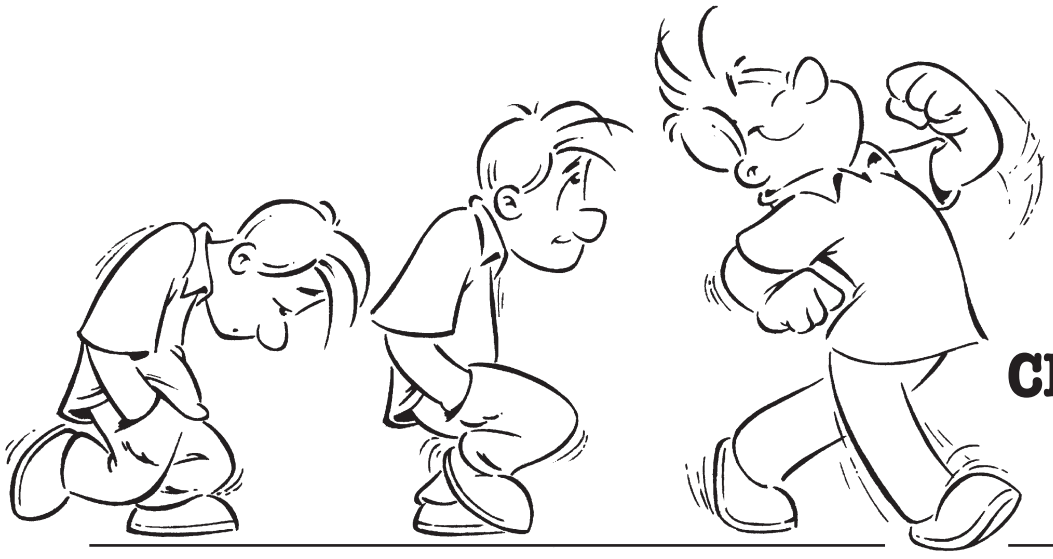
NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

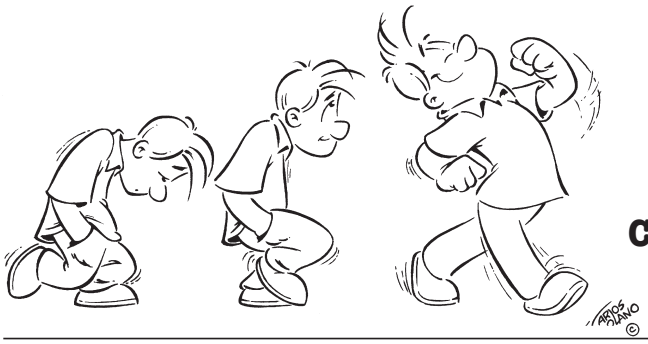
Volume 2



More basic steps of the Christian life

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Volume 2



More basic steps of the Christian life

This is the English edition of ***New Life in Christ Volume 2.*** It was originally produced in Spanish as *NUEVA VIDA EN CRISTO* by the Iglesias Evangélicas Centroamericanas and CAM International in Costa Rica.

For more information email us at: info@nuevavidaencristo.org

You may download a free copy of this book at the following website:
www.NewLifeDiscipleship.com

For printed copies contact:
Camino Global, 8625 La Prada Dr., Dallas, TX 75228 USA
Phone: 800 366-2264 or 214 327-8206

For free materials in Spanish go to: www.obrerofiel.com

All volumes are also available in Spanish and Portuguese. Volume 1 is also available in French, Ukrainian, Russian, Romanian, Swahili, German, Malgache (Madagascar) and Kinyarwanda (Rwanda).

It is available in PDF format which requires Adobe Reader (formerly called Adobe Acrobat). If you have trouble opening the files, make sure you have an updated copy of Adobe Reader. You may download the latest free copy of Adobe Reader at: http://www.addobe.com

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Produced by Camino Global, in cooperation with the
Asociación Evangélica Centroamericana de Costa Rica
8625 La Prada Dr., Dallas, TX 75228 USA

April 24, 2014

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TEACHER'S GUIDE

1. We congratulate you for accepting the challenge of discipling new believers using New Life in Christ as your guide. The results of this study can produce eternal fruit.

2. Let the Bible always be your authority in answering the questions. The students should look up the Bible passages by themselves and try to answer the questions based on what the Bible says.

   Some new believers need a brief orientation on how to find the references in their Bibles.

3. This manual may be used in many different ways. In most cases, you will study one lesson a week, encouraging the disciple to do all the assignments in each lesson.

4. Try not to let your sessions get too long.

5. Encourage the students to answer the questions in their own words. Avoid copying the Bible word for word. Using their own words will help them to analyze the meaning of the texts studied.

6. Avoid preaching. Use questions to discover what the students understand and to stimulate active participation.

7. Prepare well for each session yourself. As the teacher, you should be familiar with the content and key concepts of each lesson.

   Your preparation should include prayer for your students and for your own heart to be prepared for the lesson.

8. Try to have the students think about the practical implications for their lives. Help them to understand specific, practical applications.

   The assignments in the boxes at the side of each lesson are designed for this purpose. Make use of them.

9. Help students cultivate the habit of prayer. Teach them by praying together with them.

10. It is important to understand that discipleship is much more than studying the lessons of New Life in Christ. Discipleship implies a life change for the disciple.

    This manual is just an initial help. The students need continual help in seeking to change their character, ways of thinking, habits, etc.

11. It is of the utmost importance that disciples learn habits like daily Bible reading, prayer, and Scripture memorization.

    At the beginning of each lesson, take time to review the previous memory verse and ask them how the daily Bible study is going. Do not scold students who have not completed some of the assignments, but be sure to encourage them to finish.

12 Be sensitive to what God is doing in the disciple's life. Take time out of each session to answer any questions they might have, or to help with facing problems in their personal life.

    Keep in mind that there are times when it is not possible to get to every question in the lesson because of lack of time. In these cases, choose the questions of most importance to discuss.

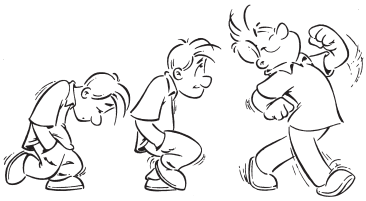
Welcome To God's Family



Congratulations! If you have received Christ as your personal Savior, you have been born again into God's family. Your sins are forgiven and you are now a new creature possessing eternal life.

"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



God is just beginning to transform your life. Live each day by faith, entrusting yourself to God as He makes changes in your life. Have patience and wait with anticipation. A great adventure lies ahead!

Exercises To Help You Grow



As a new believer, you are beginning a relationship with Christ which will grow as you follow Him. Learning to follow Him is called discipleship. There are certain exercises that will strengthen you as a new Christian. The more you practice them, the stronger you will become.

- ✓ Christ wants to be the center of your life. Submit to Him moment by moment, letting Him control all areas of your life.
- ✓ Pray throughout the day, every day. Prayer is talking with God.
- ✓ Read the Bible every day. Before beginning, tell God: "Here I am, Lord, ready to hear your voice through the Scriptures."
- ✓ Find a church that preaches the Bible. The church members are your new family.
- ✓ Leave behind the world of sin to which you used to belong. Ask God to help you resist temptation.
- ✓ When you sin, confess that sin to God and receive the forgiveness He offers.
- ✓ Tell others about Christ.
- ✓ Continue studying Volumes 2 and 3 of *New Life in Christ***.** If you can't find a place to get them, you may download them for free at the following website: www.newlifediscipleship.com



Step 1
Knowing God

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

____ God is a personal God, who cares about me.

____ I can get to know about God by the names given to Him.

____ To know God, it is enough just to pray and read the Bible.

In order to know a person, you need to spend as much time with them as possible. This is the only way to truly know them. The same is true in our personal relationship with God; you need to take as much time with him as possible.

A PERSONAL GOD

The Bible teaches us that God is personal, not someone way off in the sky somewhere, but close by, interested in our lives, caring about what happens.

1. Psalm 139:1-3 What things does God know about us? _____

   _____

2. Luke 5:18-20 One day while Jesus was teaching a crowd, several men brought their paralytic friend to him to be healed. He was not disturbed by the interruption. On the contrary, he took time to address the man's needs. What two things did Jesus do for the paralytic? v. 20, 24

   _____

   _____

3. Luke 5:30-32 Jesus was criticized when he invited a corupt tax collector, named Levi to follow him. Why? v. 29-30 _____

   _____

   How did he respond to his critics? v. 31-32 _____

   _____

4. After reading these verses, do you think God is personally interested in your life, even if you have messed it up? Yes ❑ No ❑. Why?

   _____

5. How can we get to know God personally?

   John 5:39 _____

   Jeremiah 33:3 _____

   God is always ready to hear our secret joys and fears and to respond to our cries for help. We might feel alone, but we never are.

KNOWING WHO GOD IS

God is always seeking a loving relationship with each of us. People long ago got to know him through his names, titles and attributes.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Are you taking the time to get to know God in a personal way?

Yes ❑ No ❑

If your answer is no, are you willing to commit yourself to a daily time of Bible study and prayer in order to know him better?



Yes ❑ No ❑

This is an important commitment. Today is the time to begin! Get to know the one who loved you and gave his life for you.

Date _____

Signature _____

LET'S DO IT!



Lord, I want to know you

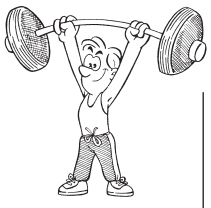
THINK ABOUT IT

This week, meditate on the list below of names given to God.

If one is particularly meaningful to you, mark it, and thank God for the blessing you received by meditating on this aspect of God's character.

- ❑ Good shepherd (John 10:11)
- ❑ My hope (Psalm 71:5)
- ❑ My rock (Psalm 18:2
- ❑ My fortress (Psalm 18:2)
- ❑ My deliverer (Psalm 18:2)
- ❑ My shield (Psalm 18:2)
- ❑ My salvation (Psalm 18:2)
- ❑ My hiding place (Psalm 32:7)
- ❑ Faithful & true (Revelation 19:11)
- ❑ The righteous judge (2 Tim. 4:8)
- ❑ Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5)
- ❑ Our peace (Ephesians 2:14)
- ❑ Bread of life (John 6:35)
- ❑ Prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6)
- ❑ My redeemer (Psalm 19:14)
- ❑ Father of compassion (2 Cor. 1:3)
- ❑ Great high priest (Hebrews 4:14)

GROWING STRONGER



Read Psalm 1-7 (one chapter per day).

Memorize John 5:39

You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me.

6. What is the name used for God in Genesis 17:1? _____

   What does it mean for our lives to know that he is God Almighty? _____

   _____

7. What is God called in Exodus 34:14? _____

   Why is he jealous? v. 14-15 _____

   Idolatry is putting something or someone in the place that only God deserves in our lives. It could be your family, sports, work, friends, etc..

