



**A Local Church Ministry Of 12 Lessons
designed to help the New Convert in Christ
to grow in the Grace and Knowledge of the Lord**

**Written By: Dr. E. Ray Shutt, Soul-Winning/Visitation Pastor
Church of the Open Door, Westminster, Maryland**

Lessons For The New Convert In Christ

(Teacher Edition)

*A Local Church Ministry of 12 Lessons
designed to help the New Convert in Christ
to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord*

Written By:

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Westminster, Maryland

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"Lessons For The New Convert In Christ" is a set of twelve lessons designed to be taught in a class type environment to those who have recently received Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour.

Each lesson is designed to be taught in a Sunday School Class environment which would last approximately thirty-five (35) minutes. Each lesson will have some specific verses for the new convert to read and mark in their Bible during the week after the lesson and before the next lesson to help encourage and strengthen them in what they have been taught.

Please make certain that each new convert is given an Authorized King James Bible when they attend the first class so they are able to follow the Bible teaching of each lesson.

This class should not serve to become a *"Discussion Class"* as this tends to take away from the set teaching of the lessons that the new convert needs to be taught so that they may become a spiritually mature and faithfully serving child of God within your church membership.

However, it is encouraged that there be a short Question and Answer period at the end of each class time, approximately ten (10) minutes, for any questions that may arise during the lesson time.

"Lessons For The New Convert In Christ" has been designed and is intended to be used as a continued extension of ***"The Soul-Winners Club"*** in fulfillment of our Lord's Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19-20 where we are commanded to *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*

Our prayer is that through the faithful and loving teaching of God's Word found within the pages of *"Lessons For The New Convert In Christ"*, each new convert who attends this class will not only begin to grow in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, but that they will see the genuine Christ-centered love and concern of the local soul-winning church and body of born-again baptized believers who first led them to Christ, and now, as newborn babes, they will desire the sincere milk of the word, that they may grow thereby as seen in I Peter 2:2.

May our Lord richly bless both the teacher of these lessons as well as each new convert being taught *"Lessons For The New Convert In Christ"*.

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Introduction:

What Does A New Convert In Christ Need Most After Receiving Jesus Christ As Their Saviour?

When a baby is born into a young couple's family, what a blessing it is to know that a new life has been brought into this world! As soon as that baby is born, the doctor and his medical team want to make certain that it is kept breathing on its own and that it is kept safe from all harm so that it might have the opportunity to grow up and later become a vital part of society.

That child is watched over by both the doctor and the nursing staff to make certain there are no problems or infections that would hinder the new born child's growth and development.

One of the first things that baby will learn to do will be to get nourishment from it's mother and to develop an appetite that it might grow and feed upon the correct diet that will satisfy the hunger that it now has after being born.

That baby is tenderly cared for and watched over by the medical staff who knows and understands that this child was not born to simply remain in the hospital with them or kept in some incubator all it's life, but rather, they know and understand that their job is to lovingly deliver this child into it's new family and to ensure that it has been provided with all the care and proper inoculations needed that it might soon be taken home by loving parents where it will continue to grow and learn how to live an active and productive life.

Before that child leaves the hospital they will ensure that it has a good and safe environment to be taken to after it's delivery so that baby can develop properly and grow up in a loving and caring environment after it has been delivered.

Once home, those parents will love that child and care for every need of that child. They will provide the right nourishment that is needed and will be willing to give their child that nourishment as often as it is needed.

Those parents will change that baby when it needs changing and will be sure to wash that baby when it is dirty.

They will gently care for that child and calms it's every fear of whatever may frighten it or cause it to feel insecure. They will even stay up late and rock that new baby to sleep at night when it frets and cries, knowing that it cannot take care of itself at this time!

Those parents will lovingly sacrifice so as to provide for that child and it's every need. They will clothe that child and protect it from the elements and from all other things that may potentially harm the child, no matter how small or insignificant those things may seem to be.

Eventually, those parents will teach their new child to walk, and to talk, and to feed itself, and to clothe itself. They will love their child and teach that child to one day love and obey them in love and respect

for all they have lovingly done for their child through the years, and all for one reason...so that one day, that child will grow up to become both an honor to its parents as well as a vital part of society who will one day show that same kind of love for his own family as his parents have shown unto him.

And aren't these the same things that God desires and wants provided for those "newborn babes" who have repented of their sin and who have, by faith, received Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour and have thereby been born into the family of God as one of his dear children?

And is this not the "purpose" for having a New Convert Class in our church—to satisfy the spiritual and perhaps even the physical needs of someone who has been birthed into the family of God and who needs some basic love and concern shown to them in order that they might learn to "...*desire the sincere milk of the Word...and grow thereby...*" as stated in I Peter 2:2?

So what are the basic needs of a new convert in Christ and what do you need to know in order to begin growing spiritually in the Lord?

The Bible says in II Thessalonians 3:3, "*But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.*" Therefore, we have developed twelve basic Bible lessons that will not only ground you and settle you in your new faith in Christ Jesus, but will also "*stablish you*" and strengthen you to stand for Christ in a world that so often does not!

There are specific Goals and Objectives for the lessons being taught in this class! (*NOTE: Goals and Objectives for the New Convert are found on page 9 of this Teacher Edition and on page 7 in the Student Edition*)

For Those Who Teach The Class...

Teacher, as you stand before the people in your class, please encourage them to be faithful to attend each of the classes.

As a new born babe in Christ, the devil will do all he can to discourage and to intimidate each new convert that comes to this class and will try to make them think they cannot live for God, perhaps because of their past, and even quite often, because of their present situations in life!

As a teacher in this class, never forget how God loved you while you were in your sin and how He saved you, and has blessed you, and has given you wisdom and strength to grow for Him since the day that you received Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour!

You need to see yourself as being more than simply a "teacher" of Biblical facts and truths to these dear folks. In all that you do in this class, you need to see yourself as a living example that God has set before them. Give them Scripture verses from the Word of God to read and to learn during the week that pertains to each lesson as it is taught.

God used the Old Testament prophet Isaiah to strengthen and encourage the children of Israel and to remind them of the fact that they were indeed God's special and chosen people, even while having to live in a cruel and wicked world that did not recognize God as 'God' or His people as being 'special' in the eyes of God!

God told them in Isaiah 41:10, *"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."*

And while this verse was written to God's chosen people of Israel, what a great truth and promise is also extended to the man, woman, boy, or girl who first sees themselves lost in sin and in captivity to Satan, but who repents of their sin and calls upon God to save them through the atoning work of Jesus Christ, who died upon the cross for the sin of the whole world, who was buried in a tomb for three days and three nights, and who arose victorious over the power of death and the grave and who lives today to give every born again child of God new and eternal, everlasting life!

As teacher in this class, you need to be mindful of all that God has done for you and how He has taught you to trust Him and to live for Him through His precious Word. Thank the Lord and never forget how He has called and appointed you to help teach this class so that these new converts too, one day, can help teach others what God has taught them, even as Paul taught young Timothy in II Timothy 2:1-2 where he said, *"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."*

Teacher, take time to pray, not only for each new member of this class to grow in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, but also pray and ask the Lord to help keep your heart tender toward the spiritual needs of your class members!

Take time during this twelve week session to help call and follow-up on each new convert class member personally, then seek out and recruit the help and assistance of other ministry leaders to encourage these new converts to be faithful to complete this first basic course after being saved and to continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This class should be one that is constantly receiving new members into it as well as graduating out those who have completed the course.

This should be a class that teaches each new convert to truly be thankful to God for His great gift of salvation, and you, as their teacher, are the key!

Take time to show them how and why they, as new born babes in Christ, should have a new love for God, for His church, and for His Word. Why? First of all, because of the difference the Lord has made in their life since they received Christ as their personal Saviour. But secondly, for the fact of what God desires to do, both for them and through them, as one of His dear children!

Remind each new convert that now, as a born again child of God, the devil will indeed do all he can do to not only tempt them to do wrong and to disobey the Word of God, but also to persuade them to forsake any time they spend with God, whether in attending church, or in reading God's Word, the Holy Bible, or simply go back to the ways of the world as it was before they received Christ Jesus as their own personal Saviour.

Teacher, it is your job to remind them that when those times of testing come, the same God who has saved them has also promised to be with them and to give them the strength they need to overcome the devil and all the things of the world that may tempt them to turn back on God! It was Jesus who declared to his disciples in John 16:33, *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."*

Allow the members of your class to see your faithfulness to God even when they know you are facing trials and the temptations of life. And how can this be accomplished? Through your own personal commitment, service, and dedication unto God, helping them to understand that great truth found in God's Word in I John 4:4 which says, *"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."*

And as you stand and teach these dear *"little lambs of God"*, they will see, through your personal faith and commitment to God to teach this class, as well as through their hunger and faithfulness to come each week and hear the Word of God taught and preached unto them, just how much God really does love them and desires to help them grow in their new life in Christ Jesus!

May God now bless both you, as the teacher of these lessons, and the new convert in Christ who is learning to live their new life in Christ, as each of you better learn to apply these Biblical truths and principles for living for the Lord to your day to day living as a born again child of God!

For the New Convert... *(NOTE: This section is located on page 7 of the Student Edition)*

The lessons for this class are designed to help establish and strengthen your faith in the Lord God who has saved you and to help you to see and understand the importance of the Word of God in your spiritual growth from day to day!

As we learn from II Thessalonians 3:3 which tells us, *"But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil."*, you will see how the Lord uses His precious Word, the Holy Bible, to do this. And with the help of the Word of God, as well as with the help of the Holy Spirit of God who dwells within you from the moment you receive Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour, you will be amazed to see how God will work in your life and help you to grow as a child of God in the days to come!

Keep track of your attendance below and make sure you are on time and in class so as to complete every lesson each week! **(NOTE: This section is located on pages 8-11 of the Student Edition)**

Lesson One Completed On : _____	Lesson Seven Completed On : _____
Lesson Two Completed On : _____	Lesson Eight Completed On : _____
Lesson Three Completed On : _____	Lesson Nine Completed On : _____
Lesson Four Completed On : _____	Lesson Ten Completed On : _____
Lesson Five Completed On : _____	Lesson Eleven Completed On : _____
Lesson Six Completed On : _____	Lesson Twelve Completed On: _____

Now that you have accepted the free “... **gift of God which is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord...**”, we want to help you continue to grow in your new life “**in Christ**”.

Within the pages of these lessons, we have compiled many “HELPS” for you as a new Christian, all of which are taken directly from the precious Word of God, and are so arranged as to give you Biblical answers to subjects that will assist you in your continued spiritual growth and maturity in the Lord.

Each lesson in this class is designed with one Bible-based purpose in mind, and that being to **HELP YOU AS A CHRISTIAN** to continue to grow in the grace and in the power of our Lord Jesus Christ so that you too may be able to lead your family and friends to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As a new Christian, you will want to meet and fellowship with other Christians and learn more about God’s Word, so we also want to invite you to join us for each service here at Church!

The lessons being taught over the next twelve week period will include the following Biblical truths and principles...

Lesson One:

Every new convert needs to know and understand what happened to them the very moment they received Jesus Christ as their Saviour and to have a Biblically founded Assurance of their Salvation!

- Every new convert needs to see themselves as God saw them before they accepted Christ as Saviour!
- Every new convert needs to see themselves as God sees them now that they have received Christ as their Saviour and have been saved!
- Every new convert needs to understand their new relationship in Christ and how it has changed their present condition as well as their future!

Lesson Two:

Every new convert needs to see and understand the importance of learning to trust and depend upon God's Holy Word in their life each day!

- Why is the Word of God so important?
- Why does the devil and the world hate the Word of God?
- Why should the child of God love the Word of God?
- Which Bible should I use as the Word of God and Why?

Lesson Three:

Every new convert needs to understand that they are indeed a new creature in Christ now that they have been saved!

- What does it mean to be a "new creature" in Christ?
- Old things are passed away...
- All things are become new...

Lesson Four:

Every new convert needs to expect certain things to happen now in their life from day to day!

- Every new convert should expect a new hunger for truth and righteousness each day in their life!
- Every new convert should expect attacks from Satan, the enemy of God, as they grow in Christ each day!
- Every new convert should expect God to be faithful in providing victory, and joy, and peace, and wisdom in every aspect of their life so they too may be found faithful to serve God each and every day!

Lesson Five:

Every new convert needs to understand why they need to go to church and why church attendance is so important for them now that they are saved!

- Why it is important to go to Church!
- Why it is important to go to "the right Church" and how to correctly determine, through the Word of God, which church really is "the right Church" to attend!
- Why it is important to not hesitate but to begin attending church immediately!

Lesson Six:

Every new convert needs to understand what the Bible teaches about the local church!

- The Biblical purpose, ordinances, and observances of the local Church
- The Biblical command to be faithful in attending the local Church
- The Biblical command and privilege to give as God has prospered you to the local Church
- The Biblical command and responsibility provided to every born again child of God to serve the Lord through the local Church

Lesson Seven:

Every new convert needs to learn some basic Bible truths that will help them stay faithful to God in a lost and dying world!

