own consciences will let us know that there is such a thing as sin. If people had no perception of right or wrong, consider what the condition of this world would be. Are you sure that how you behaved in this world will mean absolutely nothing when you face God in the next one?

7. DID GOD CREATE SIN?

No, God did not create sin. God is holy, and He would not create that which is contrary to His nature. God’s law is a reflection of His character (Exodus 20). Therefore, God cannot create that which is in direct violation of His law. God created the conditions in which He gave man free will to make choices between obedience and disobedience to God. God created angels who also had free will. One named Lucifer (Satan), who was first without sin, chose to rebel against God (Genesis 3). Yet, God did not cause them to sin because He does not tempt man to do evil (James 1:13). In the freedom of their wills, each decided to rebel against God. God is not responsible for sin.

8. DOES GOD ANSWER THE PRAYERS OF UNBELIEVERS?

Generally speaking, God does not answer the prayers of unbelievers because they are not saved in Christ. This means the motives of their prayers are not subject to the will of God. Psalm 66:18 states that the Lord will not hear the prayers of the wicked. Unbelievers cannot come from a place of truth with God (Romans 3:10-12). Sinners seek their own will and not the will of God. Isaiah 59:2 states that our iniquities have made a separation between us and God. Sin separates us from God. Because of their sin, unbelievers are separated from God. Because they have not been forgiven by God by trusting in Christ, they have no rights to the kingdom of God. If unbelievers cry out to God in repentance of their sins and ask God to forgive them through Christ, then God will answer their prayers.
9. **WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?**

Technically speaking, there are no good people according to the Bible (Romans 3:10, 12, 23). God alone is truly good. God is the standard of righteousness, not the few good things we do. Of course, there are many nice and decent people. They live honestly. They don’t lie, steal or cheat. They treat people well. Though not perfect, they possess a conviction to do what is right. So why would God allow bad things to happen to people like them? Sin in the world affects everyone to different degrees. Some are impacted more than others. Sometimes God will permit bad things to discipline or improve people’s character or cause them to seek after Him. We do know and trust that our God is good. If He allows bad things to happen to us, it is according to His sovereign plan and will always be meant for our good (Romans 8:28). The next question we must ask is, “Where is the line drawn on how good a person must be in order to be saved from bad things?” Sometimes a bad thing can even lead to a good thing. For instance, Jesus’ crucifixion led to His resurrection. The key to all this is learning how to place our trust in God.

10. **IS BAPTISM NECESSARY FOR SALVATION?**

No, baptism is not necessary to be saved. Only faith in Christ is sufficient. We don’t have to do anything. Christ has done it all. However, baptism is very important because it is the first thing Christ asks us to do after we are saved. If a person refuses to obey Christ in baptism, however, then there is reason to doubt that person’s conversion. Baptism is not salvation. It only occurs after one has believed (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 10:44-47). Baptism only symbolizes our salvation and new life in Christ. It demonstrates Christ’s death, burial and resurrection and is somewhat like a public initiation into Christ. We should be baptized because Christ, the one who saves us from hell, asks us to do it.

11. **HOW DID GOD COME INTO BEING, EXISTENCE?**

God did not come into existence. He has always been in existence. The Bible states that He has always existed, that He is from everlasting to everlasting (Psalm 90:2; Psalm 93:2). God has no beginning and no ending. He always was and has been. If God did come into being, then we have to ask what or who brought Him into existence. Whoever or whatever did that would be greater than God. Then we must keep going back and asking what brought that into existence, and so on.

12. **I AM ALREADY RELIGIOUS.**

Who said God wants us to be religious? He wants a relationship with us. Religion is nothing but man’s attempt to reach God. Christianity is different in that it is God coming after man out of His love for man (1 Corinthians 1:9). God desires fellowship with us through Christ. God wants to talk to us (Psalm 8:4). God wants to talk to us, not give us a bunch of rules and regulations or dos and don’ts required by being religious. If you want salvation and a relationship rather than religion, then go to Jesus, seek Him, and ask Him into your heart, and He will never let you down.