   Check the areas below that are replacing God in your life.



   ❑ Work ❑ Family ❑ Friends ❑ Money ❑ Sports

   ❑ Television, Videos ❑ Romance or Relationships

   ❑ Music ❑ Internet ❑ Habits ❑ Other _____

8. Ephesians 2:14 says God is our _____

   For you, what does it mean to say that he is our peace? _____

   _____

9. In Psalm 23 God is called our shepherd, whose primary concern is to care for his sheep. Read it, noting the promises found in each of these verses..

   v. 1 _____

   v. 3a _____

   v. 3b _____

   v. 4 _____

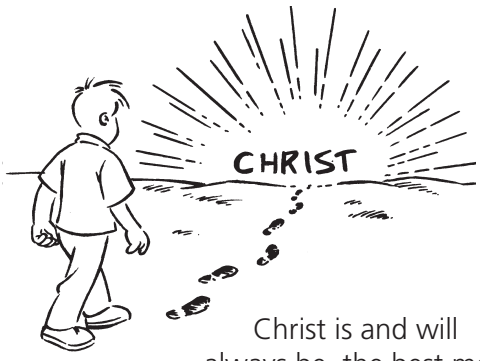
   v. 6 _____

10. When you read these verses, what comes to your mind and heart?

    _____

- God comforts us. Are you willing to accept his comfort or do you prefer to feel sorry for yourself? _____
- The shepherd leads us in paths of righteousness. How is your walk? Is it a righteous walk? Yes ❑ No ❑
- What path are you headed down? Are you at peace with the life you have chosen? _____
- Do you believe God is concerned about you? Yes ❑ No ❑
- Do you believe that you can really get to know God personally? Yes ❑ No ❑
- Would you be willing to continue studying the Bible each day in order to know him? Yes ❑ No ❑

Meditate on who God is by using the help in the left hand column under "THINK ABOUT IT."



Step 2
Christ our example

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)
____ Jesus always loves us, no matter what we do.
____ We are called to make sacrifices in order to serve others..
____ It is intolerant and wrong to tell someone they are living wrong.

Christ is and will always be, the best model that anyone can follow. He was perfect in everything, the only one who with his life and words could say: "I am the way" and "Learn from me."

1. Who lives in us? Galatians 2:20 _____

   If Christ lives in us, how should we now live? _____

   _____

   Follow his example in the following areas:

LOVE

2. How did Jesus show his love? Rom. 5:8 _____

   Christ's love in this verse is:

   ❑ Unconditional (He loves us, in spite of who we are or what we do)

   ❑ Conditional (He only loves us when we're good).

3. John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that he _____ _____ for his friends."

4. Today, are we called to make sacrifices too? Yes ❑ No ❑

   To love like Jesus means to be willing to sacrifice ourselves for others. This does not necessarily mean to die for them, but to give them our time, listen to them, help them, encourage them in their struggles, etc..

5. How will others know that we are truly Christ's disciples? John 13:34-35

   _____

6. How can we remain in his love? John 15:10 _____

   _____

HUMILITY AND SERVICE

7. What can we learn from Christ? Matthew 11:29 _____

   _____

8. Read Philippians 2:5-8. Christ, being God, lived in heaven far above the evil in the world. In spite of this, verse 7 says he made himself nothing, taking the nature of a _____. What does it mean to be a servant?

   _____

9. The maximum expression of Christ's humility was his death on the cross (v. 8). Crucifixion was not only painful, but shameful. He died between

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Christ followed the will of his father. Since I belong to him, how can I honor him with my life?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

FOR YOUR REFLECTION



Christ prayed to his father even before dawn. What do you do when you wake up?

If we don't pray, what does that say about our concept of God?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

TO WORK ON

Mark the items on the following list you are willing to commit to.

❑ I will pray every day, asking to be more like Jesus.

❑ I will seek God's divine will through the reading of scripture and prayer.

❑ Everyday I will submit to him, giving him control of every part of my being.

THINK ABOUT IT

Are there attitudes that prevent us from following Christ's example as seen in this lesson?

Mark the items on the list below that could be keeping you from a life of humility and service.

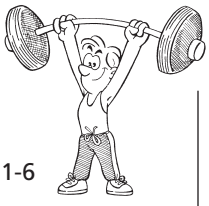


- ❑ Worry about everything.
- ❑ Difficulty in forgiving others.
- ❑ Pride.
- ❑ Lack of patience with others.
- ❑ Difficulty loving others.
- ❑ Jealousy.
- ❑ Envy.
- ❑ Selfishness.
- ❑ Anger.
- ❑ Lack of discretion, rashness.
- ❑ Evil thoughts, a dirty mind.
- ❑ Indifference towards the needs of others..
- ❑ Machismo.
- ❑ Others

_____

_____

_____



GROWING STRONGER

Read Ephesians 1-6 and Psalm 8 (one chapter per day).

Memorize Matthew 11:29

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls."

thieves, naked, suffering the mockery of the people, executed on a cross as if he were a criminal instead of a king. Verse 5 tell us to imitate his humility. How? v. 3-4 _____

_____

10. According to Luke 6:31, what is one of the best ways to serve others?

_____

COMPASSION

11. According to Matthew 9:35-36, Jesus had _____on the crowds. Why? _____

12. How do you look at the unbelievers that surround you? Is it easier to be critical of them or to feel compassion? _____

13. The Pharisees, seeking to trap Jesus, brought a woman caught in adultery to him. Quoting Moses, they asked Jesus if she should be stoned, to which Jesus replied, "If any of you is _____ let him be the first to _____" John 8:7

14. How does Jesus' attitude toward this woman differ from ours today when we see someone involved in sinful behavior? John. 8:10-11

_____

15. ❑ True ❑ False: Showing compassion towards sinners is just a way to facilitate or cover up inappropriate behavior .

Although he was compassionate, Jesus also told her to "go _____ _____." v. 11

True compassion is different from "tolerance." It moves us to exhort in love the one who is doing evil, not tolerate their behavior.

COURAGE TO CONFRONT WRONG

16. How did Jesus confront the hypocrisy of the Pharisees? Matthew 23:27

_____

17. Denouncing hypocrisy and injustice requires courage. Is it correct to hide behind arguments like, "I don't want to offend anyone?" _____

PRAYER

18. What example did Jesus give us in Mark 1:35? _____
Why do you think it is good to pray early in the morning? _____

_____

19. One time Jesus prayed all night before making an important decision. What was the important thing he was praying about? Luke 6:12-13

_____

God expects each believer to seek his will in all the decisions they make. Furthermore, is it important to note that Jesus did not just pray when he had to make decisions, but also to seek communion with his father.



Step 3
Called to serve

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

____ The only way to serve God is by occupying a position in the church.

____ The strongest Christians are those with the ability to preach.

____ Each believer has the ability to serve.

FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

Service is a part of the Christian life, but not everyone understands what it means to serve. Let's see what Jesus did to teach his disciples about the importance of service.

1. Read Matthew 20:26-27 and fill in the blanks. Whoever wants to become _____ among you must be your _____, and whoever wants to be _____ must be your _____.

   Those who only look out for themselves and their own welfare will never find the happiness they seek. Christ taught that success comes to those who deny themselves in order to serve others.

2 What do you think it means to be another's servant? _____

   _____

   To serve means sacrifice, but the sacrifice is accompanied by contentment. More than a burden, sacrificial service for others is a privilege.

3. The best example to follow is the one Christ gave in Matthew 20:28. He did not come to _____ but to _____ and to _____ as a ransom for many.

4. Give an example of how you could "give your life" to serve others: _____

   _____

USING YOUR GIFTS



The Bible tells us that God has given spiritual gifts to each member of his church. A "spiritual gift" is a special capacity to contribute to the edification and growth of the church.

5. Which believers have received gifts ? 1 Corinthians 12:7 _____
   Note The manifestation of the Spirit here refers to spiritual gifts.

6. What are your gifts to be used for? 1 Peter 4:10 _____

   _____

   The gifts are from God and are never for our own benefit, but rather for the edification of other believers.

Read Romans 12:3-5 and answer the following questions:

7. How should I look at myself? v. 3 _____

   _____

SOMETHING TO MEDITATE ON



Make a list of the spiritual gifts you think you possess and describe briefly how you could use them in your church and your community.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Speak with your pastor, showing him the list, asking him how you can use these gifts.

TO THINK ABOUT

The church is compared to the human body. Have you ever hit your thumb and been unable to use it? It's awkward, right? Now, imagine how the church is crippled when its members fail to use their gifts.

How are other believers affected when you don't use your God-given abilities?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

FOR FURTHER STUDY



What should a servant of Christ be like?

Study the following passages, noting the **attitude** of a servant mentioned in each one.

Philippians 2:3-4

_____

_____

_____

1 Corinthians 10:31

_____

_____

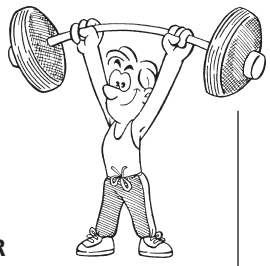
_____

Colossians 3:23-24

_____

_____

_____



GROWING STRONGER

Read Colossians 1-4 and Psalm 9-11 (one chapter per day).

Memorize Matthew 20:27-28

"...and whoever wants to be first must be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

8. The church is called the body of Christ and is compared to the human body. Verse 5 says we are _____, yet form _____ body. As a result each believer must seek the unity of the body by serving others.

9. Verse 4 says there are _____ members of the body, but all do not have the same _____. Since this variety exists, should we worry when we see that we do not all have the same gifts?

10. Who are the most important people in your church? ❑ The pastor ❑ The teachers ❑ The musicians ❑ Everyone is important.

11. According to 1 Corinthians 12:20-22, are there some members of the church who are more important than others? _____. Why? _____

_____

In regards to spiritual gifts there is place for neither pride nor envy. Those that envy others for their gifts haven't yet understood what these verses teach. God has different jobs for different believers. Some people's gifts are very visible like those who preach or teach from the pulpit, but there are many whose gifts are equally important, yet are used in less visible ways.

On the other side, those who brag about their gifts still haven't understood that God has given his people a variety of gifts, all of which are equally important, even those which are less visible or dramatic.

12. The following passages list different spiritual gifts like helping, teaching, exhortation, giving, administration, showing mercy, evangelism, pastoring etc.: Eph. 4:11; Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-10, 28-30.

13. As we have seen, not all believers have the same gifts. Why is it important to understand this? _____

_____

Never isolate yourself from the body. The church can only advance as all of us use our gifts together to form a complete and healthy body.

14. How is a congregation affected when its members fail to use their gifts?

_____

HOW CAN I KNOW WHAT MY GIFTS ARE?