- Assurance of our Salvation when doubts may arise
- The Biblical results of accepting Christ as our Saviour
- What to do when the devil tempts us to do wrong
- The importance of the Word of God in our life as a child of God
- The importance of time spent in prayer as a child of God
- The importance of fellowship and fellowship in our life as a child of God
- The importance of knowing what to do when we sin as a child of God
- The purpose and the importance of the Holy Spirit in our life as a child of God

Lesson Eight:

Every new convert needs to know that God has a purpose and plan for their life!

- The Key to finding God's Will for your life – Ask, Seek, Knock
- Biblical Examples of how God works in a person's life – Joseph, Daniel, Job, Paul
- Does God really have a purpose and plan for me?

Lesson Nine:

Every new convert needs to know how to tell their family and friends how to be saved!

- The reason “why” every child of God ought to be a Soul-Winner
- God's Simple Plan of Salvation – What does the Bible say?
- Introducing the new convert to The Soul-Winner's Club
 - o NOTE: Teacher, encourage each new convert to sign up for and to participate in the next Soul-Winner's Club Session!

Lesson Ten:

Every new convert needs to live as if today were the day that Jesus may come again!

- Understanding that Jesus' promise to come back again is true and eminent!
- Accountability unto God in the life of the child of God in light of Christ's return!
- Understanding that there are eternal rewards for faithful service as a child of God as well as understanding that there are eternal losses for choosing to be an unfaithful servant of the Lord!

Lesson Eleven:

Every new convert needs to continue to grow for the Lord from day to day!

- Learn how and why you need to keep yourself clean with God each day
- Learn how and why you need to read the Word of God on a regular basis
- Learn how and why you need to pray for your family and friends
- Learn how and why you need to let your light so shine before men (Matthew 5:16)
- Learn how and why you need to attend Sunday School faithfully to grow in the Lord and in His Word

- Learn about the different Sunday School Classes within this church and how you can become part of one of them each week after completing this course
 - NOTE: Teacher, give a list of the new converts in this class to each Sunday School Teacher so that each teacher may then make contact with each of the new converts and invite them to attend their class

Lesson Twelve:

Every new convert needs to commit himself to the One who has saved them!

- Show your commitment to God by not being ashamed of the One Who has saved you!
- Show your commitment to God by joining a Biblically sound, Bible preaching Church!
- Show your commitment to God by getting involved in the Church you have joined!
- Show your commitment to God by giving of your time, your talents, your temple, and your treasure unto the Lord!
 - NOTE: Teacher, encourage each student to make a public profession of faith in Christ, to follow the Lord in Believer's Baptism, and to join the Church if they have not already done so by the time this class is completed!
 - NOTE: Teacher, make certain each pertinent Sunday School Class Teacher has a list of those students scheduled to complete the New Convert Class by the end of the tenth lesson week.
 - NOTE: Teacher, make certain that each student completing this class has indeed chosen a Sunday School Class to become part of next Sunday. Make certain you follow-up with the teacher of that class to make certain they have contacted the new converts and have invited them to attend their class and that the new convert is actually attending a class on Sunday.

Now, let's begin the journey of learning how to live victoriously in your new life in Christ Jesus!

Lesson One

*Every New Convert Needs
To Know And Understand
What Happened To Them
The Moment They
Received Jesus Christ As
Their Saviour And Needs
To Have A Biblically
Founded Assurance Of
Their Salvation!*

Lesson One:

Every new convert needs to know and understand what happened to them the very moment they received Jesus Christ as their Saviour and to have a Biblically founded Assurance of their Salvation!

- Every new convert needs to see themselves as God saw them before they accepted Christ as Saviour!
- Every new convert needs to see themselves as God sees them now that they have received Christ as their Saviour and have been saved!
- Every new convert needs to understand their new relationship in Christ and how it has changed their present condition as well as their future!

Fact Number One:

Every new convert needs to see themselves as God saw them before they accepted Christ as Saviour! We MUST realize the fact that we are a sinner and then we MUST admit that fact to God!

Psalm chapter 14, verses 1 through 3, Isaiah chapter 53, verse 6, Isaiah chapter 64, verse 6, Romans chapter 3, verses 10 and 23 all tell us the same thing.... that ALL men, women, boys and girls are SINNERS in the sight of God and that until we see ourselves as God sees us, we will never admit to God that we are born into this world as sinners!

One dear pastor recalled an experience with his children that will help illustrate this fact. He stated, *"When my children were very small, they contracted a certain illness. One day my daughter began to break out with little red spots, some on her little arms and legs and body and even on her face. Not too long afterwards, my son, who is four years younger than my daughter and was but an infant, began to break out with the same red spots, only he was literally covered by these ugly red spots!"*

"While my daughter had spots on various parts of her body, my son had them everywhere...on the soles of his little feet, in his ears, in his scalp, under his arms, in his diaper area....It was obvious that he had a worse case of whatever he and my daughter both had!"

*"But when my wife and I took them to the doctor, he gently smiled and said, **"Yes, it looks like they BOTH have 'Chicken Pox'".** As far as our doctor was concerned, they BOTH had the same disease and they both required the same medicine for their disease!"*

And as this story illustrates, so it is in the eyes of God. God does not see one sinner better than another, or even one sinner worse off than another, but God sees all men, women, boys and girls as being infected with the same disease called SIN. For as the Bible so clearly teaches us in Romans 3:10, *"There is NONE righteous, ["none" meaning, there is nobody that is not a sinner] no, not one."*

And before any person can truly be born again, they must see themselves the way God sees them...as SINNERS!

Here Are Some Verses To Read This Week and Begin To Memorize About Our Being A Sinner

Psalm 14:1-3 "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

Psalms 53:3 "Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Isaiah 64:6 "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

Matthew 5:20 "For I [Jesus] say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Romans 2:11 "For there is no respect of persons with God."

Romans 3:10 "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

James 4:17 "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

***A Note To The New Convert:**

As you begin to read and learn these Bible Verses each week, take the time to locate each verse in your own Bible and then with a pen or with a highlighter, underline and/or highlight each verse so that you will be able to easily find them in the future!

Fact Number Two:

Every new convert must realize that there was a debt that was owed for our sin!

The first part of Romans chapter 6, verse 23 teaches us that the “wages”, or the payment for my sin, is “death”...

Romans 5:12 says, *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”*

The Bible also teaches us in the first part of I Corinthians 15:22, *“For as in Adam all die...”*

God gave Adam, that first man He created, an opportunity to love, trust, and obey God in the Garden of Eden when the Bible says in Genesis 2:15-17, *“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”*

When Adam chose to listen to Satan’s deceptive lies and disobey God, Adam then had to deal with the consequences of his sin, which meant that not only would death now come on the scene there in the Garden of Eden and eventually to the whole world, but spiritual separation from Holy God would also come as a result of man’s sin against God.

Now, sinful man would deserve the same punishment for his sin as what God had already established for Satan for his rebellion against God which is an awful place called Hell and is referred to as *“...everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels...”* as we read in Matthew 25:41.

Therefore, we see and understand that because of sin, death will one day become a reality to each of us! And while we all know that one day, somewhere, somehow, each of us will indeed die physically, we must also realize that when our body dies, that soul which gave life to our bodies must live on eternally somewhere...either forever with God in a wonderful place called Heaven or forever separated from God in that awful place of everlasting fire called Hell!

As sinners, we were guilty before Holy God and we deserved the wages of our sin which was eternal death and separation from God in Hell!

Notes: _____

Here Are Some Verses To Read This Week and To Memorize About The Debt We Owed For Our Sin

Matthew 25:41 "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"

John 3:18 "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

John 3:36 "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Romans 6:23a "For the wages of sin is death..."

Romans 14:12 "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

Revelation 20:12-15 "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Revelation 21:8 "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Revelation 21:27 "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

Fact Number Three:

Every new convert must realize that while God hated our sin, God still loved us!

God's Word, the Holy Bible, plainly shows us that even while we were sinners, God still loved the whole world and was not interested in condemning us, but rather, His desire was to save us from the penalty of our sin! And that by trusting in His Son Jesus as our own personal Saviour, anyone and everyone can be saved from God's wrath upon sin by accepting God's gift of eternal life!

Our hearts should rejoice to read about God's great grace and abundant mercy that was so freely extended to each of us as sinners through the sacrifice of God's Son, Jesus Christ, there on the cross of Calvary!

When you saw yourself as God saw you, and you understood just how much God hated the sin that separated you from God, wasn't it a blessing to realize that Holy God looked beyond what you were, and He saw what He could make you to be, and He still chose to love you and to pay the debt you owed for your sin!

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 5:6-8, *"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. **But God** commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

Notes:

"What a Wonderful and Loving God We Serve!"

Here Are Some Verses To Read This Week and Memorize About God's Love and Mercy For Sinners

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Isaiah 53:3-5 "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

John 3:14-18 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

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

Romans 5:6-9 "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

Romans 5:20 "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:"

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

I Corinthians 15:1-4 "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"

Galatians 2:16 "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Fact Number Four:

Every new convert must realize that their eternal destiny hinged upon their making the right choice of accepting God's payment for sin versus their paying the debt they owed for sin!

Even though God's Word shows us that we are, by birth, a sinner, and that there is indeed a pay day for that sin, we had to understand the fact that Jesus paid the debt we owed for our sin, and we had to make a decision to either by faith accept Jesus as our Saviour or to reject Him and be eternally separated from Him because of our sin!

The Apostle John wrote in John 1:11-13, "*He came unto his own, and his own received him not. **But as many as received him**, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."*

Aren't you so glad you chose to do what God's Word said do and you chose to accept Him into your heart as your own personal Saviour! And now, because you made that "*right choice*", you can one day live with Him for all eternity!

Do you remember the day that you prayed and asked Christ Jesus to forgive you of your sin and you received Him into your heart as your own personal Saviour?

The day that we get saved and are born into the family of God is indeed a date that we always need to remember! Write the date that you received Christ Jesus as your Personal Saviour on the line below so that you will never forget that wonderful day!

Psalm 107:2 says, "*Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;*"

Write something here about that special day in your life when you accepted Christ as your Saviour and prayed to receive the Lord into your heart!

“What a blessing to know that we are now a child of The King through our Lord & Saviour, Jesus Christ!”

Here Are Some Verses To Read This Week About **Accepting Jesus As Your Saviour!**

John 1:11-13, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

Acts 16:30-34 "And [the Philippian jailer] brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house."

Romans 8:16-17 "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Romans 10:9-13 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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

II Corinthians 6:2 "(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)"

Ephesians 1:13-14 "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."

Ephesians 2:8-10 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

I John 5:11-12 "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

Lesson Two

*Every new convert needs
to see and understand
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Lesson Two:

Every new convert needs to see and understand the importance of learning to trust and depend upon God's Holy Word in their life each day!

- Why is the Word of God so important?
- Why does the devil and the world hate the Word of God?
- Why should the child of God love the Word of God?
- Which Bible should I use as the Word of God and Why?

First of all, let's see and understand why God's Word is so important to the child of God!

A very big and famous farm machinery company once stated, *"...For generations, the name John Deere has stood for quality, durability, value, and proven performance. Today, customers across a wide range of markets — and around the world — know that when they buy John Deere, they're working with a trustworthy company **whose word is as good as the name on the equipment...**We build long-term relationships based on trust and a deep understanding of your needs. **You have our word on it ... because you have our name on it...**"*

This company, and every other company that uses words similar to this, wants their customers to know that they are a reputable company that can be trusted and that you can depend upon them because their word to you, as their customer, is trustworthy and true!

But long before any company coined the phrase, *"...You have our word on it..."* to serve as a guarantee on the product or services that they produced and distributed, God gave the same guarantee to all those who would put their faith and trust in Him as their Redeemer and Deliverer!

God gave mankind His Guarantee to be found faithful and true, loving and merciful, *"...a friend that sticketh closer than a brother..."*, a refuge and strength, a strong tower as well as a very present help when we are allowed to go through times of trouble and sorrow!

Yes, the Word of God is indeed important to the child of God, and especially to you, as a new convert in Christ, because it is exactly that...The Word of God, Holy and without error or contradiction and which God Himself has promised that He will not change, but has forever settled in Heaven!

Dear child of God, what a blessing it is to know that we can believe what God says because we have His Word on it and His Word is faithful and true!

Find and read Psalm chapter 46, verses 1 through 11 and as you read these verses, underline them in your Bible!

Then, let's look at a few more of the many examples found within the pages of the Word of God that prove this to be true!

Here Are Some Verses To Read This Week About The Faithfulness of The Word of God!

Psalm 119:89-90 "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth."

Deuteronomy 7:7-9 "The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;"

Psalm 36:5-7 "Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast. How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings."

Jeremiah 31:3 "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

I Corinthians 1:9 "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."

Hebrews 6:16-20 "For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

Hebrews 13:5 "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he[God] hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

II Thessalonians 3:3-5 "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you. And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ."

Secondly, we need to see and understand that God's Word is important because found within the written pages of the Word of God are the words of eternal life!