13. **DOES GOD HAVE A PLAN FOR MY LIFE?**

Yes, God has a plan for all our lives, even the worst person who does not know it yet. Our lives have been worked out according to the counsel of God’s will (Ephesians 1:11). God is not surprised, even when we do wrong. Yet, He is capable of working His will in our lives, even when we do not do what He wants. His plan is revealed in scripture so we can bring glory to Him (Isaiah 43:7). His specific plans for us are revealed by His Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-16). The more we submit our lives to Him and seek Him, the more His plans are revealed to us.
14. ISN’T THE TRINITY REALLY TEACHING THAT THERE ARE THREE GODS?

The Bible states that there is only one God who chooses to reveal or manifest Himself in three persons. However, many say that the Trinity is borrowed from pagan religions. Human beings are three in one person. We are a spirit. We have a soul. We live in a physical body. Deuteronomy 6:4 states that our God is one God. This means He is one being united. There are three distinct individual persons who are united as one (1 John 5:7). God had to do this because He was the only being in the world good and pure enough without sin who could die for mankind. If Jesus died for us, and He was the only person of the Godhead, then who would have been running the world? Who would have had the power to raise Jesus from the grave? (Romans 10:9) God the Father had to do this. Once Jesus left and returned to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father, who would be here to give God presence all over the world and live inside everyone who believed? The Holy Spirit had to do this. God had to manifest Himself in three persons in order to save man.

15. IS THE BIBLE RELIABLE?

See Why the Bible Can Be Trusted section in the Appendix.

16. ARE THERE LOST BOOKS OF THE BIBLE?

No. People try to make this claim to help justify what they want to believe and to bring reason to doubt the scriptures that do not condone their actions. The so-called lost books were books written by others that never measured up to fitting the canon of scriptures we call the Bible. They were not lost or removed because they were never part of the Bible to begin with. Below are reasons these books were not included:

1. Jesus never references these books, but He directly references the entire Jewish canon of scripture. He never quotes from any of these so-called lost books.

2. These books lack apostolic or prophetic authorship.

3. They did not claim to be the Word of God.

4. They contained concepts not consistent with the present books of the Bible such as prayer for the dead and condoning magic.

17. AREN’T OTHER RELIGIONS ALSO PATHS TO GOD?

Many religions in the world do not all teach the same thing. In fact, most of them contradict each other. So they cannot all be true. Therefore, it cannot be said that they are all a different path to God. We as Christians believe that all other religions are false besides Christianity. John 14:6 states that Jesus is the only way to God. 1 Corinthians 8:5-6 states that although there are many gods (religions) out there, to us (Christians) there is but one God the Father. 1 Corinthians 10:19-21 states that all other religions or worship to other gods is making sacrifices to idols. In actuality, they are sacrificing to the devil himself behind the scenes and don’t know it. Any other way to God, according to Jesus in John 14:6, is not true. Christianity bases its truth on the Word of God. Is what Jesus said true or not? Once we answer that question, we can put this one about other religions to rest. Jesus and His Word are the last word. To say there are other paths to God is to say that Jesus is a lie. We must choose.
18. DO CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS WORSHIP THE SAME GOD?

No, they do not worship the same God. There are a few similarities in beliefs, but there are also distinct differences. The Bible, the holy book of Christians, does not say the same thing as the holy book of Muslims called the Quran. The Quran advocates Muslims committing jihad and dying on behalf of Allah. The Bible advocates that Jesus came to die for us (Romans 5:8). Muslims do not believe in the Christian triune or Trinity God. They accuse Christians of teaching more than one god. Muslims do not believe that Jesus came as God in the flesh (1 John 4:1-3). So how can they worship the same God when the beliefs and teachings of those gods are not the same?

19. WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE IN THOSE FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD ABOUT JESUS OR THE GOSPEL?

The Bible states that God is a just God. This means whatever He does will always be right. When it comes to those adults or children who died and never got to hear about Jesus and the gospel, God will do what is right. Romans 2:11-16 states that those who never heard about the law of God will be judged according to their hearts and according to their knowledge of right or wrong. They will be judged by their own consciences that bear witness and their thoughts accusing them or defending them. Our God is so omniscient. He knows all things. Even if a person never heard the gospel, God knows whether or not he or she would have responded to Christ. He knows the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). God will do what is right. The greater concern is about those who heard about Him and chose to reject Him. God will judge that person based on their response. He is calling for you to turn from your sin and come to Him.