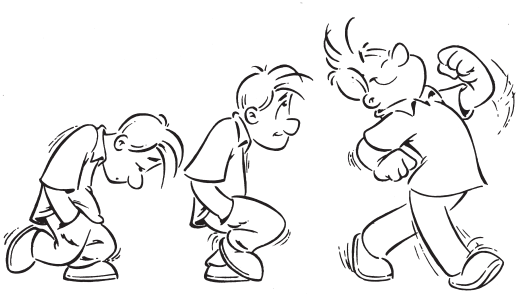
The best way to discover your gifts is by **helping wherever there is a need**. After **being involved** in various ministries you will be able to discern what you are good at, and where you are weak. Listen to the **counsel of mature believers** who see your strengths and weaknesses.

15. What gifts do you think you have? _____

_____

SUMMARY

- The Bible teaches that each believer ought to serve, not just be served.
- God has given us gifts that will contribute to the growth of the church, and we need to use them.



Step 4
Who am I in Christ?

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

____ Now that I am a believer, I am a member of a new family.

____ We have a very special position in Christ.

____ I have biblical support for keeping my self esteem high.

It is extremely important to understand our position in Christ, since our enemy, Satan, is very astute and will try to cut the floor out from under us, leading to an erroneous view of ourselves and thus to spiritual failure. Do we really have a special position in Christ or is that just an illusion? What does the Bible say?

I AM GOD'S CHILD

1. Explain what the phrase "all who received him" means in John 1:12.

   _____

2. What happens when someone receives Christ? _____

   _____

   Children occupy special places in a family, especially when that family is the family of God.

I AM GOD'S TEMPLE

3. 1 Corinthians 6:19 says that each believer is the temple or dwelling place of God. According to this verse, who dwells in every believer?

   _____

4 In this verse, what is meant by the phrase "you are not your own?" _____

   _____

5. If God the Holy Spirit lives in us, can Satan do whatever he wants to us?
   1 John 4:4 Yes ❑ No ❑ Why? _____

I AM A SAINT, CALLED TO BE HOLY

6. Who were the "saints" Paul referred to in Philippians 4:21? _____

   _____

7. In 1 Corinthians 1:2 Paul wrote to those _____ in Christ, and called to be _____. "Sanctified" refers to the fact that each believer has been made holy, not by his own efforts, but because of the work of Christ. To be sanctified means to be set apart from the values of the world, to live for God.

I AM A MEMBER OF CHRIST'S BODY

8. 1 Corinthians 12:27. "you are _____ and each of you is a part of it." When someone accepts Christ, he is baptized with the Holy Spirit, which is to say, made a part of his body (1 Cor. 12:13). The "body of Christ" refers to the universal church, consisting of all the believers throughout the world. (Ephesians 1:22-23)

SOMETHING TO DO

Each day this week, read one or more of the following verses and reflect on your position in Christ:

- ✓ 2 Corinthians 5:17
- ✓ Romans 6:1-11
- ✓ Romans 6:12-23
- ✓ John 15:1-5
- ✓ John 15:15
- ✓ Galatians 4:6-7
- ✓ Ephesians 2:4-7
- ✓ Philippians 3:20
- ✓ 1 Peter 2:11

After reflecting on these verses, what do you think about your position in Christ?



THINK ABOUT IT

Understanding our position in Christ will help us in at least three areas of our lives:

- It will allow us to maintain a healthy self esteem based on who we really are and on what God thinks about us.
- As we live in righteousness each day, we will clearly understand God's plan for our lives.
- We will be strong in our battle against Satan, the world and the flesh.

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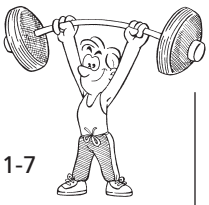


What was your family like when you were a child?

Did you receive the following?

Love	Yes ❑	No ❑
Support	Yes ❑	No ❑
Understanding	Yes ❑	No ❑
Encouragement	Yes ❑	No ❑
Security	Yes ❑	No ❑

If you did not receive love and security as a child, all that has been left behind. Today you have a new family in Christ. Pray that God will take away your bitterness and thank God for the members of your new family.



GROWING STRONGER

Read Matthew 1-7 (one chapter per day).

Memorize Colossians 3:1

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

9. According to Ephesians 2:19 we are no longer foreigners ... but fellow citizens with God's people and members of _____.

10. If we are members of God's household, then other believers are _____ _____

11. Think about how a family functions. What does it mean to you to know that you have a new family? _____

_____

If you were born into a dysfunctional family where love and acceptance were lacking, know that now you have a new family that will support you.

I HAVE DIED TO SIN

12. Galatians 2:20 says we have been _____

What does it mean to be "crucified with Christ"? Look at the rest of the verse to answer _____

_____

13. Colossians 3:1 In addition to being crucified with Christ, we were also _____ with Christ. Therefore how should we live? v.1

_____

14. What does the expression "things above" refer to? _____

_____

I AM FREE FROM CONDEMNATION

15. Romans 8:1 There is no _____ for those who are in Christ

16. Romans 5:1 Since we have been _____ through faith, we have _____ with God. "Justified" means that God has declared us rightous because of Christ's death on our behalf.

Many believers find it hard to believe that God has truly forgiven them, believing their sins are just too many to be pardoned. As a result they continue to experience guilt feelings that keep them from finding victory in Christ. That is why these two verses are so important; they free us.

I'M SPECIAL

17 According to 1 Peter 2:9, what are we now in Christ?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

18. What does it mean to you, knowing that you have a special position in Christ? _____

_____

19. Since he has done so much for me, how should I live my life? 2 Cor. 5:15

_____



Step 5
Spiritual Warfare

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)
____ The devil attacks believers by pointing out all their sins.
____ Satan uses lies to manipulate and intimidate us.
____ All Christians are automatically protected against Satan..

THE INVISIBLE WAR

1. Ephesians 6:12 speaks of a battle. According to this verse, the struggle is not against _____, but against _____
   _____

2. Who do you think these "rulers" and "powers" are? _____
   _____

3. What is Satan trying to do to us? 1 Peter 5:8? _____
   What attitude should a believer have? v. 9 _____
   _____

Who is our enemy?

Some think of Satan as a person from the Comic strips, dressed in red with horns and a tail. Satan himself is probably the author of these ideas, because the Bible presents him in a very different light. Satan, as well as his followers, the demons, are fallen angels. Satan was a cherubim, perfect and beautiful, until he rebelled against God (Ezekiel 28:14-15). Since that time he has been a declared enemy of God and his people.

THE ENEMY'S TACTICS

Satan uses different tactics, depending on the person or the situation. Sometimes he works openly through occult practices like witchcraft and magic. Often however, he is more subtle, making it harder to detect his influence. The more we know about his tactics, the better we will be able to resist him.

4. Read Deuteronomy 18:10-12. What does it say about divination, witchcraft, casting spells, etc..? _____v. 12
   Divination is the practice of foretelling the future or hidden knowledge through magic or omens. Diviners or psychics use things like horoscopes, cards, etc.. At times they claim to be able to read minds.

5. According to 2 Thessalonians 2:9, some of Satan's servants will act with _____, _____ and _____.
   Satan uses his special powers to manipulate, intimidate and to trick people into believing he is invincible, or that he can grant them special favors or power, etc..

6. John 8:44b tells us "he is a _____ and the father of _____,"

DIGGING DEEPER

The devil uses lies to intimidate and trick God's people, trying to side-track them from the true path.

Make a list of some of the lies he has tried to use in your life.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

GROWING STRONGER

Read Matthew 8-14 (one chapter per day).

Memorize James 4:7



Submit yourselves then to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Often, out of ignorance or curiosity we get ourselves in dangerous situations..



If you have ever been involved in any of the forbidden practices listed below, check its box.

- ❑ Consult with a witch or healer.
- ❑ Sought to contact the dead.
- ❑ Consult a horoscope.
- ❑ Consult with a psychic.
- ❑ Made a pact with Satan.
- ❑ Use charms to access hidden power..
- ❑ Watched satanic movies.
- ❑ Practiced white or black magic.
- ❑ Participated in satanic rituals.
- ❑ Consulted with a spirit guide.
- ❑ Other occult practices.

_____

_____

_____



If you have checked any of the above boxes, you need to pray, renouncing your past participation in these occult practices. Ask your pastor or a mature believer for help.

The victory is yours!



7. We are in a battle between the truth and lies, where the battle is won in our minds. That is why Jesus said: "you will know the _____ and the truth will _____." John 8:32

8. Is it possible to know the truth? How? _____

   _____

9. Satan masquerades as an _____ and his servants are disguised as _____ (2 Cor. 11:14-15).

   False religions and philosophies are examples of this tactic. The devil's most effective servants are often "good" people.

10. Revelation 12:10b, mentions another one of Satan's tactics. What is it?

    _____

    Why is it that after confessing their sins, so many Christians still feel guilty? Could it be because they pay more attention to the devil's accusations than to the promise of forgiveness in 1 John 1:9?

11. What is the promise in 1 John 1:9? _____

    Does 1 John 1:9 indicate that there are some sins so big that God will not forgive them? Yes ❑ No ❑

    Is it necessary to do "penance" in order to be forgiven? Yes ❑ No ❑

    The problem of many believers is that they refuse to accept the forgiveness that God offers. They keep beating themselves up as a form of penance because they feel unworthy. They forget that forgiveness is a gift, even though it is undeserved. As long as they think this way, the devil wins.

12. Ephesians 2:2 speaks of people who follow the _____ and the _____ of the kingdom of the air.

    The ruler of the kingdom of the air refers to the devil who tempts us, using all the world has to offer. It must be remembered that sin is almost always very pleasurable and attractive, at least in the beginning.

THE BELIEVER'S CONFIDENCE

13. Although Satan attempts to control us, we don't belong to him. Read Colossians 2:15. What has Christ done with the demonic forces (powers and authorities)? _____

    _____

14. How can 1 John 4:4 give us confidence in the battle? _____

    _____

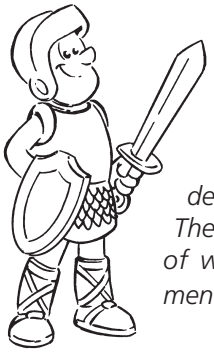
15. James 4:7 promises that the devil will flee from us, but we must first _____ to God _____ the devil.

16. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 Is there victory in Christ to demolish Satan's strongholds? _____. What do we need to do? v. 5b _____

    _____

    Discuss what it means to take our thoughts captive or obedient to Christ.

Step 6
The armor of God

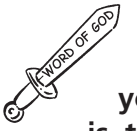


The Christian is not without defenses in his spiritual battles. There are many resources, one of which is the armor of God mentioned in Ephesians 6:11-17

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)
____ The Bible is an important part of my armor.
____ Faith is simply believing that God will do what he has promised.
____ Satan tries to confuse us as to our special position in Christ.