When Jesus tried to explain to the crowds how that He had come into the world as God's Way to Heaven and that He was the bread of life, many people chose not to listen to or follow Jesus any longer and sadly, those people abandoned their belief in the Lord!

As Jesus watched those who had at one time listened to Him as He told them about God and about the kingdom of God, turn and walk away, the Bible says in John 6:67, ***"Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?"***

But after hearing the words of Jesus and after seeing all that Jesus had done for the people and how Jesus had changed his own life, the Bible says in John 6:68-69, ***"Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God."***

Just as you one day heard the wonderful message of the Gospel and you then, by faith, received the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart as your own personal Saviour, so Peter and the other disciples had done the same thing...but what made the difference in their lives and what gave them the assurance that Jesus was who He said He was?

It was the Word of God that made the difference and that gave them the assurance of what they believed about Jesus!

They not only had the written Scriptures of the Old Testament promise of a coming Messiah in their presence, but they also had the living Word of God, Jesus Christ, in their very presence, and they recognized that Jesus indeed was and also gave to them God's words of eternal life!

Jesus spoke in John 10:10 and said, ***"The thief* [referring to the devil] *cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they* [referring to you, me, and the whole world] *might have life, and that they* [again referring to you, me, and the whole world] *might have it more abundantly."***

The words of a great song we often sing in church say...

*"Sing them over again to me, Wonderful words of life,
Let me more of their beauty see, Wonderful words of life;
Words of life and beauty, Teach me faith and duty."*

*"Beautiful words, wonderful words, Wonderful words of life;
Beautiful words, wonderful words, Wonderful words of life."*

*"Christ, the blessed One, gives to all Wonderful words of life;
Sinner, list to the loving call, Wonderful words of life;
All so freely given, Wooing us to heaven."*

*"Beautiful words, wonderful words, Wonderful words of life;
Beautiful words, wonderful words, Wonderful words of life."*

*"Sweetly echo the Gospel call, Wonderful words of life;
Offer pardon and peace to all, Wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior, Sanctify us forever."*

*"Beautiful words, wonderful words, Wonderful words of life;
Beautiful words, wonderful words, Wonderful words of life."*

Jesus explained that the devil comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy! This not only explains why the devil (as well as the lost world around us who does not know God) hates the Word of God, but it also shows us why we as God's children should now love the Word of God and be thankful for it because, as Jesus said, ***"...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."***

The devil says, "Tell God you want YOUR way...", but God says to us, "I have a better Way through my Son Jesus!"

The Bible, God's Word reminds us in Proverbs 14:12, ***"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."***

Remember, Jesus said the devil desires nothing but to steal and to kill and to destroy the lives of men, women, boys, and girls. We read in Luke 8:12 where Jesus explained how the devil treats those who hear the message of the Gospel presented to them from the Word of God ***"...and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved."***

You see, the devil knows that God's Word changes lives and the devil doesn't want that!

Those religious but lost Pharisees in the Bible who always disputed the Words of Jesus did not care for the things of God, but rather, the devil had them spiritually blinded and deceived into simply performing religious deeds and following vain traditions of men instead of hearing and receiving the life giving and life changing Words of Jesus!

Jesus asked them in John 8:43-45, ***"Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not."***

The Word of God gives life to those who are spiritually dead, like each of us were before we got saved!

All the devil could offer was eternal death and destruction through sin, but in John 11:25 we read, ***“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:”***

It is for that reason that you and I should love and cherish the Word of God and as the psalmist David wrote in Psalm 119:11, ***“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”*** And as David explained in Psalm 119:9, ***“ Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”*** Oh, yes, dear convert, the Word of God is very important to us today!

Here Are Some Verses To Read This Week About The Words Of Eternal Life Found In The Word of God!

II Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, BUT THAT ALL SHOULD COME TO REPENTANCE.”

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

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

John 3:16-18 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

John 5:24 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

John 6:47 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.”

John 10:27-29 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

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

Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Titus 3:3-6 "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;"

It is important for you, now as a born again child of God, to begin to learn more about the precious Word of God so that you can continue to grow in Christ!

Remember, the devil did not want you to ever get saved, but now that you are saved, you need to be aware that the devil will do everything within his power to stop you from growing in the Lord and to confuse you about God's Word!

In the Old Testament book of Genesis we read how the devil, while in the form of a serpent, tried to deceive the woman by causing her to doubt whether the Word of God was really true and by even calling God a liar!

He did this by changing the word of God and by trying to convince the woman that what God "said" is not really what God "meant".

Child of God, please remember, what God said, God meant, and we should never be deceived by those who attempt to change the Word of God to suit their own personal desires and false teaching!

For many years throughout history, the devil has used wicked and ungodly men and women to distort, and to change, and even hide the truths of the Word of God from men, women, boys, and girls who were seeking Truth from it's pages!

These wicked men and women have questioned the Word of God, even as the devil did with the woman in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3:1, as he tried to deceive her by asking, "...Yea, hath God said...?"

Even while knowing that God said if they ate of the fruit of the tree that God said not to eat of, they would surely die, the devil called God a liar and told the woman, “...**Ye shall not surely die...**”

Do not be deceived by those who change the truths of the Word of God into a lie and still call their book of changes a “Bible”!!

If you and I are to ever truly grow spiritually in the power and might of God, then we must consider the words of the psalmist David in Psalm 119:9 who asked, “**Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.**”

I Peter 2:2 says we must therefore “...**desire the SINCERE MILK OF THE WORD...**”!

The word “**sincere**” in this verse literally means the “**unadulterated, undeceitful, authentic**” word of God. Therefore as a born again child of God, we should desire to be fed the “UNADULTERATED”, the “UNDECEITFUL”, and the “AUTHENTIC” Word of God which, for the English speaking people, is found in the Authorized King James Bible!

Do not be deceived by those who say you need an “easier to read” or “easier to understand” Bible... simply stay with the tried and true King James Bible which God has used to save millions upon millions of people through the years since it was first authorized by King James to be translated from the original languages into the English language in 1611! The Bible says in Psalm 12:6, “**The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.**”, therefore, use the pure Word of God found in the Authorized King James Bible and stay away from all the other versions and perversions that the devil and his wicked followers may try to deceive you with!

A few of the literally hundreds of various English Bible “versions”, “perversions”, “revisions”, and “paraphrases” that the devil has used ungodly and unholy men and women to produce over the past years and are being sold in many so-called “Bible Bookstores” today that we need to stay away from as growing Christians are listed below as a help to you...

- ‘The American Standard Version’ and/or ‘The New American Standard Version’
- ‘The Amplified Version’
- ‘The Revised Standard Version’ and/or ‘The New Revised Standard Version’
- ‘The New International Version’
- ‘The New International Version Inclusive Language Edition’
- ‘The New English Bible’
- ‘The New Living Translation’
- ‘The Contemporary English Version’
- ‘Good News For Modern Man’
- ‘The American King James Version’
- ‘The New King James Version’
- ‘The Children’s King James Version’

- *'The King James II Version'*
- *'The King James 2000 Version'*
- *'The King James Easy Reading Version'*
- *'The New Jerusalem Bible'*
- *'The American Translation'*
- *'The Bible in Living English'*
- *'The Living Bible'*
- *'The New Century Version'*
- *'The New Life Version'*
- *'The Clear Word Bible'*
- *'The Easy English Bible'*
- *'The New Scofield Bible Version'*
- *'New World Translation'*
- *'Modern Language Bible – New Berkley Version'*
- *'Weymouth Modern Speech'*
- *'Goodspeed American Translation'*
- *'Moffat New Translation'*
- *'Beck American Translation'*
- *And sadly, the list goes on and on...*

While the above list of modern Bible translations, versions, revisions, paraphrases, and editions only scratches the surface of the literally hundreds of books found in bookstores today, all these “books” have one goal in mind and that being the same as what Satan had in mind there in the Garden of Eden—to cast doubt upon the true Word of God and to deceive men, women, boys, and girls so as to confuse them and cause them to doubt and possibly not even believe the Word of God as being true and accurate or even being important enough to read, thereby causing people to reject the Gospel and not be saved! Never forget, *“Things that are different are not the same!”* And so it is with all these versions!

***NOTE: A good book to read that will better explain how the devil has taken away from the true Word of God found in the Authorized King James Bible through these many different versions and translations is the book, *“Evaluating Versions of the New Testament”* written by the late Everett W. Fowler. Another good source of information regarding the purity of God’s Holy Word found in the Authorized King James Bible is a book written by Dr. G. A. Riplinger entitled, *“In Awe of Thy Word”*. You may also be able to obtain other books and resources that will help you as a growing Christian on Dr. Riplinger’s website at www.avpublications.com .**

Here Are Some Verses To Read This Week About The Purity Of The Word of God!

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

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

Psalm 119:10-11 "With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Psalm 119:27 "Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works."

Psalm 119:33 "Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end."

Psalm 119:34 "Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart."

Psalm 119:42 "So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word."

Psalm 119:47 "And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved."

Psalm 119:50 "This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me."

Psalm 119:71 "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes."

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

Psalm 119:92 "Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction."

Psalm 119:103 "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

Psalm 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Psalm 119:116 "Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope."

Psalm 119:130 "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."

Psalm 119:140 "Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it."

Psalm 119:160 "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."

Proverbs 30:5-6 "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."

Luke 24:25-27 "Then he ['he' referring to the resurrected Jesus] said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."

Luke 24:44-48 "And he ['he' referring to the resurrected Jesus] said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things."

Romans 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

II Timothy 3:14-17 "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

II Peter 1:19-21 "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Revelation 22:18-19 "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Lesson Three

*Every new convert needs
to understand that they
are indeed a new
creature in Christ now
that they have
been saved!*

Lesson Three:

Every new convert needs to understand that they are indeed a new creature in Christ now that they have been saved!

- What does it mean to be a “new creature” in Christ?
- Old things are passed away...what does this mean?
- All things are become new...how does this affect me?

When we, by faith, receive Jesus Christ as our own personal Saviour, God does a marvelous work in our lives, not only spiritually, but also in the physical sense as well!

The Bible tells us in II Corinthians 5:17, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

As far as God is concerned, when we accept God’s gift of eternal life through the finished work of Jesus Christ, our past sins are forgotten, our present sin is forgiven, and our future sins are forever blotted out through the precious blood atonement of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

We read in Micah 7:18-19, *“Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; **and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.**”*

We read in the last part of Isaiah 38:17 how the Lord *“...**hast cast all my sins behind thy back.**”* That means that our sins will never again be seen by the Lord, for in His great love and mercy, our sins have been hidden from before Him!

The psalmist David wrote in Psalms 103:10-12, *“He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. **As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.**”*

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 8:1-4 of how sin can no longer condemn the child of God who has been saved and who now walks by faith and who lives in the joy of the Holy Spirit of God! In this passage from the New Testament, Paul tells us, *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”*

The Apostle Paul, in writing to the church in Corinth said in I Corinthians 6:9-11, *“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And **such were** some of you:*

but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

What a blessing to think about what God does for us the very moment we receive His dear Son as our own personal Saviour!

Ephesians 2:1-13 sums it very nicely by reminding us, *"And you hath he quickened ['quickened' meaning, brought to life], who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein **in time past** ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; **That at that time ye were without Christ**, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: **But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."***

And because God has been so good to save us, we should never be ashamed to tell others what God has done for us!

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 1:16, *"**For I am not ashamed** of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

There is a certain joy and gladness that the Lord puts within our hearts the moment we are saved which also causes us to want to tell others what God has done for us and what God wants to do for them!

Don't be ashamed of what God has done for you and don't be ashamed to let all your family and friends know that just as God has saved you, God will also save them if they will but repent of their sin and trust Him as their Saviour today, *"For the scripture saith, **Whosoever** believeth on him shall not be ashamed."* (Romans 10:11)

What has changed in your life since you got saved? Write down some things that God has done for you since He saved you and then share that good news with someone you know! Your personal testimony about how you came to know Christ as your Saviour and what God has done for you since He saved you may be a great help to someone that you witness to some day!

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16)

Here Are Some Verses To Read This Week About **What God Did When He Saved You!**

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

Psalms 103:12 "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."

Micah 7:18-19, "Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

Hebrews 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."

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

Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

Romans 10:11 "For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

Ephesians 4:17-32 "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Lesson Four

*Every new convert needs
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Lesson Four:

Every new convert needs to expect certain things to happen now in their life from day to day!

- Every new convert should expect a new hunger for truth and righteousness each day in their life!
- Every new convert should expect attacks from Satan, the enemy of God, as they grow in Christ each day!
- Every new convert should expect God to be faithful in providing victory, and joy, and peace, and wisdom in every aspect of their life so they too may be found faithful to serve God each and every day!

As we learned in our last lesson, when God saved us, He changed us and made us to be a “new creature” in Christ Jesus!

All throughout the Bible, we see how salvation affected people and how things changed in a great and positive way for them!

While salvation does not make us “sinless” or “perfect”, in that we do not sin, salvation does indeed change us so that we no longer desire to sin!