20. I AM ALREADY GOOD ENOUGH AND DON'T NEED SALVATION.

How good do you have to be to get into heaven? God is holy and requires holiness. To be holy means to be pure. Even though you may think you are good enough, even one sin disqualifies you from being in the presence of God. We could never be good enough, which is why we need Jesus. Jesus makes us right or righteous before God (Romans 3:22). To say you are good enough means you have done everything right and perfect. It means you have never sinned or done any wrong. This is the only way you will be good enough for God to accept you. Goodness is not based upon comparing ourselves to other people, but according to God’s standards. The Bible says that there is none good enough (Romans 3:10, 12). The Bible states that if righteousness can come by good deeds, then Christ didn’t need to die (Galatians 2:21). But He did, which means being good isn’t enough.

21. JESUS IS ONLY ONE OF MANY GREAT MEN OF HISTORY.

Jesus is different from all other men, not only great men of history. What other man do you know who walked on water, rose from the dead, calmed the sea, forgave sin, and went back to heaven on a cloud? He was unique and different. Jesus did not lie, cheat, steal, commit adultery, or covet. Jesus was God in the flesh according to the scriptures (John 1:1, 14; 10:30-33; 20:28; Colossians 2:9; Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 1:8). He was more than a great man as we measure greatness.

22. WHAT MAKES JESUS SO SPECIAL?

Simply because of who He said He was. He said He was God, and this is what the Bible teaches (John 8:58). He was claiming the name of God for Himself and thereby claiming to be God. Other so-called great men of history point to a philosophy and teach good ideas.
Only Jesus claimed to be God and spoke with authority. God was holy, and man sinned against His holiness. Therefore, man had to be punished for his sin. God allowed a substitutionary system where He gave His Son Jesus as the sacrifice for our sins. For that reason, Jesus was special. Had He not been offered up for our sin, we would have to endure what He endured on the cross along with an eternity in hell. This is why Jesus had to die—so we could go to heaven.

23. THE BIBLE IS FULL OF CONTRADICTIONS.

First of all, quote a contradiction. Yes, there are some scriptures that may be hard to understand, but this does not mean the Bible is not trustworthy. The Bible states that we must rightly divide the Word of God. Some passages are intended for the Jews or Israel. Others are intended for the church. Still other passages are intended for the Gentiles (unsaved or the rest of the world). If we take the passages intended for Israel and apply them to the church under grace, then there could be a contradiction. Also, many perceived contradictions are misinterpretations of languages from Greek to English, etc. Just a little research will answer every supposed contradiction.

24. HOW DO I KNOW WHICH RELIGION IS RIGHT?

It is difficult to offer an easy answer. Here is how we answer it:

A. The God of the Bible is holy, righteous, pure, and without sin. No other god makes this claim.
B. The God of the Bible recognizes sin. Other religions do not.
C. The God of the Bible’s holiness will not allow Him to ignore sin.
D. The God of the Bible loved man so much that He provided a payment for our sins. God demonstrated His love by dying for mankind.
E. The Christian Bible contains prophecies that were fulfilled thousands of years later. No other religion has that. Only the true God knows the future.
F. No other religion offers miracles as Jesus did. Miracles that still happen today. Other religions have no miracles.
G. No other religion offers power over death, man’s greatest enemy. Only Jesus can.

These things only happen in Christianity. If any religion were true, Christianity fits the bill. Other religions place great emphasis on good works and man’s attaining righteousness through his deeds (Ephesians 2:8–9).

25. THERE ARE TOO MANY HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH.

Hypocrites, liars, adulterers, thieves and all sinners should be in church so they can be exposed to the Word of God and learn that hypocrisy is wrong. We all are hypocrites in one form or another. When we judge others, we condemn ourselves. We cannot cast stones at others when we have our own issues. A hypocrite claims to have certain moral standards but behaves contrary to those standards. We have all behaved contrary to God’s moral standards. Let us make sure we are not hiding behind the hypocrisy of others to keep ourselves out of church. We will all have to give an account before God individually, not on the record of others (Romans 14:12).