1. What is the purpose of the armor mentioned in Ephesians 6:11, 13?

   _____



"Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist..." (v. 14) **"...and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God."** (v. 17)

We learned in the previous lesson that Satan uses lies to twist the truth just enough to trap us.

2. What allows the believer to be free? John 8:32 _____

3. Where can the truth be found? John 17:17 _____

   To detect a counterfeit bill, a bank teller must know what a genuine bill is like. Since it's not possible to study all the kinds of counterfeit money that exist, knowing genuine money well will allow detection of the counterfeit.

4. In order to have the truth "buckled around your waist," it is indispensable that the believer have a good knowledge of biblical truth. How can a believer increase his biblical knowledge? _____

   _____

Check the boxes that best describe your situation:

How often do you study the Bible in your devotional?
❏ Daily ❏ Occasionally ❏ Almost never

Do you memorize or meditate on scripture passages?
❏ Regularly ❏ Occasionally ❏ Almost never

How often do you hear the word preached in church?
❏ Weekly ❏ Occasionally ❏ Almost never

On a scale of 1-10, grade yourself on your ability to recognize the lies and deceptions of the devil: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

5. The sword of the Spirit is useful to attack as well as to defend. How does Hebrews 4:12 describe the Bible? _____

   When we preach the gospel, we are invading Satan's territory. We teach the Bible, not our personal opinions, because it is the word that penetrates to a sinner's innermost being, convincing and freeing them from their sin.

6. In order to be protected by the truth, it is important not only to _____ _____, but also to _____. James 1:22

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT



Ephesians 6:16 exhorts us to use the shield of faith to extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one. Make a list of some of the arrows Satan has been shooting at you lately.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Why would you say to someone who says: "But I don't have enough faith. My faith is too weak."

_____

_____

_____



What can we do to help our faith grow?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____



"The breastplate of righteousness" v. 14

7. According to Romans 3:24 we have been _____freely by the God's grace. "Justification" means that we have been declared righteous by God; not because we deserve to be called righteous, but because when we receive Christ, he cancels the debt of sin that condemned us.

8. Romans 5:1 One result of our justification is that we are at _____ with God. Knowing this protects us from the lie that God is still holding our sins over our heads because we are unworthy of forgiveness.

9. Since justification gives us the freedom to resist sin, what are we now?
   Romans 6:18 _____
   Saying "no" to sin and practicing righteous deeds is our best defense.

   To put on the breastplate of righteousness means remembering each day that we are no longer under condemnation. This defends us from Satan's accusations and demands that we choose righteousness rather than evil.

DIGGING DEEPER

According to Philippians 4:6-7 the Christian is at peace when he does what verse 6 tells him to do.

"Do not be _____

_____, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,

_____

_____."

Each of us must decide to choose either peace or worry. Which do you choose?

- ❑ To be at peace, leaving my worries in God's hands.
- ❑ To worry, carrying the load of my problems by myself.



"With your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace" v. 15

Since we are at peace with God (Romans. 5:1), we need to always be ready to take the gospel of peace to others.

10. Romans 10:15 says: "How beautiful are the _____ of those who bring _____." Remember that the weapon we use to announce the gospel of peace is the sword of the Spirit, the word of God. Let's trust his word, not our words or abilities to touch people's hearts.



"The shield of faith" v. 16

To use the shield of faith, believe that God acts according to his character and promises. Faith is trusting what the Bible says and acting accordingly.

11. What are the flaming arrows of the evil one? Give examples _____
    _____
    _____
    Using the shield of faith is giving credit to what God says instead of listening to the lies and accusations of the enemy.



"The helmet of salvation" v. 17

The helmet protects our head since Satan's principle target is our mind. As "the accuser" he chips away at our self esteem, trying to convince us that we are weak, helpless failures. His goal is to convince us that we will never be victorious, that resisting temptation is a lost cause.
Remember, in Christ we are "winners", not "losers" (Romans 8:37-39)

GROWING STRONGER

Read Matthew 15-21 (one chapter per day).

Memorize Ephesians 6:11



"Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil;s schemes."

12 Being saved brings a new life with many a whole list of benefits like:
   The right to be called _____. John 1:12
   I will never be lost because I possess _____. John 3:16
   We are at _____ with God. Romans 5:1
   My sins have been _____ Colossians 1:14



Step 7
Forgive to be free

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)
____ It's my right to not forgive those who have hurt me.
____ Forgiving means to forget the offense.
____ I can only find freedom from bitterness by forgiving.

THE NEED TO FORGIVE OTHERS

Find the answers to the following questions in Ephesians 4..

1. Paul exhorted the believers to live in humility, bearing with one another in love. What should characterize my relationships with others?
   _____ Eph. 4:2
2. What does it mean to bear with each other in love? v. 2 _____
   _____
3. Going to bed angry is a way to give a foothold to _____ v. 26-27
4. Why isn't it healthy to go to bed angry? _____
   _____
   In another passage, Paul spoke about the necessity of forgiveness so that Satan won't outwit us. (2 Cor. 2:10-11).
5. Think for a moment. In what ways could Satan gain a foothold if we let bitterness take control of us? _____
   _____

Can I can still be free, even if I don't forgive others? Yes ❑ No ❑
Is it possible that I can become enslaved by bitterness? Yes ❑ No ❑
Can I be at peace with God and hate a brother? Yes ❑ No ❑
Who suffers most when I won't forgive? Me ❑ The offender ❑

ENSLAVED BY BITTERNESS

Many Christians reject the biblical command to forgive, preferring to hold a grudge against the one who has hurt or offended them. They prefer vengeance over forgiveness. They justify their grudge by saying:

I'll never forgive them for what they did to me. How can I be expected to forgive them, just like that? I want to see them suffer."

What they fail to understand is that they themselves are the ones who will suffer the most. When they refuse to forgive, they become ensnared in a web of bitterness, slaves to hate and the quest for vengeance. It is impossible for them to be at peace, and their resentment affects their relationships with others and with God. It doesn't matter that the other does not deserve to be forgiven. The only way they can be free is to obey God's command to forgive those who have hurt them.



Forgiveness
What it is and what it isn't.

What does it mean to forgive another? After reading the following truths jot down on a separate sheet mistaken ideas you have held in the past.

✓ It does not mean to forget the offense. Wouldn't it be great if we could instantly erase past memories? It takes time for the memories to fade.

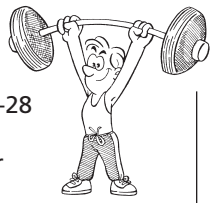
✓ It doesn't mean we have to let the other keep on abusing or manipulating us. In love we must confront them; drawing a line, telling them that even though we have forgiven them, we will not continue to take the abuse.

✓ It means deciding to stop holding it against them. It means stop playing the video of the offense over and over in our minds. Forgiving is refusing to seek vengeance, leaving them in God's hands, letting him deal with them.

✓ It means living with the consequences of the other's sin. Whether we like it or not, we must recognize that we have been hurt badly. Denying our hurt or blaming others will not fix the problem. The only solution is to face the fact that we are wounded so that we can learn to live with the pain and seek healing. What will it be, resentment or forgiveness?

✓ Ask ourselves if we like being bitter people? If not, forgiveness is the only road to freedom.

GROWING STRONGER



Read Matthew 22-28 this week (one chapter per day).

Memorize Colossians 3:13

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

6. We are exhorted in v. 31 to get rid of bitterness, anger, rage and malice. What is the alternative to anger? v. 32 _____

HOW TO FORGIVE OTHERS

7. Who is the model for forgiveness? v. 32 _____

8. What is God's forgiveness like? What kind of people does he forgive? Romans 5:8 _____

Read Romans 12:18-21 and answer the following questions:

9. Is it possible to always be at peace with others? v. 18 Yes ❑ No ❑
   Why? _____
   While I cannot force others to be at peace with me, I can still choose be at peace with them. I can do my part, forgiving and asking forgiveness if I have offended them. If I do that, I'm free, no matter what they decide.

10 According to v. 19 why shouldn't we seek vengeance? _____
   Will those who hurt others escape punishment? Yes ❑ No ❑
   Will God deal with them one day? Yes ❑ No ❑



11. How should I deal with evil? v. 21 _____

12. How can I overcome evil with good? v. 20 _____
    the phrase "heap burning coals on his head" refers to the fact that our enemies are embarassed when we treat them well instead of badly. It is unexpected and suprising to them, and they don't know how to react.

13. Are there limits to forgiveness? According to Matthew 18:21-22, how often should I forgive my brother? _____ What does that mean? Are there times when it is impossible or isn't necessary to forgive? _____

STEPS TOWARD FORGIVENESS



1. What do you feel towards those who have hurt you? Admit your anger and bitterness. If you refuse to acknowledge your strong emotions it will be impossible to resolve them through forgiveness.
2. Remember that Christ died for them as he did for you. Perhaps they don't deserve to be forgiven, but then neither did you when Christ died for your sins.
3. Decide to forgive them even if you don't feel like it. Although your heart says "Don't forgive", decide to do it anyway, letting go of your anger. The decision is yours if you want to be free from your past.
4. Pray to God: "Lord I forgive _____ (name) for _____ (the offense).
5. Decide to not seek retaliation against them in the future. Stop accusing! Drop it!
6. Remember that forgiving is not forgetting. We can't instantly wipe out our memories, but we can choose to meditate about something else (i.e. Scripture) when the memories return. We can remind ourselves we have already forgiven that offense.
7. Don't expect that your decision to forgive will cause a great change in the other person. No matter how they respond, you have done the right thing and are free to move on.

Right Now! What is my decision? I will forgive ❑ Not yet, I want to wait ❑



Step 8
Forgive me

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

____ You can love God and hate an enemy at the same time.

____ It is important to ask forgiveness for an offense, even when the other person is not willing to forgive you.

____ It is best to seek reconciliation by speaking face to face with the other.

When conflicts arise in your family and you offend someone, what do you do?

- ❏ I feel bad but I don't say anything to them.
- ❏ We stop talking with each other for a while. When we finally begin to speak to each other again, we assume things are OK.
- ❏ I go to them, admit my failure and ask them for forgiveness.

WHY ASK OTHERS FOR FORGIVENESS?

1. When you love someone do you insult and offend them? _____

   How do you treat them? _____

2. Read 1 John 4:20. Is it possible to love God and hate someone at the same time? Yes ❏ No ❏

Read Matthew 5:23-26 and answer the following questions.