Our new desire should be to please the Lord by obeying His Word and having fellowship with Him through time spent in the Word of God. In learning to obey His Word, as well as time in prayer, and in worshipping, and fellowshiping with other Bible-believing Christians, we learn to please the Lord!

Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:3, “...Except a man be **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

When God saves us, we become His dear child through that new birth, and NOTHING can reverse that birth or change our relationship with God...NOTHING!

But because we still live in this robe of flesh, we are still tempted at times to sin and to disobey God’s Word. And, although our spiritual relationship is forever secure with God through Christ Jesus, willful and continual sin in the life of a child of God will indeed break the fellowship we have with the God who has saved us!

This is why John wrote in I John 1:6-9, “*If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*”

Just because we are now saved from eternal damnation and separation from God in Hell does NOT mean we can just live any old way we want to live! We have been saved so as to live for God and to do His will, not our own will!

Just as when a little baby is born into a family, the desire of that baby's parents is for that baby to one day grow up and love them enough to obey them and to do as they have taught that child to do!

The [birth](#) made that baby their child forever, but the love those parents have for that baby, as well as that child's love for its parents, and that child's willingness to obey its parents, keep their fellowship together sweet and pleasant to them both!

And so it is with the child of God! If we desire to live for God and to experience a sweet [fellowship](#) with God as His dear child, then we must [choose to walk with Him](#) in obedience and in truth. And when we do sin on occasion, we need to confess it to God and admit the fact both to ourselves and to God that we know what we have done is sin. Then we need to ask Him not only to [forgive](#) us of that sin, but to [also cleanse](#) us from the results of that sin, and then we need to ask Him for wisdom and strength not to commit that sin against Him again!

Here is a story that will help illustrate this great Bible Truth for us today.

And man and his wife have two children, the one being just a baby and the other about four years of age. As they are preparing to go to Sunday School, the mother is just finishing brushing her four year old daughter's hair and as she puts a little sweater on her, the mother says, *"Now sweetheart, go sit down in the living room while I help daddy get your little brother ready for Sunday School. Daddy will carry you to the car in a few minutes, but don't you go outside by yourself because it's been raining and you might slip and fall into a mud puddle and you'll get your dress all dirty!"*

"Okay mommy, I will sit right here by the door and wait for you and daddy", she says politely.

But while mommy and daddy are getting her little brother ready and getting themselves ready for church, guess what happens...this little girl, who is waiting patiently by the door, sees that it has now stopped raining and a beautiful butterfly is floating by in the breeze outside the door and is going from flower to flower. She is so captivated by the beauty of this little butterfly that is just beyond the steps by the door that she must get just a little closer to see it, and as she does, she opens the storm door and stands on the porch watching that little butterfly.

The butterfly now floats by her face as she is standing on the porch then back again toward the flowers at the bottom of the steps where it then rests on top of one of the most beautiful flowers the little girl has ever seen in her front yard.

The butterfly is so close, yet so far away and the little girl thinks to herself, *'I must hold that little butterfly in my hand if but only for a moment...'*, so she carefully starts down the steps toward her mother's flower bed where the butterfly is sitting on that beautiful flower.

As the little girl slowly steps downward, she hears someone open the door behind her and quickly turns to see who it is and as she turns, she misses the last step and falls right down into the middle of her mother's rain-soaked flower bed as that beautiful butterfly now flutters away.

Looking up, she sees her mother looking down at her from the top of the front porch and she cries, *"Oh, mommy, I fell down..."*

Her mother quickly comes down and picks her daughter up from the muddy flower bed as the little girl begins to cry, *"Oh, mommy, I am so sorry! I saw a butterfly and just had to touch it, but I tripped and fell into the flowers...will you forgive me?"*

The mother quickly picks up her daughter from off the ground and removes the child's wet sweater and tries to brush the dirt off her daughter's now wet and muddy dress. There is mud on the little girl's face, hands, and shoes, as well as on her dress and the mother says, *"I told you not to go outside, but yes, I do forgive you!"*

"Oh, I am so sorry mommy, I promise, I won't do it again! Oh, what will all the other children at Sunday School say when they see me like this?", she cries.

Now, what do you think will happen here?? Do you think the mother will truly forgive her daughter for disobeying her and simply take her to church "as she is"?

Well, YES, she will indeed forgive her daughter—What loving parent wouldn't forgive their repentive child for some type of wrong doing?

But not only did this mother choose to forgive her little girl for disobeying, but that mother took her love for that child one step further!

Lovingly, that mother takes her crying daughter by the hand and gently leads her back up the steps and into the house where she then takes off her muddy wet clothes and gently cleans the dirt from her face, hands, and shoes and puts a new clean dress on her daughter. Then brushing away the tears from the little girl's eyes, she kisses her on the cheek and says, *"It'll be alright, but we must clean you up so nobody else knows what has happened!"*

Soon, the little girl's tears are dried and she is restored to being a happy, loving and obedient child who now willingly waits to be carried safely by her parents to the car so they can all go to Sunday School!

And why was she so happy and willing now to do what she was instructed to do by her parents?? Is it not because she now realized just how much her mother really loved her and how she had not only forgiven her, but now their sweet and loving fellowship together had again been restored?

And this is exactly what the Lord God desires to do for us, as His dear children, when we sin! But we must be willing to do as John said do in I John 1:9, which says, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Please remember, the devil [hates](#) God! And because you are now God's child, the devil [hates](#) you too!

The devil will do whatever he can to tempt you to disobey the Lord and to ruin your testimony for Christ and to cause you to look bad, as a child of God, in front of others! God's Word warns us in I Peter 5:8, *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"*

So we need to take all sin seriously and become wise and obedient servants of God, learning to expect and to watch for the devil to do what he does to try to tempt us to fall into some sort of sin and to disobey the Word of God!

The Bible shows us how to have the victory over sin and the devil in James 4:7-10 where we are taught to, *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."*

Yes, the devil will indeed try to tempt us to sin against God, and often times, he will attempt this in seemingly small and insignificant ways. But we must learn not to allow even so-called "little sins" to break our fellowship with the God who has saved us and given us His gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord!

In God's eyes, sin is sin, no matter how big or how small! Therefore, we must be wise and choose to *"Abstain from all appearance of evil..."* as we read in I Thessalonians 5:22.

No one is perfect and sooner or later, we will all sin. But the Apostle Paul wrote words to encourage us to keep our eyes on the Lord, especially in times of temptation when he wrote in Philippians 3:13-14, *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*

We must not allow ourselves to "hang on" to those things that tempted us, and enslaved us, and caused us to sin against God before we were saved, whether it be through music, or through books, or through activities, or through people, or through electronic or social media, or any other means!

Let's determine to allow God to take "first place" in our life and God will give us victory over sin and over those "things" which may cause us to be tempted to sin against God!

Acts 19:18-20 tells us, *"And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. **So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.**"*

God blesses us and gives us victory and joy when we allow Him to lead us and to guide us away from sin and toward faithful and loving obedience in Christ as his dear child!

The Apostle Paul tells us how we ought to have a new desire to live for God and how we ought to act now that we are saved!

In Ephesians 4:17-32 we read the words he wrote to the Christians living in Ephesus that say, *“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”*

Allow the sweet Holy Spirit of God to help you this week to be found victorious over Satan’s attacks and temptations! Stay in the Word of God and allow the Word of God to stay in you!

Here Are Some Verses To Read This Week About How To Be Victorious Over Temptation And Sin

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

Psalms 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Matthew 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

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

Luke 24:32 "And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he [Jesus] talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?"

Acts 19:18-20 "And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed."

Ephesians 6:10-13 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

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

1 John 1:6-9, "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Another way to be victorious and to overcome the attacks of Satan in your life is to learn to spend time each day with the Lord in prayer.

When we read the Bible, God speaks to us through His Word, but when we pray, we speak with God and we are able to make our needs and requests known to God!

You may ask, *“But doesn’t God already know our needs?”* And the answer is a definite **“YES”**! But God desires for us, as His dear children, to have fellowship with Him and to come directly to Him with our every need, even as a parent desires for their children to come to them and tell them when they have a problem or are in need of something!

The Bible says in Hebrews 4:14-16, *“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

So we see here in these verses that God says we may come directly to HIM through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us and is our intercessor even as we read in I Timothy 2:5-6 which reminds us, *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”*

When we pray to God, we need to pray in Jesus’ name even as the Lord Jesus instructed His disciples in John 14:13-14, which says, *“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”*

We need to learn to pray because Jesus prayed and set the example for us to spend time in prayer!

Locate, read, and underline these two verses in your Bible... Mark 1:35 and John 13:15 .

The psalmist David said in Psalm 73:28, *“But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.”*, so we see that time spent in prayer is good for us!

Take time to locate and read John 17:1-26 in your Bible and mark these verses where we see how Jesus prayed for you and me before He was taken to the cross and crucified for our sins! Jesus not only prayed for those disciples there in the garden with Him that night, but we see in verses 20 through 23 that He prayed for you and me and all those who receive Him as their Saviour as well!

Prayer is our direct connection to the Lord as the “Power Source” that we need in order to stand faithfully against temptation and as we face the devil each day in Spiritual warfare even as we see in Ephesians 6:10-18, in James 5:16, and in Romans 8:26-27. *Make certain you locate these verses in your Bible and read them often. Then take time to underline them so you can become familiar with them!*

So “WHO” should we pray for each day?

It is first of all wise to begin praying to the Lord and asking for God’s power and strength for yourself so that you can learn His Word and how to stand faithfully for the Lord at home and away from home!

Some verses in the Bible to locate and become familiar with pertaining to your own personal growth in the Lord may be seen below. Please take time to locate these verses and not only read them, but underline them in your Bible and become familiar with what God’s Word says about our own needs!

Psalms 51:10	Job 1:5	Proverbs 2:6-7	Matthew 9:35-38
Psalms 66:18-20	John 15:1-7	Ecclesiastes 12:13-14	Psalms 19:14
I John 1:8-9	James 5:16-18	Psalms 37:4-5	Joshua 1:8 and 24:14-15
I John 2:1-2	I Samuel 12:23	Proverbs 3:5-6	Lamentations 3:21-24
Psalms 73:28	Psalms 139:23-24	Philippians 4:13 and 19	Proverbs 30:7-9
I Peter 1:13-18	James 1:5	Matthew 18:19	Psalms 55:17

Then be faithful to pray for each of the members of your family and call them out to the Lord in prayer individually! Then learn to pray for those around you and that you come in contact with each day!

Pray for your Pastor and for the members of your church staff on a daily basis! Ask God to give your pastor Spiritual Wisdom and Boldness to preach the Word of God! Ask the Lord to give him Understanding of God’s Word, Physical Strength and Health, Love and Compassion for the people in his church as well as to have the right Biblical Vision for those around him who are lost and need to be saved. Pray and ask the Lord to give him and the members of your church the heart of a Soul-Winner!

Remember, there is no need so small nor is there any need so big that we cannot take it to the Lord in prayer!

So “WHEN” should we pray?

The Bible says in I Thessalonians 5:17 that we should “*Pray without ceasing.*” In other words, stay in an attitude of prayer and closeness to God all day long!

James 5:14 says that we should pray when someone is sick! In this verse, James asks, “*Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:*”

Pray when you need strength and wisdom to stand for the Lord as we read in Colossians 1:9-11 where the Apostle Paul said, “*For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;*”

What a blessing it is when we learn to trust God’s Word and we take our every need to Him in prayer!

“Who Should I Be Praying For Today?”

My Family Members

My Church Family

Other Acquaintances, Needs, and Praises To Answered Prayers

Lesson Five

*Every new convert needs
to understand why they
need to go to church and
why church attendance is
so important for them
now that they are saved!*

Lesson Five:

Every new convert needs to understand why they need to go to church and why church attendance is so important for them now that they are saved!

- Why is it important to go to Church?
- Why is it so important that we go to “*the right Church*” and how do we correctly determine, through the Word of God, which church really is “*the right Church*” to attend?
- Why is it so important to not hesitate but to begin attending church immediately?

Soon after a baby is born, those parents take that baby to a special place that has been prepared for the child to live and be loved so it can continue to develop and grow as it should...this special place is called “*Home*”!

God has established a “special place” for the child of God to be able to develop and grow as well after they have been born into His Family...that special place is called “*Church*”!

God’s Church is not a place that has been designed to simply entertain His children or to pacify some man-made religious dogma, but “church” is God’s special place designed to strengthen, develop, mold, and train up His children to take the message of the Gospel to a lost and dying world, even as somebody one day brought that message to each of us!

Sadly, the “religious” world today seems to have forgotten the reason God established His Church and many so-called “churches” have simply become social clubs with steeples on top! In many areas, the churches have become so “worldly” even as the world has become so “churchy”, that often, you cannot tell the two apart, therefore, many people have lost all interest and all desire to even go to church! Oh, how sad! But this is exactly what the devil wants to do so that God’s children cannot grow spiritually as they should for the One who has saved them!