26. WHY ARE WE HERE? WHY DID GOD MAKE US?

A. To glorify Him (1 Corinthians 10:31)
B. To have fellowship with Him (1 John 1:1–3)
C. To give us a purpose (Ephesians 1:11)
D. To reconcile others to God (2 Corinthians 5:18–19)
27. I'M TOO YOUNG. I CAN CHOOSE GOD LATER. I HAVE PLENTY OF TIME.

Many think they have plenty of time because they are young. We do not always have the time we think we have. God will not move on man’s heart indefinitely or forever (Genesis 6:3). There comes a time when the Spirit of God ceases to strive with you. The emphasis in scripture is always that the present day is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2). Every time we reject God when He is presented to us, our hearts grow harder and harder. “…Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts” (Hebrews 4:7).

God warns those who see and hear Him coming to them, whether in church, through other people, TV, radio, or reading the Bible, not to harden their hearts by rejecting Him. The Bible states, “Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Proverbs 27:1). This means tomorrow is not promised to us. Young people are sick and dying, involved in accidents, and being shot and killed every day around the world. There is nothing guaranteeing that it cannot happen to us. God encourages us to get saved in our youth (Ecclesiastes 12:1). Those who think they have plenty of time of time should read Proverbs 1:24-31.

28. WHY DO I HAVE TO GET SAVED? I AM AS GOOD AS OTHERS.

This question is often asked by those who try to measure themselves in comparison to others. For example, “I may tell a lie or commit fornication, but at least I'm not a drug addict, gang banger, or murderer.” Such a person needs to be brought face to face with the fact that, in God’s eyes, they are sinners. All people are sinners in God’s eyes, no matter how few sins we feel we have committed (Romans 3:10, 12, 19). Every person has inherited the sin nature as a member of the human race. This means the number of sins is not the issue. We have been born sinners (Romans 5:12, 19). It is hopeless for us to attempt to achieve our own salvation (Romans 3:20). Whosoever keeps the whole law and yet offends (or sins) in one point is guilty of all (James 2:10). Some people feel they are alright if they can make their outward conduct seem right in the sight of people.

And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God (Luke 16:15).

29. MY FRIENDS WILL RIDICULE ME IF I BECOME A CHRISTIAN.

Young people definitely feel this pressure. They realize they will be ostracized and scorned if they do not indulge in popular practices of the present day. Many are kept out of God’s kingdom because of fear of persecution. They love the praise, acceptance, and favor of people more than God (John 12:42-43). A true friend will not ridicule you for your decision for Christ. However, when coming to Christ, you must expect persecution (ridicule) from friends and even some family members. You may have to seek friends whose lives are consistent with your new life. If you continue to hang around people who do not want God, and you are not grounded in God’s Word yourself, then you will be pulled back to that old lifestyle. Bad company can corrupt good character (1 Corinthians 15:33). If we live godly, then we will suffer persecution (2 Timothy 3:12). Jesus said we can expect to be blessed if we endure, and we will receive a great reward (Luke 6:22-23). Remember, how we honor Christ before others will determine how He honors us in heaven.
Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven (Matthew 10:32).

30. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS TOO HARD, TOO MUCH TO GIVE UP.

The assumption that living a Christian life is unbearable is utterly false. Jesus said that His yoke is easy, and His burden is light (Matthew 11:28-29). The person who leads a life of sin has a hard life. He lives so near the enemy’s territory that he is vulnerable to his attacks. The devil is a hard taskmaster (Proverbs 13:15). Happiness is not found in self-will and indulgence in sin. The sinful pleasures of the world endure only for a season. In time, sin will bring destruction. The only true lasting satisfaction for the human soul is the joy of living for Christ and gaining His approval. The way of the sinner is hard. There is no peace for those who live wickedly (Isaiah 57:21). We cannot dictate our own terms with God. We either want Him and His way or not.

When people say it is too hard and too much to give up, they are really saying, “I want to keep my sin.” Remember the rich young ruler’s money was more important than eternal life. He loved it more than Christ (Mark 10:17-27). Remember, God’s commandments are not grievous (1 John 5:3). The only things God asks us to give up are the hurtful things. Young people want recreation, but they must carefully distinguish between those activities that are permissible and those activities that are morally wrong that will tear down character and bring condemnation to the soul. Like Moses, we should suffer affliction with the people of God rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season (Hebrews 11:25). The blessings, favors, protections that God offers far outweigh the ones we may give up from the world’s pleasures (Philippians 3:7-8).