3. If you have offended someone and have not sought reconciliation, is it possible to be in followship with God? Yes ❏ No ❏



4. Are your offerings, worship or service to God valid if you have not reconciled with the other person? v. 23-24 Yes ❏ No ❏

   Why? _____

5. According to v. 25, why is it urgent to be reconciled with your adversary?

   _____

6. Although most disputes don't reach the point of legal action, do you think it is important to resolve each dispute as soon as possible?

   Yes ❏ No ❏ Why? _____

   _____

   According to v. 22, when we provoke people to anger, we are putting them in danger of judgment. Our failure to seek forgiveness affects our adversary as well as ourselves.

   "Your brother has something against you" in v. 23 means you have done something to offend him. A key to seeking reconciliation is to go to them, admitting our error and ask forgiveness.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How do you answer those who say the following?

- I am willing to ask him for forgiveness as long as he admits his part and does the same.

  _____

  _____

  _____

  _____

  _____

- It is better not to admit I was wrong and ask for forgiveness because it might be used it against me later.

  _____

  _____

  _____

  _____

  _____

- If I ask for forgiveness, he will only laugh at me.

  _____

  _____

  _____

  _____

  _____

- I asked, but he didn't forgive me. So what good did it do? We are back where we started.

  _____

  _____

  _____

THINK ABOUT IT

What do you think it means to be "reconciled" with someone?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Do you need to be reconciled with someone? Who?

- ❑ Spouse
- ❑ Kids
- ❑ Parents
- ❑ Neighbors
- ❑ Friends
- ❑ Others



_____

_____

_____

What will you do today to resolve the conflict and draw closer to this person?

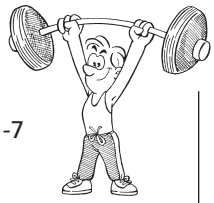
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_____

_____

_____

GROWING STRONGER



Read 1 Corinthians 1-7 **(one chapter per day).**

Memorize Matthew 5:23-24

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

7. Why do you think it is so hard to go to another and ask for forgiveness?

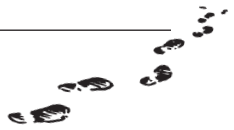
   _____

HOW TO ASK OTHERS FOR FORGIVENESS

8. There are times when words aren't enough. Sometimes it is necessary to make restitution to repair the damage done to another. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, a corrupt official who had stolen much. When he was converted what did he promise to do? Luke 19:8

   _____

   In Old Testament times it was necessary to pay the damages plus a 20% fine (Num. 5:7). Although we don't live under the law, the principle of restitution is still valid today.



Asking forgiveness is a process that involves several steps.

Prepare for Reconciliation:

- Admit you were at fault. Be honest. Recognize what you did to the other.
- Once you have acknowledged you were at fault, ask God for forgiveness.
- If the other is also guilty of offending you, have you forgiven them?
- Look for an appropriate time and place to speak with the offended person.

When you speak with the one you have offended:

- Speak with them personally, face to face and alone, except in cases of immorality or abuse. In these cases it is best to have a counselor or your pastor present.
- Think through the words you will use to ask forgiveness. Admit you were wrong. Use phrases like "it was wrong", "I am at fault." Don't try to brush it off lightly.
- Be humble. Don't try to excuse your actions, or blame others in order to defend yourself. Admit your responsibility, even when the other is guilty too.
- It is not necessary to enter into every detail, but you must be clear about what fault you are confessing.
- Finish your confession with a direct question: Will you forgive me?
- Don't write a letter, except when there is no other way to communicate with the offended. A letter can easily be misunderstood or read by others who have nothing to do with the situation.
- When necessary, make restitution for damages done.

What if they won't forgive me...?

- Turn it over to God and leave it in his hands. You have done your part and can now be free even though the other person is still resentful. Sometimes it will take the other person time to forgive. Meditate on Romans 12:18

9. What's your decision? Are you willing to go and ask forgiveness of the one you have offended? Yes ❑ No ❑ Start today to go through the process described in the box above.



CALLED TO BE HOLY

Step 9
Called to be holy

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

____ I can live a holy life and sin at the same time.
____ God calls me to be holy because he is holy.
____ To be a holy person I must do holy things.

The apostle Paul always called the believers "saints" (Eph: 1:1; Phil. 1:1). Why? He called them this because it expressed who they were in Christ. Because of Christ's blood, they had been declared holy and just.

1. According to 1 Cor. 1:2, Christ has sanctified us. This means that he has set us aside for holiness. Although we are already sanctified, what are we called to? v. 2 _____ What this means is that God wants us to renounce sin and live lives dedicated to Him.

2. What is holiness? We could explain it this way:
   - It means to leave sin behind and give ourselves to God.
   - It is one of God's characteristics; what he is. (1 Peter 1:15-16).
   - It is something that we can attain in Him. (2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Thess. 4:3).

3. Read 1 Peter 1:15-16 answer, Who is holy? _____ Can I be holy? Yes ❑ No ❑.

   Some think people like us could never be truly holy; but would God command us to do something which is unattainable? This doesn't mean we will become perfect, but we will head towards the goal, seeking lives separated from sin.

4. Why don't more believers live in holiness? The Bible says that to be holy we must abstain from certain things. For example, 1 Thess. 4:3, 7 says it is necessary to avoid:

   _____ (v. 3) and _____ (v. 7)

   Jot down some other things the Holy Spirit wants you to avoid:

   _____

5. So then, how important is holiness in the Christian life? Is it just another option or is it really necessary? _____

HOW CAN WE LIVE IN HOLINESS?

6. To cultivate holiness we must _____ _____ 2 Cor. 7:1 Can you think of some examples?

7. What has God done to help us to live pure lives? 1 John 1:9

   _____

THINK ABOUT IT

"Run in such a way as to get the prize." 1 Cor. 9:24



Will your present life style help you to attain this prize?

❑ Yes
❑ No
❑ I'm not sure

If you aren't sure, the following exercise could help you to discover why.

CHECKUP TIME

There are many things that can block your growth.

Check the items on the following list that you feel are keeping you from a truly godly life.

❑ Friends
❑ Family
❑ Work
❑ Music
❑ TV, videos, internet, etc.
❑ Possessions
❑ Lack of a daily devotional life.
❑ Everyday busyness
❑ Not fellowshipping with other believers (church, small groups etc.)
❑ Habits, Which ones?

_____
_____
_____

❑ Other obstacles

_____
_____

Are you willing to make the necessary changes, confessing and leaving behind your sins?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Holiness begins with what we think about and then extends the actions which that thinking produces. Phil. 4:8

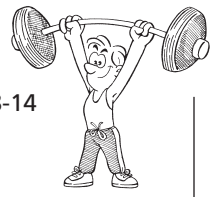
2. Holiness includes control over the body and its appitites as well as the emotions. 1 Cor. 9:27

HOW DO I STAND?

God has given me all the tools I need to live a holy life.

1. He saved me.
2. He freed me from bondage to sin.
3. I am free from condemnation.
4. The Holy Spirit lives in me to produce his fruit.
5. He gave me the Bible to teach me the way to live.
6. He gives me the opportunity to yield my life to him daily.

GROWING STRONGER



Read
1 Corinthians 8-14
(one chapter
per day).

Memorize
1 Peter 1:14-15

"As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do."

8. Read Proverbs 4:23 What should we guard? _____

9. What practical suggestions does the Bible give on how to guard your heart?
   Psalms 119:11 _____
   Colossians 3:2 _____

10. What does Romans 6:19 say about living a righteous life?_____
    _____
    If we used to give ourselves to impure acts, we should now offer our bodies to God to do good, becoming slaves to righteousness instead of sin.

A DAILY COMMITMENT

11. Read Romans 12:1-2. What does God ask of me in v. 1? _____
    _____

12. What is a living sacrifice? _____
    _____
    The prayer below serves as a model of what it means to be a living sacrifice.

"Lord, I surrender myself to you.
Take my mind and what I think.
Take my eyes and what I see.
Take my ears and what I hear.
Take my lips and what I speak.
Take my heart and what I feel as well as my attitudes.
Take my hands and what I do.
Take my feet, and where I go.
Take my body, it is your temple.
Fill me with your Holy Spirit.
I want to obey you.
I want to do your will."



13. Give examples of unhealthy thoughts and conduct common in our world today. _____
    _____

14. To avoid molding ourselves to the world's pattern, we need to renew our _____ (v. 2), that way, we will know what God wants us to do.
    What are some ways we can renew our minds? _____
    _____

15. This passage calls for a daily commitment in order to know and please God, and receive his blessing. Are you ready to make that commitment today, and all the rest of the days of your life?
    Yes ❑ No ❑. _____ Date_____
    Sign on the line above to record your commitment.



Step 10
Stewardship

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

_____ There are more important things than a good salary and a comfortable life.

_____ Only those who can afford it are responsible to give to their church.

_____ Everything we have comes from God.

MY ATTITUDE TOWARDS MATERIAL THINGS

1. According to Luke 12:15, why should I watch out for greed?

   _____

   If one's life does not consist of having things, then what is really important? Luke 12:31 _____

   _____

2. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Why not trust in wealth for enjoyment and security? v. 17 _____

3. Where do I get what I need to truly enjoy life? v. 17 _____

   How often do I express my gratitude to God? _____

4. Where shall a believer look for riches? v. 18-19 _____

   _____

   How long will these last? _____

5. The Bible says I'm an administrator, or steward, of the good things of God. What is the principle requirement to be a good steward? 1 Cor. 4:2

   _____

6. What are some of the things God has given me to administer? _____

   _____

   _____

MANAGING MY MONEY



Money is one of the things God has given me to administer. The Bible teaches that it is important to return to God a part of what he has given me. These are called offerings and tithes.

7. When should I give to God? 1 Cor. 16:2 _____
   This means it is important to support God's work on a regular basis, not sporadically or just when I hear about a special need. The first day of the week refers to Sunday.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Read the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 17:8-16 What do you learn from this story?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Do you think it is really worth it to make sacrifices to support God's work? Why?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

What warning did Jesus give to those who would trust in their wealth for security and happiness? Luke 12:16-21

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

FIGURE IT OUT AND DECIDE

¿What is my weekly or monthly income?

_____

How much is 10% (tithe)?

_____

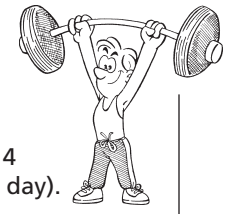
My church should be first on the list to receive my support because that is where I receive teaching and care. In addition there are other projects I can support like missions.

With God's help I purpose to support God's work with:

_____ each month.

_____ each week.

GROWING STRONGER



Read
1 Corinthians 8-14
(one chapter per day).

Memorize 2 Corinthians 9:6

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

8. Is it all right to give only if we have extra money? Yes ❑ No ❑

   Why? _____

9. What should we take into account when deciding how much to give?

   1 Cor. 16:2 _____
   Our giving is to be in proportion to our earnings. Those who receive more will give more. Those who receive less will give less.