So why do we need to go to church and what should we be hoping to find in a good church?

The word “*church*” comes from a Greek word, **ἐκκλησία** or “*ekklesia*” (pronounced *ek-klay-see'-ah*) which means, a called out assembly, a special house or place consecrated to the worship of God, and among Christians is often referred to as the Lord’s house.

The psalmist David wrote in Psalm 122:1, “*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.*”

But we also need to understand that God’s true church is more than just a building where people come together and meet.

God’s true church is actually a collective body of people who have both believed and personally received the message of the Gospel and who, publicly professing Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour, have followed the Lord in believer’s baptism, and acknowledge Jesus Christ to be God’s ***only way*** to Heaven and the Saviour of the world. This born again, baptized, body of believers, referred to in the Bible as “the church”, obediently, willingly, and lovingly do all they can to obey the command of

the Lord through the power of His indwelling Spirit to take that soul-saving message to the ends of the earth!

We also need to understand that the Builder, Establisher, and Head of God's church is Jesus Christ, who, in Matthew 16:18 said, *"...I will build my church..."* and, who, in Ephesians 5:25, *"...loved the church ['church' again referring to that called out body of born again, baptized believers], and gave himself for it..."* so that we, as the body of Christ, might go out and, as Jesus commanded in Acts 1:8, *"...be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

In other words, Jesus commanded his disciples, that called out assembly of born again, baptized body of believers, beginning right where they lived, to take the message of the Gospel EVERYWHERE so that every man, woman, boy, and girl might hear the Gospel story, believe it's message, and be saved!

So how does one find the "right church" to attend?

There are a few basic things that we see in the Bible that every born again child of God needs to look for in finding a good church that God would be pleased with us attending and becoming an active part of!

First of all, the [Bible teaches us](#) that the church that God would have us to attend should be a place where you will hear the [preaching and teaching](#) of God's Holy and inerrant Word!

The church should be a place where the child of God can [learn to live for God](#), and we learn to live for God [through the teaching](#) of God's Word!

In Matthew 4:4, Jesus said, *"...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."*

Many pastors today choose only to "pacify" their people and just keep them happy in coming to their particular church. But the Bible says that God wants His man of God to *"...PREACH THE WORD; in season, out of season; REPROVE, REBUKE, EXHORT with all longsuffering and doctrine..."* according to II Timothy chapter 4, verse 2.

In the Old Testament book of Isaiah chapter 58, verse 1, God says that the pastor or preacher that He calls should *"...CRY ALOUD, SPARE NOT, LIFT UP THY VOICE LIKE A TRUMPET, AND SHEW MY PEOPLE THEIR TRANSGRESSION..."*

So, in order to learn how to live for God, you must first of all have the truth of the Word of God that is found in the Authorized King James Bible, and then you must have a Pastor who is willing and able to faithfully, truthfully, and unapologetically PREACH the Word of God in such a way that you can understand it and be willing to obey it!

In the Old Testament book of Nehemiah 8:4-8, we read, *"And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up: And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. **So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.**"*

As the pastor of God's Church, the man of God should not be ashamed to preach God's Word faithfully to his people even as the Apostle Paul explained in Romans 1:16 when he stated, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

God's man, the Pastor, is a special man and should be respected as God's chosen man to lead his church, which is not always an easy thing to do, especially when some people only want to do in church what *they* want to do instead of being willing and obedient to do what God's Word says they are to do! God told the people in Jeremiah 3:15, *"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."*

Sadly too, in addition to those who do not desire to be obedient to do what God's Word says do, there are also many church pastors and leaders who are neither willing nor obedient to God's commands to properly teach God's Holy Word or to lead the people that God has given to them in the ways that please the Lord!

Many pastors today are willingly compromising the principles and truths of the Word of God so as to please people instead of pleasing God, and this is detrimental not only to the church and the pastor, but also to those who are lost in our world and need to hear the Gospel!

In Jeremiah 10:21 God saw that some of, *"...the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered."*

Oh, how sad that God would have to say in Jeremiah 12:10, *"Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness."*

In Ezekiel 44:23 we see God's desire for those men He calls to pastor His people. God said, *"...they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean."*

So it is very important that the church we choose to faithfully attend and become an active part of not only uses the Holy Word of God to teach us from, but also that the church we choose to attend has a real man of God, who has indeed been called of God as the pastor of God's church, or body of believers, and who is seeking to obediently fulfill God's will for God's people and who will, according to Ephesians 4:12, help mature and spiritually perfect the saints of God for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the body of Jesus Christ!

In the early church, those people who received Jesus as their Saviour immediately determined that they would be obedient to God's Word as we see in Acts 2:41 which says, *"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."*

So if we truly desire to see God's blessings in our lives as born again believers, then the church that we choose to become a faithful and active part of should be living holily for God and differently from the way the lost world around them lives! And the pastor and every born again member of that church should be encouraging one another to live for God every day and in every way, even as we see in Acts 2:46-47, where the Bible says, *"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*

These people were so excited to be saved from the penalty and the wages of sin that they wanted everybody to know what God had done for them, as should we!

They were obedient to do what the Lord commanded them in Mark 16:15 when Jesus *"...said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."*

And the Bible goes on to say just a few verses down in Mark 16:20, *"And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen."*

And because these people were faithful to do what God said do as born again, baptized believers, you and I have the Gospel today...Amen!!

Thank God for faithful and obedient Christians who are willing to do things God's way! Were it not for someone being faithful and obedient to the Word of God, and being willing to bring the message of the Gospel to us, can you imagine where you and I could be today??

As a born again child of God, God wants to bless us and empower us for His service, and He is better able to do that when we put ourselves in a position of obedience to God's Word where God can bless us and use us for His honour and glory!

How do we place ourselves in a position for God's blessings? By being willing to be found obedient to His Word and to do what God wants us to do as His dear children!

If we love the Lord, and if we are truly thankful for how God has saved us, we will not have a problem being found obedient to His commands!

The writer of the book of Hebrews reminds us and encourages us in Hebrews 10:23-25, *“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*

May we, as God’s dear children, be found faithful and unwavering in our love for the Lord! And may that love cause us to be reminded of our duty and obligation as lights in a dark world of sin, to be found in a position of blessing by God so that He may use us to take the message of the Gospel to everyone everywhere, even as we both see and know that His coming again is close at hand!

Using your Bible, look up the verses found in Ephesians 5:22-27, and fill in the blanks where we learn from reading God’s Word that CHRIST is the head of the church: and HE is the saviour of the BODY (referring here to the Body of Christ, the body of saved, born again believers in particular), not some other man or woman. In these verses we also learn that the church is subject unto CHRIST, not unto a man. In these verses we learn that CHRIST also loved THE CHURCH and gave himself for it. We also learn that the Lord desires for his CHURCH to be a GLORIOUS church, not having SPOT, or WRINKLE, or any such thing. The Lord desires his church and his people to HOLY and without BLEMISH (meaning that our lives as Christians are to be pure for Christ and our testimony for Christ should be clean and untainted by the things of the lost world around us) .

Here Are Some Verses To Read This Week About The Importance Of Church And Why We Need To Attend

Psalm 122:1, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD."

Ephesians 5:22-27 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

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

II Timothy 4:1-2 "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

Nehemiah 8:4-8, "And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up: And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading."

Jeremiah 3:15, "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."

Acts 2:41, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

Acts 2:46-47, "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Ephesians 1:15-23 "Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."

Ephesians 4:11-32 "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Hebrews 10:23-25, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Lesson

Six

*Every new convert needs
to understand what the
Bible teaches about
the local church!*

Lesson Six:

Every new convert needs to understand what the Bible teaches about the local church!

- The Biblical purpose, ordinances, and observances of the local Church
- The Biblical command to be faithful in attending the local Church
- The Biblical command and privilege to give as God has prospered you to the local Church
- The Biblical command and responsibility provided to every born again child of God to serve the Lord through the local Church

In this age of modern technology, where you can hear all sorts of preaching and teaching on the radio or on the internet and even watch many styles and types of “T.V. preachers”, many Christians fail to see the need to actually attend a good Bible-believing, Bible-preaching church and are soon taken up with a casual style of “take it or leave it” religion.

And while there are some good and doctrinally sound Bible preachers using technology to reach the world with the true **Gospel** of Jesus Christ, it is sad that many Christians fail to see **the need** to attend and personally participate in a good Bible-preaching, soul-winning church that is near to where they live.

Many use **the excuse** that they are just too busy to go to church and that it is easier and more convenient for them to just watch it “when they can” on television, or on the internet, or perhaps listen to it on the radio while they drive to or from work.

But in the Word of God, we can clearly and plainly see that God teaches us not only the **importance** of why we, as born again believers, need to **faithfully and actively** attend church, but we also see the Biblical purpose and reasons God had for establishing what we often refer to as, “*the local church*”.

In Acts 1:6-8 we read, *“When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

After Jesus rose from the dead, he spent some forty days teaching his disciples from the Scriptures and encouraging them to be about His Father’s business.

However, in verse 6, we see that the disciples seemed to be more concerned for their nation’s political restoration and being out from under the hand of the Roman government’s tyrannical leadership and oppression, so they asked the Lord Jesus, *“...Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?”*

One day, the Lord will indeed **restore** the kingdom to Israel and the world will again see Israel as the nation of God, but Jesus wanted his disciples to see the **present need** at hand, and that being to take the message of the Gospel to every man, woman, boy, and girl, beginning right where they lived in Jerusalem!

Oh, that we might see that same need today in our world as well! There is nothing that will change our nation any quicker than for pastors once again to boldly and unapologetically stand and preach the truth of the Word of God from the pulpits and then for the born again members of those churches to go out and to do that which the Lord God has saved us to do as we read here in verses 7 and 8. *“And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

Jesus was basically saying to his disciples here, “Don’t you worry about those things which only God has control of, but rather, you be obedient to DO what I have saved you and will empower you to do, and that being for you to *“...be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*!

In Matthew 28:18-20 we read, *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

This is what is often referred to as our Lord’s “Great Commission”, and is God’s formal warrant or authorization to His church granting His power to His disciples to go out and to perform the acts and duties that He had saved them to do!

And they were to begin that work of the ministry of reaching the world with the Gospel right where they lived in Jerusalem!

And as we read later on in the book of Acts, when the Holy Spirit of God came upon them, and filled them, and empowered them, these disciples spake boldly and unashamedly in the name of the Lord Jesus and immediately thousands saw their need of a Saviour, repented of their sins, and were saved by the glorious grace of God!

God’s plan was to reach the world with the Gospel, but it would first begin there locally in Jerusalem with those disciples of Christ who were willing to be faithful and obedient to the commandments given them by the Lord Jesus Christ!

This is why God established the local church as a launching point for people everywhere to hear the soul-saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

But before God could reach the world with the Gospel, He had to not only reach the “locals” with the Gospel, but He needed to teach them and mature them in the Word of God so that they too could see the desire of God’s heart, and that being to ultimately take the message of the Gospel *“...unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

And look at how God began to bless and to work in that local Jerusalem church....

Acts 2:4-11 tells us how, *“...they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.”*

And notice in these verses that God did not empower these early church disciples to speak in some type of “*unknown tongue*” or some “*heavenly angelic tongue*”, but rather, God empowered them to speak clearly and plainly in the national languages of the people who were attending the Old Testament festival of Pentecost there in Jerusalem, which amazed all those people visiting Jerusalem from several other nations!

And the question that they asked that day was followed by the fulfillment of God’s desire through members of this local Jerusalem church, where we read, *“...And **how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?** Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, **we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.**”*

Oh, what a blessing to see how God can and will use His church to fulfill His desire if we will only determine to do things God’s way instead of our own way!

And immediately, after the Gospel was preached, God began to do His mighty work in the lives of those who heard the Gospel message, and the Bible tells us in Acts 2:41, *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”*

Now, we begin to see not only the purpose of the local church, but we are taught the two ordinances of the local church (‘*ordinances*’ meaning the practices set forth by God to teach the people) regarding those who are saved through the ministry of that local church.

In Acts 2:41, we see the first ordinance God’s church that was to be taught is “baptism” where the Bible says, *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized...”*

Baptism is that outward symbol of inward ownership, even as the wedding band of a husband or a wife is an outward symbol that shows to everyone around them that they are indeed married and belong to someone!

Baptism is an outwardly displayed and public action that shows the world and all those around us that we have not only heard the message of the Gospel, but that we have indeed been born again by inwardly and personally receiving the Lord Jesus Christ into our heart and that we are not ashamed of what Christ has done for us!

Baptism is not an action that saves a person, but rather, it is an action that shows the people around us that we have been saved and that we are not ashamed of what the Lord has done for us!

Therefore, the outward symbol of baptism that a believer does publicly after they have personally received Christ into their heart as their Saviour actually demonstrates the message of the Gospel, which is the death, the burial, and the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, to those who see it. How??