31. WHY GET SAVED? THERE IS NO LIFE AFTER DEATH ANYWAY.

Many believe that when we die, there is no afterlife. Some believe we simply cease to exist, or we just lie in a grave. Others believe we are reincarnated and come back as someone or something else. As Christians, we believe in what the Bible teaches about death. According to 1 Thessalonians 5:23, man is a three-part being (spirit, soul and body). When a man dies, his spirit and soul separate from his body (James 2:26). The body returns to the dust or goes to the ground. Yet, man has an eternal spirit and soul that lives forever. If a man repents and receives Christ, his spirit will eternally be with the Lord forever. If he does not, then he will be eternally lost in hell forever (Luke 13:3). Jesus revealed how life looks after death. He gave an account of two men, one who went to hell and one who went to comfort in Abraham’s bosom (heaven). Both men, even though dead, were still alive in their respective places (see Luke 16:19-31). The Christian faith believes there is life after death. So it does matter how we live here.

32. EVERYONE WILL BE SAVED AT SOME POINT.

Daniel spoke of two resurrections:

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt (Daniel 12:2).

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29).
It is not God’s will that any perish and go to hell (2 Peter 3:9). The scripture never supports that everyone will eventually be saved. Only the saved, the believers in Christ, will receive eternal life. We dare not give people hope of another chance if they turn down God’s offer of grace. If there is such a thing as a second chance for those who reject Christ, the Bible has not made it known. And where the Bible is silent, then we must be silent.

33. I’VE BEEN TOLD YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE.

Although the Bible is not against reason, spiritual things must be spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14). The natural man cannot receive the things of God. They will be foolish to him. Yet, God’s thoughts are definitely higher than man’s thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9). The finite mind is far from being able to comprehend the heights and depths of God’s wisdom (Romans 11:33). We cannot understand God through arguments and debate. To understand the Bible we need to pray the following prayer.

**Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law**
(Psalms 119:18).

Over the years, as you read the Bible and study the scriptures, your difficulties with the scriptures will vanish one by one. You will probably experience some challenges initially, but keep reading it and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding. Use Bibles with simpler wording to help you such as the New Living Translation (NLT), New International Version (NIV), or the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible versions. However, God made the Bible for all His people to understand (Matthew 13:23).
APPENDIX J:
Casting Vision to Encourage Participation

Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV encourages us to spur one another on to walk in love and good deeds. Jesus spoke words of vision to His disciples.

*Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!* (John 1:47).

50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. 51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man (John 1:50-51).

Casting vision is designed to continually help brothers and sisters see the potential of who they are and can become in Christ, and what God wants to do through them.

To mobilize believers, we must cast vision about what God can do in and through them, then begin to train those who agree to walk forward.

- This process is about training the saved for the life and ministry to which God has called them (or equipping the saints) (Ephesians 4:11-12).
- Therefore, a key component of any training process is the ability to cast vision to believers for God to develop them in Christ-likeness and use them for His purpose.
- Spending significant time mobilizing (casting vision and then training) local believers to partner with you is a high-value activity in initiating a discipleship movement. How do we get believers to commit to your discipleship training? We must cast a vision to them of what God can do in and through them. Any time we exhort believers to live out the high calling of the scriptures, we cast vision to them. Sharing testimonies of how God is working is casting vision.
- Because people will face discouragement in the discipleship process, we must repeat these things again and again.

If people do not see and understand why they need to win souls and disciple people, then they will not be motivated to do so. The following are brief vision-casting vignettes we can use to encourage both new converts and seasoned believers. Please use one or more of these vignettes at various times during your training process.

**Vision Vignettes**

I. **DESTINY**

God has planned a destiny for every believer’s life. You have been created to do good works by God through Christ (Ephesians 2:10). God first wants your life to be more like Christ and to grow in Him. All believers are called to help fulfill God’s purposes in our own generation (Acts 13:36). God placed gifts and abilities in you to bless and minister to others. Our job is to help you find that destiny. You are in the earth for two reasons: fellowship with God and fulfill God’s plan and purpose for your life. That destiny and plan always involves bringing people back to God, ministering to them, and helping transform their lives (Ephesians 1:11).