10. In Old Testament times the tithe was a requirement. (Leviticus 27:30-32).

    What is a tithe? _____
    A tithe is the tenth part of anything, in other words 10%.

11. If in Old Testament times they gave 10% of their income to God, now that we are in Christ, shouldn't we give at least this much? Yes ❑ No ❑

WHAT SHOULD MY ATTITUDE BE TOWARDS GIVING?

12. According to 2 Cor. 9:6, our offering is an investment in God's work.

    Therefore we should give _____

    Although the believers in Macedonia gave generous offerings to Paul, they sacrificed (2 Cor. 8:1-3). The responsibility and privilege to support God's work is not just for the wealthy.

13. According to 2 Cor. 9:7, we should give as we have _____ in our heart. This means it is important to plan ahead how we will give to God's work and not just do it on impulse.

14. According to 2 Cor. 9:7 we should give "not _____ or _____, because God loves a _____"

15. What should we watch out for? Matthew 6:1-2 _____

    _____

    How should we give? Matthew 6:3-4 _____

    _____

THE BLESSINGS OF GIVING



16. What do the following passages tell us about the blessing of giving to God with sacrificial generosity?

    2 Cor. 9:6 _____

    _____

    Acts 20:35 _____

    Why is it more blessed to give than to receive? _____

    _____



Step 11
I can, but should I?

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)
____ The Bible doesn't forbid some things, even though they aren't good for me.
____ My actions can be a stumbling block for others.
____ My liberty in Christ gives me permission to do whatever I want.

Different believers feel differently about things in our society. For example, there are many views about what is appropriate for Christians in regards to dress, music or entertainment.

These "doubtful" practices cause a lot of tension among Christians because some say they are permissible, while others say they aren't. While there will always be controversy about practices that the Bible does not specifically forbid, we don't have to be at each other's throats when we disagree with others.

In his time, Paul had to deal with the controversy of whether or not a Christian could eat meats sacrificed to idols. The following principles from his writings will help us make better decisions is these "doubtful" areas.

IS IT BENEFICIAL? DOES IT EDIFY?

1. In 1 Corinthians 10:23 Paul presents an important principle which applies to any area of our lives. What did he mean by the phrase "Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial"? _____

   _____

2. Can you give an example of something that isn't good for you, even if it is not expressly forbidden in the Bible? _____

   _____

3. Why avoid some things? Look at the last part of 1 Corinthians 10:23 and complete the following: Although I have freedom to do many things, not all of them _____

   It is best to avoid things that don't edify, even if the Bible doesn't specifically forbid them. A good way to judge whether something is advisable is to ask the following questions

   - *Will this help me grow as a Christian?*
   - *Will it hinder my growth in any way?*

4. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12. What does the last part of the verse mean?

   _____

   Many Christians' lives are controlled by the latest styles, music, what they see on television etc. Often they don't realize or want to admit how much influence certain things have on their lives

5. If something controls your life, is it edifying? _____

   Are there things that have become obstacles, dominating areas of your life? _____. If yes, what are they? _____

   _____

THINK ABOUT IT

Take some time to think about your life. Are your actions building up fellow believers?

List some of the things you do that could cause others to stumble. Ask God to help you gain victory in this area for the benefit of others.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Now think of ways in which you can build up other believers. Jot down specific examples below.

_____

_____

_____

_____

FOR FURTHER STUDY



Read Colossians 3:23-24 and list the principles you find there..

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____



SOMETHING TO DO

Read and meditate on 1 Corinthians10:23-33, listing practical applications for your life.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

HOW DOES IT AFFECT OTHERS? THE PRINCIPLE OF LOVE.

6. What warning do we find in 1 Corinthians 8:9? _____

   _____

7. 1 Corinthians 8:13 gives Paul's position in regards to becoming a stumbling block for others. What does his decision show us? _____

   _____

8. What two things should a Christian avoid? Romans 14:13 _____

   _____

   _____

9. What things in your life might be obstacles in the lives of other Christians?

   _____

10. Strive for? _____& _____ Rom.14:19

"Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others." 1 Cor. 10:24

Consideration for others should be principle that controls our lives. Today there are many customs or activities that are acceptable to some, but not to others. They could be things like dress, our way of speaking, food, entertainments and even things within the church. Therefore, love limits my liberty to the point where another believer's liberty begins. Out of consideration for others, I will limit myself in certain areas.

DOES IT GLORIFY GOD?

11. What should be my goal in all I do? 1 Corinthians 10:31 _____

    _____

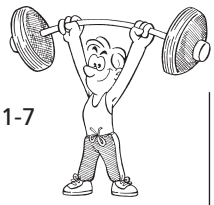
Ask yourself: Can I do this and glorify God at the same time?



SUMMARY In doubtful areas I should take into consideration:

- Even if it is not prohibited, does it edify? Is it beneficial?
- How does it affect others? Does it build them up or cause them to stumble?
- Does it bring glory to God?

GROWING STRONGER



Read 2 Corinthians 1-7 (one chapter per day).

Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:23

Everthing is permissible, but not everything is beneficial. Everythink is permissible but not everything is constructive.

AVOID THE EXTREMES

License: Some believers practice their liberty in Christ unwisely. They don't examine what they do to see how it affects their growth. Neither do they take into account how their behavior affects other believers. They just don't care.

Legalism: there are other believers who's lives are ruled by prohibitions. They believe that spirituality consists of following a list of rules. Their concept of Christianity is based more on what they don't do, rather than what they do. At the same time, they judge others who feel liberty to do certain things. They often reflect attitudes of superiority, criticism and negativism.

A balanced life: This person examines doubtful things, avoiding what is harmful or what does not edify. Out of love for fellow believers, they limit their liberty, so as to not be a stumbling block for others. They seek to glorify God in all they do.



Step 12
Discernment

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)
____ The Bible is the only trustworthy guide for my life.
____ All preachers base what they say on the Bible.
____ It's important not only to study the Bible, but to obey it.

We ask these question because the world we live in is often a very confusing place. Who is telling us the truth? How can I make wise decisions?

THE BIBLE POINTS TO THE RIGHT PATH

1. In a world in which so many claim to have the truth, where can the truth be found? _____ John 17:17

2. What is more correct to say?
   ❑ The Bible contains the truth.
   ❑ The Bible is the truth.



3. What will Bible study do for our lives?
   Psalm 119:98 _____
   Psalm 119:130 _____

4. Bible study is great, but we must understand what Matthew 7:24-27 says.
   Those who _____ Christ's words and _____
   _____ are like wise men who build their houses on a rock. v. 24
   Those who _____ Christ's words and _____
   _____ are like foolish men who build their houses on a sand. v.26

5. What is the main difference between those who build on the rock and whose who build on the sand? _____
   _____

6. According to John 7:17 the person who can distinguish truth from error is the person who _____
   According to this passage, it's not enough to just ***know*** what God wants; we must **choose to *do*** what he says in the Bible. See also James 1:22-24.

WATCH OUT FOR FALSE TEACHERS



7. If a preacher is popular, does it mean his message is biblical?
   Yes ❑ No ❑

8. Many preachers and teachers sound good when they talk about God, but they're not necessarily speaking the truth. What does Matthew 7:15 teach? _____

DECISION TIME

After studying this lesson you might realize that you have lacked spiritual discernment in the past..

Perhaps you have listened to unwise advice or have submitted to a church that manipulates its members, seeking to control them instead of training them to study the Bible for themselves. Or perhaps you have been carried along by emotional preachers without evaluating their message.

Whatever the reason, if you now realize you need more discernment, what can you do about it?

Remember what you learned in Lesson 6. In order to detect a counterfeit bill, a bank teller must know what a real bill looks like. It's not possible to study all the kinds of counterfeit money that exist, but if he knows a genuine bill, it will be easy to detect a counterfeit.

In order to discern between truth and error, it is necessary to know your Bible well.

❑ Today I choose to spend more time studying God's word.

❑ I will have my devotional each day at _____ (hour)

Sign _____

Date _____

DIGGING DEEPER

How can I know God's will for the big decisions in my life?

See the Apendix titled:
Knowing God's Will

9. How can we recognize a true man or women of God? Matthew 7:16-17

   _____

10. How does 2 Timothy 2:15 tell us to use God's word? _____

    _____. There is always the temptation to twist the word to make it say what we want to hear or what is popular. See 1 Thess. 2:3-6

11. Are there preachers who distort God's word? Yes ❑ No ❑

    How can we recognize them? _____

    _____



HOW TO CHOOSE A CHURCH THAT PREACHES THE TRUTH

The following questions can how us evaluate a church.

Yes ❑ No ❑ Do the messages teach the Bible in a clear and orderly manner?

Yes ❑ No ❑ Are it's leaders men of faith? Do they show the fruit of the Spirit?

Yes ❑ No ❑ Are you allowed to think for yourself without blindly accepting what the preacher says?

Yes ❑ No ❑ Is it free from any kind of spiritual manipulation or pressure?

Yes ❑ No ❑ Do its members show concern and compassion for each other?

Yes ❑ No ❑ Does Bible teaching take preference over emotionalism?

Yes ❑ No ❑ Are believers encouraged to study the Bible for themselves?

Yes ❑ No ❑ Is Christ exalted more than those who minister?

Yes ❑ No ❑ Do the messages edify more than they scold?

Yes ❑ No ❑ Is grace emphasized above rules?



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Some churches base their beliefs on religious traditions rather than the Bible. Sometimes these traditions distort biblical truth.

Can you think of some religious traditions that lack biblical support?

_____

_____

_____

_____

INTERPRETING THE BIBLE

Why is there so much confusion regarding the interpretation of some passages? The following principles will help to correctly interpret God's word.

✔ The scriptures must be read with an <u>open mind</u>, sensitive to what the Holy Spirit wants to teach. Preconceived ideas and prejudices must be set aside.

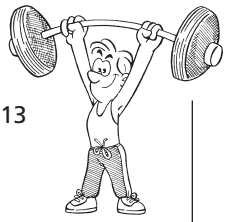
✔ Interpret the Bible <u>literally</u>. It's words should be understand in their normal sense, without trying to "spiritualize" them or find hidden meanings.

✔ Keep in mind the <u>context</u> of the verse when trying to interpret it. The "context" refers to these verses that come before and after as well as the setting of where and when it was written. Ignoring the context will distort the truth.

✔ <u>Let the Bible interpret itself by comparing one passage with another</u>. A difficult or unclear passage should always be interpreted in the light of a clearer passage whose meaning is evident.

✔ Take into account figurative language like metaphors, similes, analogies, hyperbole, etc. For example when Christ said "I am the way" he is speaking in a figurative sense.

GROWING STRONGER



Read
2 Corinthians 8-13
and Psalm 17
(one chapter
per day).