Remember how the Apostle Paul describes the meaning of “*the Gospel*” in I Corinthians 15:1-4 which says, “*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*”

So, from these verses, we see and understand that the true message of “*the Gospel*” is the death, the burial, and the bodily resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As the person who has, by faith, received Christ into their heart as their Saviour, is standing in the water, they are representing how Jesus came and died upon the cross of Calvary for them. As that person is leaned back and placed under the water by the pastor, they are representing how that Jesus was buried for them. And then, as the pastor raises them back up out of the water, they are representing how that Jesus rose again bodily for them so they could live and walk victoriously in life because they have a risen and living Saviour!

And when a saved man, woman, boy, or girl is baptized according to the Word of God, this ordinance can only be fulfilled by that believer being immersed in the water so as to accurately demonstrate the bodily death, the bodily burial, and the bodily resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! Simply having someone sprinkle a few drops of water on top of a person’s head can and never will “save” someone, nor can it accurately demonstrate the message of the Gospel that the Holy Scriptures tell us that Jesus did for us to be saved. But a born again believer being Scripturally baptized by immersion in water does demonstrate the message of the Gospel and it does serve as the Christian’s “spiritual wedding band” so that all world knows that they are not ashamed of Jesus Christ who has saved them and that they are now going to go forth into the world as a victorious and joyful child of God and take the message of the Gospel to everyone they meet! Therefore, believer’s baptism is an ordinance for those of us who have, by faith, received Jesus Christ into our heart as our own personal Saviour and who now desire to show our shameless love, obedience, and appreciation to God for what He has done for us and is, in

essence, our “spiritual wedding band” that shamelessly shows forth the new relationship we have with God, through Christ Jesus our Saviour!

And as we only have to receive Christ Jesus into our heart one time to be born into God’s family and to receive God’s gift of eternal and everlasting life, even so, Believer’s Baptism is a special one-time act of obedience toward God that serves to publicly demonstrate before other born again Christians our love and appreciation to God for saving us!

A great illustration of this fact can be seen in Acts 8:26-40 where we read, *“And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.”*

The second ordinance that God desires for His church to observe is a time of grateful remembrance of what our Lord Jesus came to do for us, which is referred to in the Bible as *“The Lord’s Supper”* or by some churches as *“The Last Supper”* where this was the last time Jesus would eat the Passover meal with His disciples before going to the cross to be crucified.

Jesus said in Luke 22:15-20, *“...With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.”*

The Apostle Paul went on to write in I Corinthians 11:23-26, *"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."*

This ordinance of *"The Lord's Supper"* was where Jesus took the unleavened bread of the Passover meal and used it as an example to His disciples of how His unleavened or sinless body would be broken and offered as God's perfect sacrifice for sin upon the cross of Calvary. And then Jesus used the *"the fruit of the vine"*, as seen in Matthew 26:29, Mark 14:25, Luke 22:18, and in John 15:4, which was freshly squeezed and unfermented grape juice, to represent His untainted and sinless blood that would be shed as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. And he commanded his disciples to take and eat that bread and to take and drink that juice, as often as they chose to do it, in remembrance of what He had come to do for them.

Oh, may we never forget what Jesus came to this earth to do for you and for me even as He reminded the people in Matthew 18:11, *"For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost."*, and again in Luke 19:10 where He said, *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

The *"Lord's Supper"* is an ordinance that should be observed by all born again believers within the body of Christ, commonly referred to as 'the church', and should be a time of sober reflection and thanksgiving for how Jesus Christ so willing and lovingly gave Himself as the ransom sacrifice for our lost souls...the Just for the unjust!

The early church believers were faithful and obedient to God, not only to follow the Lord in believer's baptism as seen in Acts 2:41, but also to faithfully observe the Lord's Supper as seen in Acts 2:42 where the Bible says, *"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."*

The early church Christians were faithful in gathering together to worship and to hear the Word of God being taught in the temple (church building) where they met together joyfully, not grudgingly, or with a "half-hearted" type of attitude toward God, as well as in fellowship with one another as we see in Acts 2:46-47. And because they did, the Lord blessed that local church body of believers with even more people coming to know Christ as their Saviour on a daily basis as the Bible says, *"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*

As needs within that body of believers arose, the Bible says in Acts 2:45 that they *"...sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need."*

While in the beginning days of the early church, we see how these believers met daily in the temple, but later it became the custom to meet together on “*the first day of the week*”, which was Sunday, the day when Jesus bodily rose from the dead and came forth the tomb, victorious over death and Hell!

It was on the first day of the week when those dear ladies came to the tomb where Jesus had been buried and found it empty as we read in Matthew 28:1-10, in Mark 16:1-10, Luke 24:1-12, and in John 20:1-18. (**Note to the new convert: Take time to locate these verses in your Bible and after reading them, underline or highlight them in your Bible*)

This first day of the week, which is Sunday, was the day our Lord chose to meet with His disciples after He rose from the dead as we also see in John 20:19-25.

It was upon the first day of the week as we read in Acts 2:1-41 that God sent His Holy Spirit to empower the disciples to preach the message of the Gospel and 3,000 people heard it and got saved and baptized!

It was upon the first day of the week, when those early church believers met to worship as we read in Acts 20:7 and that they collected money and gave it to the work of the ministry as we read in I Corinthians 16:1-2.

It is interesting to see that these early church believers went beyond the normal Jewish tithe of ten percent and gave of their monies even as the Lord had prospered them. Paul further encouraged them in II Corinthians 9:6-7 by reminding them that, “*...He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*”

And as certain as the Lord was to bless the work being done within this local church at Jerusalem, the devil too was faithful to fight against that church and to persecute those faithful and obedient early church believers. But we read in Acts 8:1-4, that even in the midst of persecution these early church believers remained faithful to our Lord’s great commission and went everywhere preaching the Word of God! For within these verses we read, “*...And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles...As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.*”

May you and I strive to be ever faithful and true to obey our Lord’s commandments and to observe the ordinances established for God’s body of believers, the local church! May we determine in our hearts to be faithful to obey our Lord’s commands, to be faithful in attending and becoming an active participant of a local church that is striving to doctrinally teach, and to faithfully preach, and to actively and effectively reach our lost and dying world with the message of the Gospel, and to observe those ordinances established by Christ for His church! May we be ever faithful to participate and to serve, and to be faithful to give of our abilities, our talents, as well as of our time and monies even as God has

prospered us from week to week, that we might win our lost world to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ!

And through our faithfulness to tell others of God's love for them through the giving of His own dear Son, may God empower us through His Holy Spirit and use us in our local church body to be witnesses for our Lord both in our city, town, or village, and in our county or parish, and in our state or province, as well as *"...unto the uttermost part of the earth..."* as our Lord commanded his disciples in Acts 1:8!

If you and I would so desire to reach our world for Christ, we must see and understand through the Scriptures that this desire can only be fulfilled and blessed by God through His established, commissioned, and ordained body of born again, baptized believers...the local church!

God calls and appoints His pastors and His teachers within His Church to teach us the Word of God and to help us grow and mature spiritually so as to be more like the One who has saved us and that our lost world might see Christ in us!

The Bible indeed shows us just how vital God's local church is in "perfecting", and in "maturing", and in "preparing" the child of God for the true *"work of the ministry"*. We see this as we read Ephesians 4:12-32, and see that God's local church has been established *"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

New Convert, determine today that you are going to become an active and growing member of God's born again, baptized, body of believers called *"the local church"*!

Note to the New Convert:

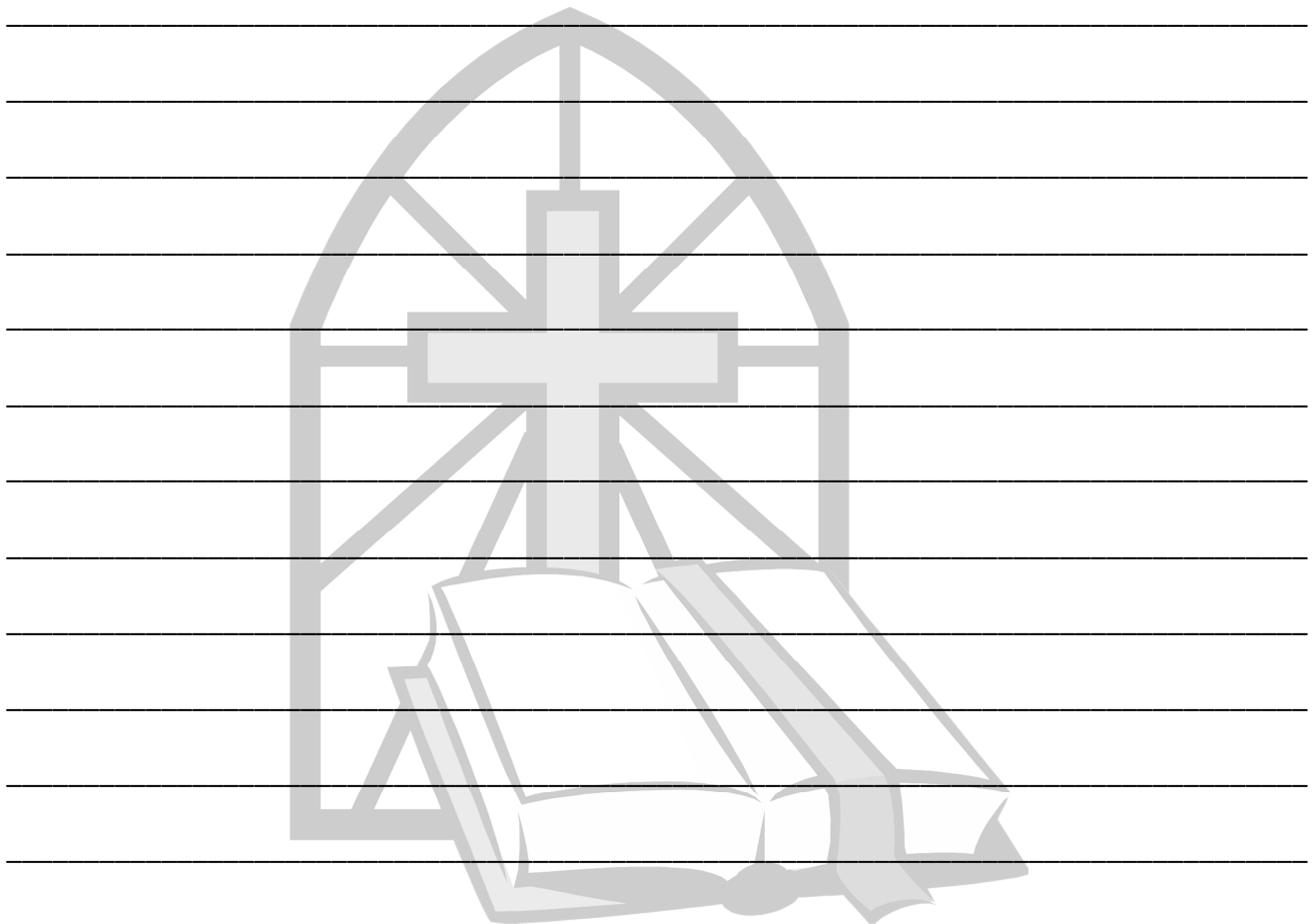
This week, go back through this week's Lesson Number Six and find each of the verses within this lesson pertaining to what the Bible teaches about the local Church.

As you read each verse again in this lesson, locate that verse in your Bible and underline it as a reference so that it may be of help to you in future days.

Feel free to make notes about what you read in the space below and write down any questions you may have so that you may ask your teacher about them when you come back to class next week.

Desire and learn to fulfill Paul's charge to young Timothy when he told him in the New Testament book of II Timothy 2:15, *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*

May God bless you as you study His Word this week!