II. **YOU HAVE AN ASSIGNMENT**

An assignment is a task delegated to someone to complete; a certain position, post, or duty that one is appointed to fulfill. God has placed you here on earth for a specific purpose. Your entire makeup, personality, and design has been formed and fashioned by God to complete a certain task.
God has a ministry for you and you alone to fulfill. Everything God created was to solve a problem on earth. Someone needs you today. God created you to be someone’s reward. You have been assigned to a group of people somewhere. Look for opportunities to heal, strengthen, or bless someone else. God has already decided what He has intended for you to become. You must seek the Lord to find out, but you begin by serving Him in the basics of winning people to the Lord. From there, He will lead you to your ultimate assignment. Everything begins with knowing how to win someone to Christ.

III. THE HEART OF GOD

Jesus came to the world to reach the lost. He did not come to save the righteous, but those who are lost. This means that God’s heart is the lost and bringing them into His kingdom. Let’s have God’s heart and focus on his heartbeat for lost souls.

IV. DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

Once Jesus told Peter to let down his nets for a great catch, a multitude of fish came up until the nets broke. Peter looked at him with eyes of conviction and told Jesus to depart from him because he was a sinful man (Luke 5:8). Jesus told him not to fear; He could still use Peter to be a fisher of men (or get people saved) (Luke 5:10). No matter what you have done or how bad it has been, God wants to use you. Once you accept Christ, He wipes away every sin you have committed from His memory (Hebrews 10:17).

V. GOD IS LOOKING FOR LABORERS (Luke 10:1-2; Joel 3:13-14)

Jesus looked out at a lost, helpless world, then said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord to send out workers into His harvest field because God wants all people to know Him and His love.” That happens as believers share the Good News with the lost. God is ready to move; He is just waiting for us. He will raise up more workers from the harvest that we reap. Let’s pray and ask God to prepare your heart to be used by Him and to prepare other workers.

VI. THE HOLY SPIRIT – THE ATTACKER (John 16:8)

As you pray for people to be saved, the Holy Spirit begins to attack them with His conviction. That’s why Joel 3:14 states that multitudes of people are in the valley of decision. They are tired of their wicked living and want to do something different for their lives. When you decide to go, the Spirit will be out there in your neighborhoods, city, etc. attacking lost people and showing them their sin. He will create in them a desire for righteousness and a longing to avoid the fear of death and judgment. He will tear down the objections of their minds and hearts. A person cannot come to God unless the Spirit draws them.

VII. FOLLOW AND FISH (Luke 5:10)

Every disciple of the Lord is called to live out the twofold call to, 1) follow Jesus, and 2) fish for men (Mark 1:17). Our love for the Master and our desire to see His name glorified in all the earth should inspire us to sacrificial commitment that transforms daily life and interpersonal relationships. If you are a follower, then you must obey the great command to love God with all that you are. Are you willing to obey Him in everything? To be a fisher of men, you must have a genuine love for others and live out God’s will of carrying the Gospel to the whole world.

VIII. HELL IS REAL (Luke 16:19-31)

A pastor named Jack Hyles was one of the greatest soul winning pastors who ever lived. Thousands came to the Lord through his church. Someone asked him about the origin of his drive for winning souls. He told the story about how one night, God allowed him to go to hell and witness its horrors. As he walked through hell’s chambers, a voice cried out from amongst thousands, “Hey Jack! It’s your dad. Don’t come here, and do what you can to stop others from coming.” Jack saw his own father in hell. He saw the reality of hell and did not want others to go there. Will you let others go to hell?
IX. MINISTER OF RECONCILIATION (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

Did you know that God sees you as a minister? A minister is a servant, not just someone with seminary degrees or a preacher/pastor in the church. If you bring others to Christ by reconciling them with God, then you are a minister. All born-again believers are called ministers. God is calling you today into the ministry to bring people to God. Some men have never received Christ, whereas others are saved but are not in fellowship with God. Many are unchurched and are not serving Him. God wants to use you to win the lost and train those who are saved to give them a purpose in life.