Memorize 2 Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.



Step 13
Sharing Christ

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

____ It's OK for me to decide whether or not I want to evangelize.
____ the majority of people on earth will go to heaven.
____ An effective evangelist has compassion for the lost.

WHY EVANGELIZE?

1. What does Romans 3:10-12, 23 say about the worlds condition? _____

   _____

   Nobody is good enough to reach heaven on their own. We all need Christ.

2. Matthew 7:13-14 speaks of two roads and two different distenies. The wide one leads to _____; The narrow leads to _____

   What will be the destiny of most people? _____

3. Matthew 7:15. One of the reasons many are lost is because there are many _____. Jesus called these false teachers wolves dressed in sheep's clothing, indicating that false teaching almost always is presented as something attractive o good.

4. 1 John 2:28 tells us to _____ in Christ, so that when he come we will have _____ and not _____.

   Those that abide in Christ will obey his commandment to take the gospel to the whole world. We don't know the day or the hour, but each day brings us closer to his coming. Romans 13:11.

5. Evangelism is not optional for the believer. It is not something to do just if we feel like it. Write down the command found in the following passages.

   Matthew 28:19 _____

   Acts 1:8 _____

   2 Timothy 4:2 _____

   As we can see, evangelism is commanded, not suggested; but in order to communicate that message effectively, there are certain requirements Christians must fulfill.

REQUIREMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM

6. Juan 3:3. An evangelist needs to be _____

7. According to John 15:4- 5, we should _____ in Christ. This means to live in fellowship and dependence on him.



THINK ABOUT IT

Read Revelation 20:11-15 and choose one of the following options:

- ❑ Do you want your family or friends to be thrown into the lake of fire?
- ❑ Would you rather have them share eternal life with you in heaven? Rev. 21:1- 7



SOMETHING TO DO

From this moment on, I commit myself to pray for the following people, asking God to give me the opportunity to share Christ with them.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____



ADVICE FOR THOSE WHO SHARE THEIR FAITH

1. Be sincere. Others will know if you really mean what you say.
2. Watch your appearance (personal hygene, dress appropriatly etc.)
3. Be kind. How you say something is often more important that what you say.
4. Be gentle. The goal is not just to win an argument.
5. Listen. This will help you present the gospel more effectively.
6. Memorize scripture passages to accompany your gospel presentation.

SOMETHING ELSE TO THINK ABOUT

Write down the demands of 1 Peter 3:15 and reflect on them.

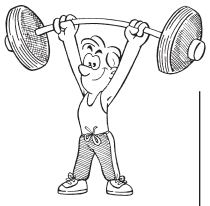
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_____

_____

_____



GROWING STRONGER

Read
1 Timothy 1-6
and Psalm 18
(one chapter
per day).

Memorize Romanos 10:15

And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

8. Matthew 9:36; 14:14. We need _____ for people, just as Christ did.

9. According to Matthew 7:29 we need to speak with _____. This does not mean we have to go around healing or performing miracles, but rather to have scriptural backing for our message. The Bible is powerful tool which can be trusted to convince people of their need Above all, our lives need to demonstrate what God's work has done in our lives. (Matthew. 5:16).

10. 2 Timothy 1:8 We must not _____

DUTIES OF AN EVANGELIST

Pray: Ask for the Holy Spirit's guidence to effectively present the gospel at appropriate times.

Search the scriptures: As God's messenger, it is important to study the Bible regularly since that is what gives testimony to Christ. (John 5:39).

Memorize the plan of salvation: Look at the simple plan of salvation in the appendix and learn it by memory. This will allow you to be ready to share Christ when an opportunity arrises. Having it memorized will allow you more freedom and confidence when you share.

HOW TO START AN EVANGELISTIC CONVERSATION



Depend on God's Spirit to open doors to testimony. The following questions could help you begin the conversation.

✓ *Supose you were to die today and God asked you: "Why should I let you into heaven?" What would you answer?*
Their answer will indicate whether the person has understood the gospel or whether they are trusting in their works to be saved.

✓ *In your opinion, what must someone do in order to go to heaven? Would you like to know what the Bible says about this subject?*

✓ When someone tells you about a personal problem, ask: *Could I pray for you right now?* The vast majority of people will be thankful for your interest and prayer. This will also leave the door open for future conversations.

✓ *Could you help me by giving me your opinion of this booklet?* If the person says "yes" present them with an evangelistic tract or booklet.

✓ When the conversation turns to topics like problems in the world or your community (family disintegration, crime, drugs etc.) ask: *What do you think is the solution for all these problems? Did you know that the Bible gives us answers?*

✓ *Have you reached the point where you feel assured that you will go to heaven when you die? Would you like to know how you can have that assurance?*

✓ *Where do you find yourself in your spiritual pilgramage?*

✓ *Has anyone ever shared with you how you can know God? Would you like to hear what the Bible says about this subject?*

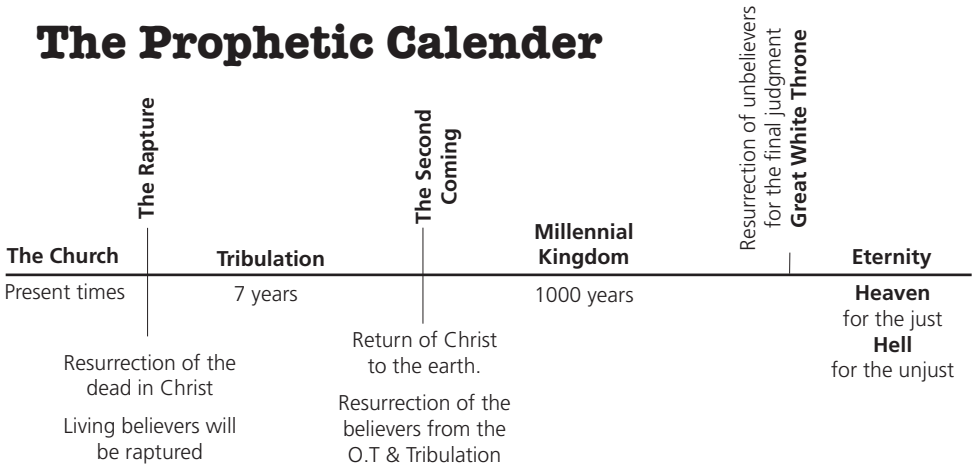


Step 14
The Future

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)
____ The rapture is the same as the tribulation.
____ A horrible time of judgement awaits unbelievers.
____ At any time Christ could come to call us believers into his presence.

Sometimes we see the confusion in the world and ask, what does the future hold? Is God still in control here on earth? The Bible lays out God's sovereign plan for the future. This lesson will focus on of the details of that plan.

The Prophetic Calender



THE RAPTURE

The Bible teaches that at some unexpected moment in the future, Christ will come to take the church into his presence. This is called the rapture. At any time Christ could come in the clouds to rapture the church. The rapture is not the same as the second coming which we will study in the next lesson.
1 Thess 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-53

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Here Paul answers the question, what happens to believers who have died? Let's see how he answers the question:

1. What happens as the trumpet sounds and the Lord descends from heaven?
   v. 16b _____
   v. 17 _____
2. Who will come to take us away? v. 16 _____
3. Where will we meet up with the Lord? v. 17 _____
4. Where will we be after the rapture? v. 17 _____
   _____

THINK ABOUT IT

Do you have any loved ones who have died? If they were believers, how do you feel after meditating on 1 Thessalonians. 4:13-16?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Does the Bible teach that all religious people will be raptured?

Yes ❑ No ❑

Is it possible that there are people who claim to be Christians, but who really aren't?

Yes ❑ No ❑

Could there be people in your church who claim to be Christians, but who really aren't?

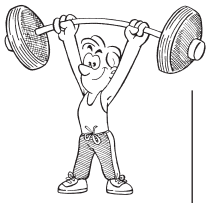
Yes ❑ No ❑

What will happen to them when the rapture occurs?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

GROWING STRONGER

Read 2 Timothy 1-4 and Psalm 19-21 (one chapter per day).



Memorize 1 Thess. 4:17

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

SOMETHING ELSE TO THINK ABOUT

Some have heard the gospel, but refused to accept Christ. They say "If all this about the rapture is really true and someday all the Christians disappear, then I'll accept Christ."

In light of what the Bible says about the tribulation, what would you say to these people? Before answering, read Revelation 20:4 to see what will happen to many who accept Christ during the tribulation.

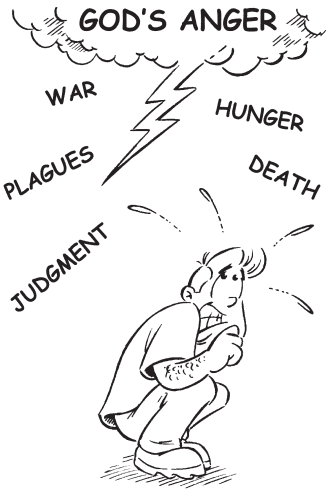
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_____

_____

_____



Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 and answer the following questions:

5. "We will not all _____ but we will all be _____" v. 51
   The word "sleep" is an reference to death. Not all believers will die because some will be raptured before death.
   Will all living Christians be raptured or only some? _____

6. At the Rapture, the perishable will be converted into _____
   and the mortal will be converted into _____ v. 53
   What do you think that means? _____
   _____

7. How long will it take for the rapture to occur? v. 52 _____
   _____

In summary: At any time, Christ could return to rapture his church. In an instant, the believers who have died will be raised up, and then those believers still living on earth will be taken to be with Christ forever. Both the living and the dead will be transformed, receiving new bodies that will no longer be subject to weakness, sickness or sin.

THE TRIBULATION

The Bible also teaches that after the rapture, there will be seven years of terrible trouble on the whole world.

8. Matthew 24:21 says there will be _____,
   like the world has never seen up until now, or ever will see. Verse 22 indicates it will be so bad that nobody would survive if it were not for the fact that God will stop the destruction so as not to destroy all life on earth.

The book of Revelation describes the tribulation as follows:

✓ It will begin after the rapture of the Church.

✓ God will pour out his wrath against the sinfulness of mankind. (Rev. 14:19-20)

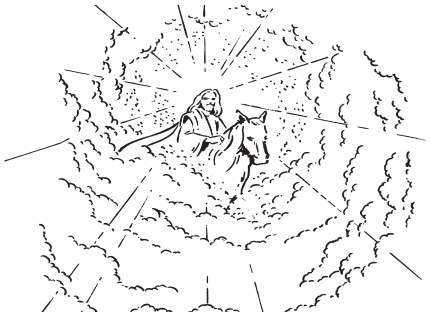
✓ There will be three series of judgments (Rev. 6, 8-9, 15-16) which will include war, hunger, plagues and earthquakes. More than half of the world's population will die. One third of the earth's vegetation, drinking water and sea creatures will be destroyed. People will be tormented for five months by pain so intense that they would prefer to die.