Lesson Seven

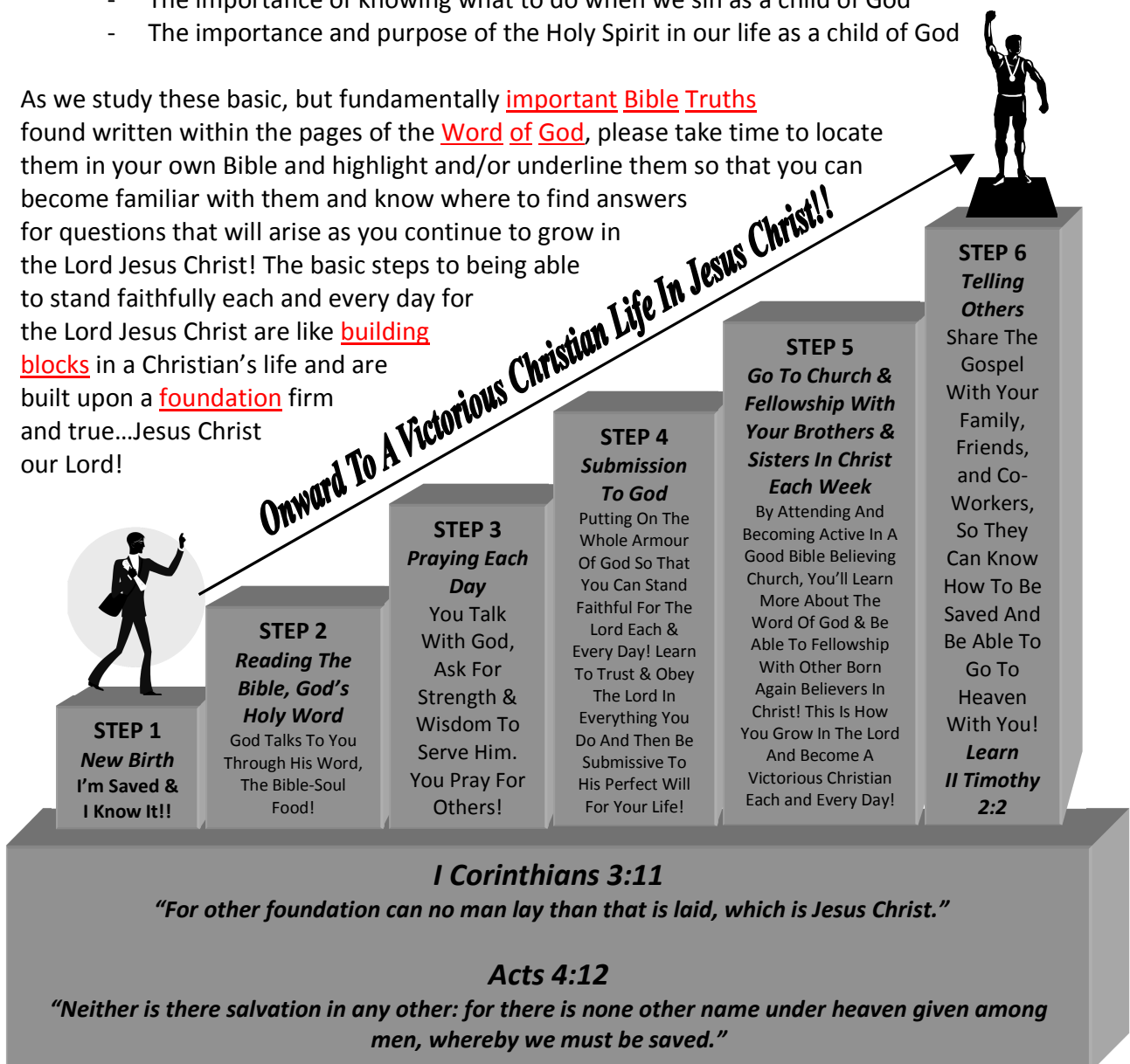
Every new convert needs to learn some basic but fundamentally important Bible Truths that will help them stay faithful to God while living and working in a lost and dying world!

Lesson Seven:

Every new convert needs to learn some basic but fundamentally important Bible Truths that will help them stay faithful to God while living and working in a lost and dying world!

- How to share the Gospel with others and Having Biblical Assurance of our Salvation
- The Biblical results of accepting Christ as our Saviour
- The importance of knowing what to do when the devil tempts us to do wrong
- The importance of the Word of God in our life as a child of God
- The importance of time spent in prayer as a child of God
- The importance of fellowship and fellowship in our life as a child of God
- The importance of knowing what to do when we sin as a child of God
- The importance and purpose of the Holy Spirit in our life as a child of God

As we study these basic, but fundamentally important Bible Truths found written within the pages of the Word of God, please take time to locate them in your own Bible and highlight and/or underline them so that you can become familiar with them and know where to find answers for questions that will arise as you continue to grow in the Lord Jesus Christ! The basic steps to being able to stand faithfully each and every day for the Lord Jesus Christ are like building blocks in a Christian's life and are built upon a foundation firm and true...Jesus Christ our Lord!



The following list of ***“Important Bible Truths For The Growing Christian”*** represents only a small portion of all the Scriptures concerning these various issues, but this list of Scripture Verses will serve to provide for you a good fundamentally sound, Bible-based foundation on how to address these and other areas in your life as a Christian as you continue to grow in the Lord from day to day. Please take time to locate these Scripture passages in your Bible and either highlight or underline them for quick and easy reference in the days to come.

THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING HOW TO SHARE WITH SOMEONE WHAT THEY MUST DO TO BE SAVED:

1: A Person Must Realize And Admit To God That They Are A Sinner:

Psalm 14:1-3	Isaiah 64:6	Romans 3:10	James 4:17
Psalm 53:3	Matthew 5:20	Romans 3:23	
Isaiah 53:6	Romans 2:11	James 2:10	

2: A Person Must Realize That God Has Established The Payment For Sin:

Matthew 25:41	John 3:36	Romans 14:12	Revelation 20:12-15
John 3:18	Romans 6:23	Hebrews 9:27	Revelation 21:8, 27

3: A Person Must Realize That While God Hates Their Sin, He Loves Them And Wants Them To Be Saved:

Isaiah 1:18	John 3:14-18	Romans 5:6-9	Romans 6:23
Isaiah 53:5	John 14:6	Romans 5:20	I Corinthians 15:1-4

4: A Person Must Be Willing To Personally Go To God In Prayer And Repent Of Their Sin And Be Willing To Receive God's Gift Of Eternal Life Through Jesus Christ As Payment For Their Sin:

Acts 16: 30-34	II Corinthians 5:17	Ephesians 1:13-14
Romans 10:9-10	II Corinthians 6:2	Ephesians 2:8-9
Romans 10:13	Galatians 2:16	I John 5:12

THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING ASSURANCE FROM GOD'S WORD OF YOUR SALVATION:

Isaiah 1:18	John 6:47	Romans 10:9	Ephesians 2:13
John 1:12	John 10:27 – 29	Romans 10:13	Philippians 1:6
John 3:16-18	Acts 16:31	II Corinthians 5:17	Titus 3:5 – 6
John 3:36	Romans 8:1	Ephesians 1:13 - 14	I Peter 1:3-5
John 5:24	Romans 8:35 – 39	Ephesians 2:8 – 9	I John 5:11 – 14

THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING THE RESULTS OF ACCEPTING JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOUR:

Luke 15:7	John 3:16-18	John 6:47	II Corinthians 5:17
Luke 15:10	John 3:36	Romans 8:16-17	Philippians 4:3
John 3:3	John 5:24	Romans 8:35-39	I John 5:13

THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING WHAT TO DO WHEN THE DEVIL TEMPTS YOU TO DO WRONG:

Psalm 119:11	I Corinthians 10:12-13	Hebrews 2:18	James 4:7
Proverbs 28:13	Ephesians 6:10-18	Hebrews 4:14-16	I Peter 1:6-7
John 16:33	Philippians 4:13	James 1:2, 3, 12-14	I Peter 5:7-9

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD OF GOD IN THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE:

Psalm 1:1-6	Romans 15:4	I Peter 2:2	I John 1:9
Psalm 119:9-11	II Timothy 2:15	II Peter 1:20-21	I John 4:4
Psalm 119:105	II Timothy 3:16-17	I John 5:11-14	Jude 1:24-25

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE:

Psalm 73:28	Matthew 6:5-15	Luke 11:9-10	Philippians 4:6-7
Psalm 116:17	Mark 1:35	John 15:7	I Thessalonians 5:17-18
Proverbs 3:5-6	Mark 13:33	Ephesians 6:18	

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP IN A CHRISTIAN'S LIFE:

Acts 2:42-47	I Corinthians 12:12	Ephesians 5:19	Hebrews 10:25
Acts 13:44	I Corinthians 12:25-27	Colossians 3:16	

THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING WHAT I SHOULD DO WHEN I SIN SO AS TO HAVE VICTORY OVER SIN:

II Chronicles 7:14	Psalm 119:9	Isaiah 55:7	I John 1:7 – 9
Psalm 51:1 – 19	Proverbs 28:13	I John 2:1 -2	

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE:

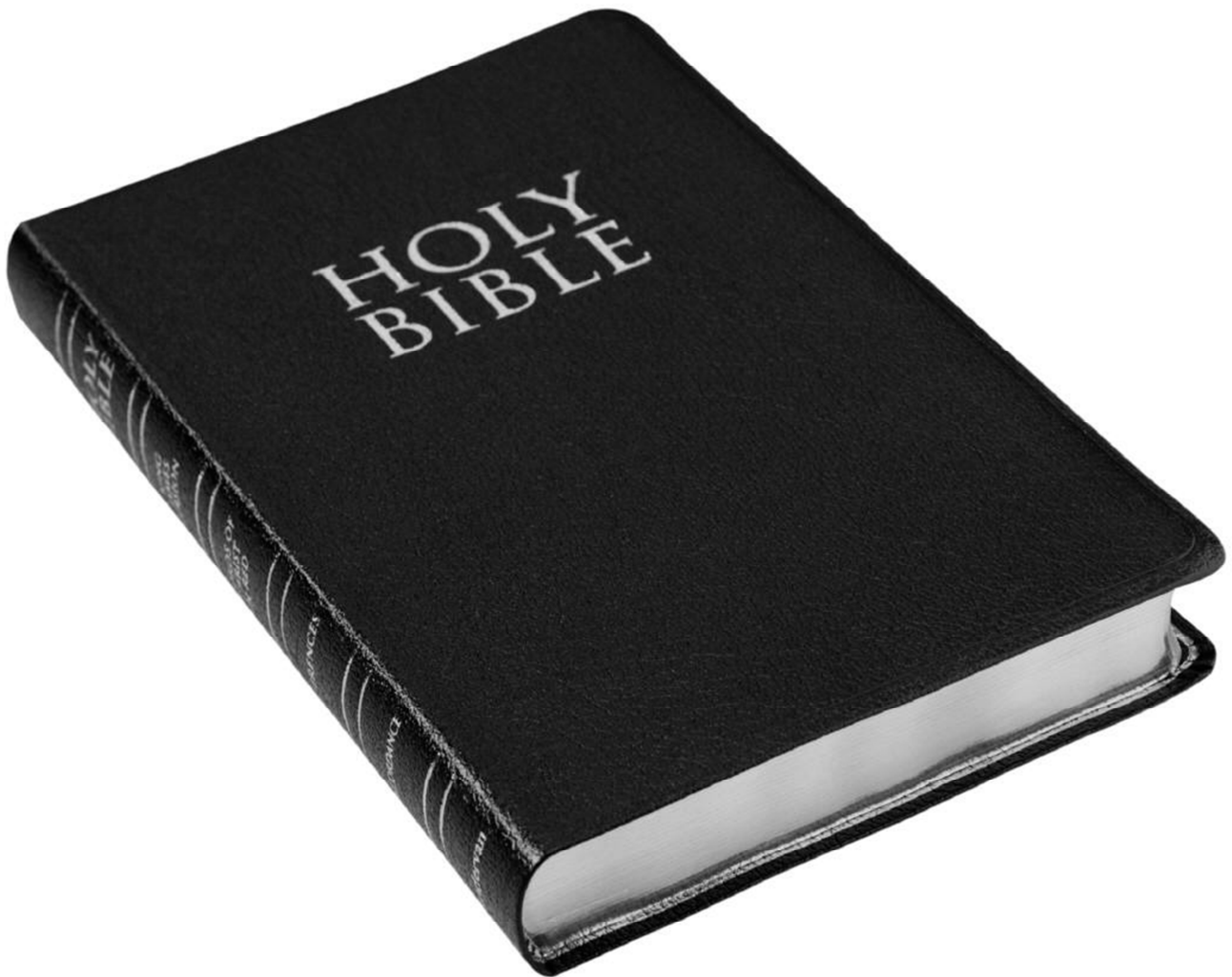
John 14:16-17	John 15:26-27	Acts 1:4-5	Acts 4:31
John 14:26	John 16:7-15	Acts 1:8	

*What light is that shining so brightly for me? That gives me such courage, the right way to see.
What hope for my trusting soul ever shall be? God's wonderful Book Divine.
I love the old Bible, Precious old Bible. Light on my pathway to shine.
It keeps me so happy, Always so happy. God's wonderful Book Divine.*

*What hope for the traveler when strength's almost gone?
That makes him determined to keep plodding on.
What sweet consolation from Heaven's white throne? God's wonderful Book Divine.
I love the old Bible, Blessed old Bible. Light on my pathway to shine.
It keeps me so happy, always so happy. God's wonderful Book Divine.*

*What chart can you trust as a guide for your soul?
When tempests would strand you on some treacherous shore.
What compass will point you to Heaven's bright door? God's wonderful Book Divine.
I love the old Bible, Old King James Bible. Light on my pathway it shines.
It keeps me so happy, Always so happy. God's wonderful Book Divine.*

The sheet music for this song can be purchased from the John Marshall Family on their website at
www.johnmarshallfamily.com/shop/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=58&products_id=402&zenid=459471fd67e10aec12e0ee59e1da1450



"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
Psalm 119:105

*"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him,
If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;"*
John 8:31

Lesson Eight

*Every new convert needs
to know that God has a
purpose and plan
for their life!*

Lesson Eight:

Every new convert needs to know that God has a purpose and plan for their life!