X. SERVING GOD (John 12:26)

If you desire to serve God, the greatest way you can do so is by winning the lost and bringing them into the Kingdom. God will honor your life when you serve Him. God calls the greatest in His kingdom those who serve Him. The Bible states that the angels rejoice in Heaven when just one comes into the kingdom. God wants you to serve Him. He has given you everything you need (especially the Holy Spirit) to have the boldness to win the lost.

XI. I'VE DONE TOO MUCH WRONG FOR GOD TO USE ME

Some of God’s greatest men committed the greatest sins. Once they believed in God or received Christ, they became some of the world’s greatest servants. Noah was a drunkard, but God used him to build an ark. Abraham lied, but God used him to be the father of the faith. Abraham’s grandson Jacob was a trickster, but God used him as His prince. Moses killed a man but led Israel out of Egypt. David committed adultery, impregnated a woman, had her husband killed in battle to cover up the sin, but God used him to be a great king. Solomon slept with many women, but God used him to be a wise king. Samson possessed great strength, but he laid down with the wrong woman. In the end, God used him to destroy an ungodly nation. Peter denied Jesus three times, but one day he preached, and God used him as a great apostle to preach and see 3,000 people saved on the same day. Paul killed Christians, but God used him as an apostle to establish churches throughout the Gentile world. If God can use them, then He can and will use you. Once you receive Christ as Savior and repent of your sins, then you are ready to be used by God.

XII. THE GREATEST NEWS

There are people all over the world and right around us who are riddled with inner guilt for sins they have committed recently and/or years ago. So many people believe they have done so much wrong that there is no way that God could accept them. The greatest news they need to hear is that they have been forgiven. They need to know that Christ died on the cross so they could be forgiven of all their sins. They need to know that once they receive Christ, He will not hold one sin against them. In fact, He said that He will not remember our sins any more. That is the Good News. God is just looking for someone to tell them.

XIII. WIN YOUR FAMILY TO THE LORD (Genesis 50:20; Mark 5:19)

God used Joseph to save his family from death through famine. God placed him in leadership in Egypt where there was food to help his family. He saved his family. God wants to use you to be the vehicle to get your family saved. Sometimes God will get one person in a family saved so they can go back and win the rest of the family. Are you the Joseph of your family? Then God wants you to be trained to know how to draw your family into the Kingdom. God commissions us to go back and reach our households for Him.

XIV. GOD’S SPIRITUAL GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

Every believer has spiritual gifts inside them. There are gifts to preach, teach, prophesy, heal, give words of knowledge and wisdom, discern spirits, do miracles, and minister deliverance. God wants to bring those gifts out of you to serve mankind.
The only way He can do that is to place a demand on them. When you pray for someone, those gifts will have a chance to flow out of you. Once you begin to exercise those gifts, you will then know your purpose in the Lord. Let’s pray about God using you.

XV. APPRECIATION FOR WHAT JESUS DID FOR US (Mark 5:19)
Jesus was our substitute on the cross. He died an excruciatingly painful death for you, me, and the entire world. God placed all the punishment of our sin on Him so we would not have to bear it. He took our sins, iniquities, transgressions, curses, sicknesses, diseases, pains, worries, cares, poverty, and weaknesses on the cross to give us forgiveness, righteousness, freedom, blessing, healing, deliverance, peace, provision, and strength. Not only that, He paid the ultimate price and entered hell momentarily to take the punishment we were supposed to face (Acts 2:27, 31). What can we do to show our appreciation for what He did? Do not let His death be in vain. For Jesus to endure such immense suffering for us, yet men will not receive what He did, and many of us will not tell others what He did for us, is a sin and a shame. The greatest way we can demonstrate love and appreciation for what Jesus did is to go and tell someone else.

XVI. THE TITANIC (Only two categories of people)
On the night the Titanic went down in 1912, all types of people of different classes were on board: the rich, the middle class, the poor, the workers, different races, etc. However, when that ship sank in the Atlantic Ocean, there were only two classes of people – the saved and the lost. Many were saved in lifeboats, but even more were lost at sea. Through God’s eyes, He does not see black or white, rich or poor, Jew or Gentile. He only sees two categories: the saved and the lost. God wants us to win the lost and trained the saved by giving them lifeboats to find their destiny.