✓ The whole world will fall under the control of the Antichrist, a declared enemy of God and his people. (Rev. 13:3, 4, 7)

✓ Those who choose to remain faithful to God will be persecuted, many unto death (Rev. 6:9-11; 7:9-14; 20:4). There will also be strong persecution against Israel. (Rev. 12; Mt. 24).

✓ There will be many false prophets and religions, culminating with a world wide worshipping of the Antichrist. (2 Thess. 2:3-4, 9; Rev. 13:8, 11-18)

✓ The Tribulation will end with Christ's return to earth to judge evil and establish his kingdom.



Step 15
More about the future

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

____ The second coming will cause great happiness among the majority of the earth's inhabitants..

____ One day Christ will return to judge and reign over the world.

____ Non believers will be judged and thrown into the lake of fire.

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

In contrast to the rapture, where Christ comes without being seen by those on earth, the Bible speaks of Christ's visible return to earth. At the end of the tribulation, when the world is at the point of destroying itself, Christ will come to judge the world and establish his thousand year kingdom.

1. Who will see the second coming of Christ to earth? Revelation 1:7

   _____

2. How will people react to his coming? _____

Read Revelation 19:11-16 and answer the following questions:

3. He will come with justice to _____ and _____ v. 11

4. Christ will tread the winepress of _____ v. 15

5. Who should dread the second coming? _____

   In contrast, for the just, the second coming is a time of rejoicing which signals the end of the Antichrist's reign and the beginning of a reign of justice.

6. Verse 11 calls him _____.
   Although he come to judge, his judgments are always in accord with the truth and justice. Each person will receive exactly what he deserves.

7. Verse 16 calls Christ _____.
   Christ will establish a perfect kingdom on earth; but first he must rid the world of evil, so that his reign over all peoples will be one of peace & justice.

   In summary: At the end of the tribulation Christ will return to earth to accomplish two things: To judge and to rule. His judgments will be fierce against all evil, while his reign will be perfect, just and peaceful.

THINK ABOUT IT

In light of the condition of the world today, it could be easy for believers to become discouraged, doubting that God is really still in control.

In spite of what things look like, biblical prophecy gives us a different viewpoint, allowing us to see things as they really are.

"...the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed... It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever." Daniel 2:44

"But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever–yes, for ever and ever." Daniel 7:18

THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

Christ's reign will be called the millennium because it will last for a 1000 years.

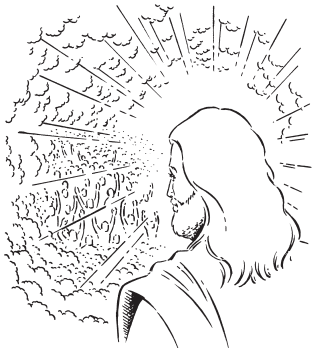
8. Where will Satan be during the millennial kingdom? Revelation. 20:1-3

   _____

9. Isaiah 11:4 describes the millennium as a time of _____
   _____ for the poor and _____ for the wicked.

10. How is the peace of the millennium described in Isaiah 11:6? _____

    _____



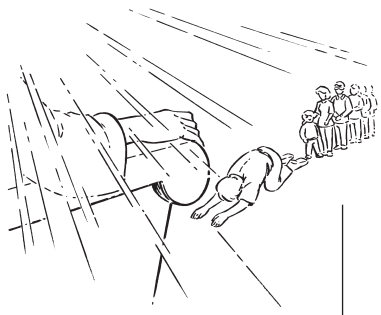
CHECK UP

1 Cor. 3:11-13 speaks of different building materials we use to construct our lives. Which materials predominate in your life?

❑ Gold, silver & costly stones

❑ Wood, hay or straw

WE MUST ALL GIVE AN ACCOUNTING TO GOD...



SOMETHING TO DO

Write down the names of your acquaintances whose names are not written in the book of life.

_____

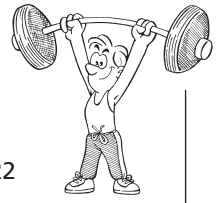
_____

_____

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_____

You can do something to help change the eternal destiny of these people. Ask God for opportunities to speak to them about Christ.



GROWING STRONGER

Read
Revelation 19-22
& Psalm 22-24
(one chapter per day).

Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all apper before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done in the body, whether good or bad.

11. Evil will not be allowed to hurt or destroy because the earth will be full of _____. Isaiah 11:9

JUDGEMENT OF THE WORKS OF EACH BELIEVER

12. Read 2 Corinthians 5:9-10. Paul always tried to please the Lord. Why?
    v. 10 _____

13. What will we be accountable for at the judgement seat of Christ? v. 10
    _____

14. 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, campares the works of some believers to gold, silver and costly stones which will survive the fire of God's judgment. The works of other believers are like wood, hay and straw, which will not stand the test of God's judgment.

    v. 14 The believer whose work survives, will receive _____

    v. 15 If another's work is burned up, he will _____

    He will be _____, but only as one escaping through the flames. This means that some of those saved will arrive before God with their hands emply, with nothing to present to the Lord for rewards.

JUDGEMENT OF THE UNBELIEVERS AT THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

Revelation 20:11-15 describes the judgment of the works of unbelievers when they stand before the Lord.

15. Who will be judged? Will anyone escape the final judgment? v. 11-13
    _____

16. What will happen to those whose names are not written in the book of life? v. 15 _____

17. How is the lake of fire described in Revelation 14:10-11? _____
    _____

18. Who else will be in the lake of fire? Rev.. 20:10 _____

ETERNITY

19. Rom. 8:21 One day the creation will be liberated from _____
    _____ and brought into _____
    After the mlilennial kingdom and the judgement of the great white throne, God will destroy the earth and create a new heavan, a new earth and a new city, the heavenly Jerusalem. (Rev. 21:1-3). In this heavenly city, God will dwell with those of us who have been redeemed.

20. From the following verses in Revelation, write down some of the conditions that will prevail in the new Jerusalem and new earth.
    21:4 _____
    21:27 _____
    22:3 _____
    22:5 _____

Appendix 1

Knowing God's Will

1. Do you believe it is possible to know God's will? See Psalms 32:8.

2. Are you willing to obey God's will no matter what, or do you just want to know what his will is so you can decide if that is the route you want to go? John 7:17

3. Have you ever made the decision to commit you life completely to Christ? If not, meditate on Romans 12:1-2 and seek the counsel of a mature believer.

4. Is there unconfessed sin in your life? Are you pretending to live a normal life while you are hiding something from God? If so, take the time now and confess that sin. If your are unwilling to face your sin, your search for God's will is in vain. 1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13; Psalms 66:18.

5. Are you obeying what God wants you to do day by day? If not start today. The most important thing is to obey what we already know to be his will. For example, each command we find in the Bible is a clear indication of what he wants us to do.

6. Have you already made up your mind and wouldn't really be interested in receiving advice? Do you really care what the Bible says about the decision you are about to make? Pray, asking God to give you a willing heart to do his will, no matter what it is. Phil 2:13

7. Are you praying specifically about the decision you will be making soon? Write down your thoughts about the decision you need to make, and begin to pray about them. Pray in faith, believing that God will give you guidance. James 1:5-7, Mark 10:51

8. How about your devotional life? Are you in fellowship with Christ moment by moment throughout the day? Are you reading the Bible and praying daily? If not, commit to start today. As you fill your mind with God's word, you will learn to think and make decisions biblically.

9. Has God spoken to you by means of your study in his Word? Do you feel that certain passages are calling you to make changes in your lifestyle or make adjustments in the course you have chosen? Write down in a notebook what you feel God is trying to tell you. If you are reading the Scriptures, but don't yet feel any leading, keep on reading and wait patiently.

10. Do you have all the necessary information in order to be able to make a wise decision? If not, find out what you need to know to be able to make an informed decision.

11. Make a list of the pros and cons regarding the decision you are contemplating. Evaluate each of the advantages and disadvantages in the light of the Scriptures. Things are not always what they appear to be at first glance.

12. What does common sense tell you to do?

13. What do you want to do? Do you have a special preference?
Psalms 37:4

14. Before making decisions, ask how they will effect you spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually. Meditate on the truth of 1 Cor.6:12. The fact that something is not specifically forbidden in Scripture, does not necessarily indicate that it is correct or edifying.

15. Have you thought about whether the decision you are considering will crowd out other healthy things in your life. Will it move you towards a materialistic or sensual lifestyle? Will it bring you more or less peace? Mark 4:19

16. How will your decision affect others? Will it cause others to stumble? 1 Cor. 10:23; Prov. 14:21. Will it glorify God? 1 Cor 10:31

17. Have you sought out the advice of a mature believer? Prov. 15:22

18. Does the decision you are about to make violate any specific Scriptural commands?

19. If you are unsure about the course of action you should take, are you willing to wait in faith until God gives you peace and the appropriate circumstances? Hebrews 10:36

20. If your have inward peace and a conviction that it is God's will, proceed with confidence. Act on your faith. Romans 14:23; Hebrews 11:6

Appendix 2

What is our message?
A summary of the gospel

There are many ways to present the gospel. We may use any of them, but there is a basic message that all must understand to be saved. The following plan of salvation is adapted from *The Four Spiritual Laws.*

1 **God loves you and has a plan for your life**.

John 3:16 God loves us.

John 10:10b God has a plan for our lives.

Why are so few people experience God's love and plan for their lives?
The answer is found below.

2 **We are sinful and separated from God**.

Romans 3:23 We have all sinned.

Romans 6:23 The consequences of sin is spiritual death and eternal separation from God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 Salvation is by faith alone. We cannot save ourselves through good works.

3 **Christ is God's only provision to save us. He died in our place.**

Romans 5:8, Christ died for us.
2 Corinthians 5:21 He took our sins so that we might be declared righteous.

John 14:6 Jesus is the only way of salvation.

1 Corinthians 15:3-6 Christ was raised from the dead.

4 **We must receive Christ as our savior.**
John 1:12 We must receive Christ to become God's children.

Revelation 3:20 We must invite Christ to come into our lives.

Certificate

This certificate is presented to

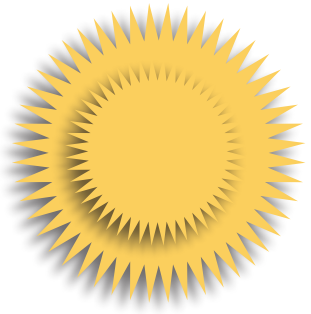
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who has satisfactorily completed all the lessons of the course

New Life in Christ Volume 2

More Basic Steps of the Christian Life

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you
will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:29



_____ _____

Pastor or Teacher Date



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