XVII. HEART CONTROL (Mark 7:19-23)
Many people seek to enact legislation that will take assault weapons (guns) off the streets. Yet, it is not guns that kill people. People kill people. The hearts of mankind are evil and wicked. If we can change people’s hearts, then we can control the guns. Only Christ can control or remove an evil heart. Crime decreased in a village after the majority of the villagers came to Christ. If we give people Christ, then He will transform their lives. This is why we must win souls.

Evangelism is the only hope for this generation. There are no other answers for the problems of the world or for our personal problems other than the good news of Jesus Christ. Each of us is saved because someone else obeyed God and shared the gospel of Jesus Christ with us.

XVIII. THE GREAT COMMISSION (Matthew 28:19-20)
Jesus gave us His last instructions just before He left the earth. We refer to these words as the Great Commission. The Great Commission is not just a suggestion or a request. It is a command from the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords! Jesus said that we are to bring the total ministry of Jesus to the uttermost parts of the earth with signs and wonders following. This should be the aim of every believer.

The love and compassion of Jesus for a lost world was revealed when Jesus commanded, “Go into all the world!” Many have felt that since they have not been sent out by their local church as a missionary to some foreign land that the word “go” did not apply to them. Their reason, “I’m not called by God. I need to work to provide for my family’s needs.” They may even have reasoned, “God wants me to stay home and work and give so that others might go.”

The word translated “go” in the Great Commission means, “as you are going.” Every believer is “going” as they go about their daily lives. Jesus’ command to “go” was not limited to a select few who had a missionary calling. Instead, this command was and is to all believers. It is to everyone who is going anywhere: to work; to school; to do the shopping; to visit friends, family, or neighbors; wherever we are going as we carry out the normal functions of everyday life.
XIX. LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM (Acts 1:8)

Jesus said that as we go about the normal functions of life, we are to preach His gospel to every creature! The Great Commission was given to every believer in Jesus Christ. Evangelism is not something that is just to be done by a select few. It is not something to be done by just those whom God has called to function as evangelists in His Church.

As we study evangelism in the Bible, we discover that evangelism is not something we do once a week when it is time in the church program to go out witnessing. Evangelism is to become a lifestyle. It is something that we are to do all the time as we are going about the normal functions of our daily lives. The restaurant waitress, the grocery checker, the bank teller, the barber and beautician should all hear about Jesus.

Jesus made it clear the responsibility of the Church for evangelism was not limited to our own city. WE are to take the gospel into all the world. Every believer might not be led to go to some foreign land, but every believer is to be actively involved in sharing the gospel with those in their world.

To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you (2 Corinthians 10:16a).

The only way for the church to survive is soul winning. The church was born in the fires of miracle evangelism and is doomed when believers cease to reach the lost.

XX. MAKING DISCIPLES (Matthew 28:19-20)

Not only are we to go and teach, but we are to make disciples so the Great Commission can be fulfilled. In God’s plan, believers would multiply, and not just add to their numbers. When Jesus said in Matthew 28:19 that we are to make disciples of all nations, He revealed His plans for every believer to be trained and equipped to do His work through miracle evangelism.

The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2, NASB).

XXI. THE FEAR OF DEATH (Hebrews 2:14-15)

Once people understand where they will go when they die as a result of receiving Christ, they will lose their fear of death. We must warn everyone because everyone will face death one day.

King Solomon - King Solomon gave us insight into our responsibilities to warn those facing death.

11 Deliver those who are being taken away to death, And those who are staggering to slaughter, Oh hold them back. 12 If you say, “See, we did not know this,” Does He not consider it who weighs the hearts? And does He not know it who keeps your soul? And will He not render to man according to his work? (Proverbs 24:11-12, NASB).

If we do not warn those around us who are headed for hell, then God will hold us accountable.

Ezekiel – The prophet Ezekiel warned us of our guilt if we knew to speak and said nothing.

17 “Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me. 18 When I say to the wicked, ‘You will surely die,’ and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.
Yet if you have warned the wicked and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered yourself (Ezekiel 3:17-19, NASB).
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