- The Key to finding God's Will for your life – Ask, Seek, Knock
- Biblical Examples of how God works in a person's life – Joseph, Daniel, Job, Paul
- Does God really have a purpose and plan for me?

Did you know that there is more to being saved than just knowing that when you die, you're going to Heaven?

The Bible reminds us in Ephesians 2:8-10 that we are indeed saved by grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ and He indeed gives us His gift of eternal life the very moment we receive Jesus Christ as our own personal Saviour!

But look at those three verses once again in Ephesians 2:8-10 where we see something else very important as we grow and spiritually mature in our Christian life. The Bible says, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."*

First of all we see that we are saved by the wonderful grace of a loving and merciful God! *"For by GRACE are ye saved..."*

GRACE...spelled **G-R-A-C-E** could be defined as **God's Riches At Christ's Expense!** And while we did not deserve it, God, through his great love for us, was willing to extend it to sinful man...think about that!

But also notice what else this verse says, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast..."*

We must never forget that the salvation we enjoy through faith in Christ came not as the result of any good work or deed that we may have done. Our great salvation is indeed a gift from God, therefore, we receive no privilege to boast or brag of our own merits or deeds, but we glory in Christ alone!

The Apostle John wrote in I John 4:19, *"We love him, because he first loved us."*, which brings us to the reason and purpose God has saved us through His wonderful grace found here in verse 10.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

We have been both created and formed by him, but not simply in the general sense in which all things are made by him, but in that especially peculiar sense that by acceptance of God's grace, through faith in the finished work of Christ, we have been made to be a "new creature" through our new birth, and therefore, we are God's workmanship, not our own!

The Apostle Paul did not say, *"If any man be a good man..."*, or *"If any man be a religious man..."*, or even *"If any man treat his neighbor right..."*, but rather he tells us in II Corinthians 5:17, *"Therefore if any man be **in Christ**, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*

And because we are God's workmanship, and because we have been made new creatures in Christ, that means that God has a plan and a purpose for us. The verse says, *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."*

We have not been saved *by* good works, but we have been saved *to do* good works for the One who has saved us!

There are many things that you, as a child of God, can do in service for the Lord, but the key to finding true peace and happiness in the Lord is first of all to be willing to serve the Lord with a grateful and an obedient heart!

You may ask, *"But how do I find out what God wants ME to do for Him?"*

Jesus gave the way to find God's Will for our lives in Matthew 7:7-8 when He said, *"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."*

Take time to pray and ask the Lord what He would have you to do for Him. Seek God's will constantly for your life and seek His direction and guidance when you pray. Knock on some doors of opportunity by making yourself available to God to serve Him in areas such as Soul-Winning Visitation, Sunday School, Bus Ministry, Prayer Groups, Rest Home Ministries, and so forth.

Schedule a time where you can meet with your pastor and ask him to suggest areas of opportunity that you can become more involved in within your church and ask him to help you pray for direction from the Lord as to where the Lord could best use you to serve Him!

Often times, God allows us to go through situations that leave us no room but to trust God in an effort to help prepare us for service unto Him.

God allowed a young man named Joseph to go through great family distress and heartache in order that Joseph might learn to trust the Lord and to better love and to forgive his family for all the evil deeds they committed against him while at the same time preparing Joseph to become a great leader for the Lord! You should take the time to read about Joseph's experiences in Genesis chapters 37 through 50.

Surely the story of Joseph will serve to show us how God has a purpose and plan for our lives, even when we are hated and despised and treated cruelly by family and friends for taking a stand for God

and for doing things right, and especially when we may be tempted to treat others wickedly in return for how they have treated us!

When the children of Israel did wickedly in the sight of the Lord, God put them in bondage to a wicked and pagan nation. But while God was punishing Israel for their sin, God began to work in the heart of another young man named [Daniel](#) who, according to Daniel 1:8, “...*purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself...*” in the ways of that wicked and pagan nation. God used Daniel to encourage his friends to trust the Lord and even the leaders of that wicked nation to turn and trust the true and living God! You can read about this young man and how God had a purpose for him in the Old Testament book of Daniel.

The story of Daniel serves as an [example](#) of how God has a [plan](#) for each of us if we will [purpose](#) in our heart that we will not allow the things of this world to distract us or to defile us from serving the Lord!

Satan will do all he can do to cause us, as Christians, to doubt God and to see God as someone who does not really care for us, and Satan will side track us from trusting God to have a perfect plan for our lives.

Sometimes the devil will even accuse us of not truly loving God but only loving the “things” God has given to us. And during those times, God sometimes has to “prove” us and “test” us in order to silence the false accusations of Satan against us. One such man chosen by God for such proving and testing was a man named Job.

The Bible says that when Satan accused [Job](#) of not really loving God from his heart but that Job only loved God because of all the things God had blessed him with, God chose to [allow the devil](#) to take those things away from Job in order to prove to Satan that Job did indeed love the Lord God from his heart.

Could you imagine being tested in such a way? Yet, God often referred to Job as “...my servant...” and God told Satan in Job 1:8, “...*that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil...*”.

The story of Job, found in the Old Testament book of Job, is indeed a great [story of love and faith](#) that you should read so you can understand how God uses trials and testings to [prove our love](#) for the Lord before a lost world and even before Satan himself!

God indeed had a plan for this man Job, even as He has a [plan](#) for [you and me](#) today!

And while there are many other examples of how God has a specific purpose and plan for each of us, no other story shows how much God loves us even when we were lost in our sins, as does the story of Saul of Tarsus and how God saved this man who had before, under the guise of religion, been used by Satan to destroy the Christian faith.

The story of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, who is better known as the Apostle Paul, begins in Acts chapter 7, when a man named Stephen is preaching to the Jews, who, in their religious piety, stone Stephen and put him to death, while standing close by, a young man named Saul, holds their coats and watches what happens!

Later, in Acts 8:1, we read how *"...Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles."*

And in Acts chapter 9, while Saul gets all the legal documents he needs to cast those Christians who were preaching the Word of God into jail and to go so far as to put them to death for their faith, Saul encounters the risen Saviour, Jesus Christ, and is gloriously saved on the road leading to Damascus.

And in this chapter we learn how God had a plan, even for someone who was seemingly so wicked and vile and could never be used of God to accomplish anything for the cause of Christ, as Saul of Tarsus seemed to be. Yet God said in Acts 9:15 that *"...he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel..."*

You see, God can use ANYBODY for His honour and glory...even you and me!

Oh, praise the Lord! God does indeed have a plan for each of us, and it all begins with us coming to know Christ Jesus as our own personal Saviour!

And now that you are saved, begin asking the Lord to show you His perfect plan for your life as a child of God!

Here Are Some Verses To Read This Week About Seeking God's Perfect Plan For Your Life!

Ephesians 2:8-10 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

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

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

Hebrews 10:35-36 "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."

Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"

Galatians 6:9 "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Psalms 31:24 "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD."

Psalms 37:1-6 "Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday."

Psalms 37:23 "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way."

Lesson Nine

*Every new convert needs
to know how to tell their
family and friends
how to be saved!*

Lesson Nine:

Every new convert needs to know how to tell their family and friends how to be saved!

- The reason “why” every child of God ought to be a Soul-Winner
- God’s Simple Plan of Salvation – What does the Bible say?
- Introducing the new convert to The Soul-Winner’s Club
 - o NOTE: Teacher, encourage each new convert to sign up for and to participate in the next Soul-Winner’s Club Session!

The Bible reminds us of God’s will for every person upon this earth here in II Peter 3:9 where we read, *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

Did you read that? The Bible says here that the Lord is “...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

That means God not only wanted you to be saved, but God wants your family to be saved! God wants your neighbors to be saved and He wants those folks you work with each week to be saved, and God wants your friends to be saved, as well as the strangers you may meet along the way!

But in Romans 10:14-17 the question is asked, *“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

“Someone” must take the message of the Gospel to your family if your family is to ever be saved!

“Someone” must take the message of the Gospel to those people you work beside and to those people you live beside if they are to ever be saved!

“Someone” must be willing to see the spiritual need of those around them and then be willing to take the message of the Gospel to those who, because of their sin, are lost, and headed for a devil’s Hell! Solomon wrote in Proverbs 29:18, *“Where there is no vision, the people perish...”*, and surely this is what will happen to those who are lost if there is no one who is willing to go and take the Gospel to them!

But “WHO” will go?

And “WHO” will take that message of the Gospel to them?

Surely, we, as God’s children, have been commanded to go, but which of us will actually love the Lord enough to be obedient to His command and go?

In all reality, if God has truly saved us, and if we truly are now God's child, and we truly desire to be found obedient unto the will of God in our lives, then each of us should today be willing to stand up and say, *"Lord, I'll be willing to go and tell the world about Jesus!"*

The Old Testament prophet Ezekiel wrote of God's command unto him in Ezekiel 3:16-19 where we read, *"And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul."*

When God saved us, God indeed made each of us, as Christians, to be "watchmen" over our homes, our neighborhoods, our workplaces, our schools, our city, our state, our country, and ultimately, our world, so that those who are lost in their sin, might not have to die in their sin and be forever separated from God in that awful place called Hell!

God said to Ezekiel and to the people of Israel in Ezekiel 22:30, *"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."*

Oh, what a sad verse! And what a sad thought that no one amongst the children of God would be found willing to go and do what God has saved us and commanded us to do!

Again Paul asks these same questions to the believers living at that time in Rome by saying, *"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?"*

Child of God, you and I have already been commanded in God's Word to "GO!", and we are commanded to begin by telling those in our own home town, so why should we not desire to begin telling those living in our own home about the wonderful soul-saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Another Old Testament prophet named Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 6:8, *"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."*

As we think of all God has done for us, and as we consider our Lord's command to go and tell the world, shouldn't you and I be willing to speak those same words unto the Lord and say, *"...Here am I; send me."?*

"But what do I tell them?", you may ask. *"And where do I begin?"*

Why not begin right where you live? And why not begin by telling them what has happened to you?

In Mark chapter 5, when Jesus cast the devils out of that man of the Gadarenes, the Bible says, beginning in verse 18, *"And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel."*

This man was so excited about being saved and about the change that was now in his life that had been wrought by Jesus, he wanted not only to be with Jesus, but he wanted to go with Jesus wherever Jesus went!

But notice in these verses how Jesus replied to the man's request. The Bible said, *"...Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee..."*

Jesus gave the man a job, and that being to go home and to tell his family and all his friends what Jesus had done for him, and of how, in spite of his sin, the Lord had still loved him and how He had compassion on his sinful condition and had saved him!

And notice here too, that while that man could have argued with the Lord Jesus and could have complained that he was not being allowed to do what he wanted to do, he didn't do that! Rather, he submitted his will to the will of the One who had saved him, and he obediently went back home to Decapolis, to a mother and father, whose heart he had probably broken through his rebellion and sin, and he told them *"...how great things..."* the Lord had done for him and how the Lord had shown compassion on him!

And as we look at what the Bible says happened in verse 20, please notice... *"And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: **and all men did marvel.**"*

In obedience to the Lord's command, he went back home and told all his family and all his friends about Jesus and they not only heard his words, but they saw the difference in his attitude, and in his life, as well as the real concern he now had for them in his heart, and the Bible says, *"...and all men did marvel."*

Now, let me ask you...when God saved you, can you now see how the Lord has done great things for you? So, shouldn't you too be willing to go and do what God has saved each of us to do today, and that being to tell others what Jesus has done for us and of what the Lord can do for them as well?

The Bible says in Proverbs 11:30, *"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."*

The psalmist David wrote in Psalm 126:3, *"The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."*

And surely God has, without a doubt, been good to each of us in showing His love and compassion upon us and in giving each of us the opportunity to hear the soul-saving message of the Gospel that has now changed our lives and made us to be new creatures in Christ Jesus!

Our desire, even as was the desire of the man in Mark chapter 5, should be to willingly do what our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, has commanded us to do, and that being to tell all the world of the love and mercy that God has extended to wicked and sinful mankind! For when we are willing to trust and to obey our Lord's command, all men will hear and all men will indeed marvel that God would so love them!

Now, as a new convert in Christ, you may be a bit frightened or even bashful about trying to tell someone about the Lord and you may be thinking to yourself, *"I do indeed know what Jesus has done for me, but I am just not sure of how to present God's plan of salvation to my friends or of the verses I need to show them from the Bible as to how they can be saved..."*

It is for this reason, that we have a special class called ***"The Soul-Winner's Club"*** that meets each week here at church for any Christian who wants to learn how to effectively take the Bible and fervently show their family, their friends, and anyone else that they meet how they can be saved!

"The Soul-Winner's Club" is a simple yet proven and successful 12-point local church program that teaches you how to win your first person to the Lord Jesus Christ. Once you have completed the course, with God's enabling help you will be able to win others to the Lord on a regular basis. We pray that this program will also give you the desire to train others so that they too can experience the joys and blessings that God bestows on soul winners.

"The Soul-Winner's Club" uses a 12-point plan that is taught over a 12-week period. It is a highly effective training program that over the years has been used successfully to lead literally thousands to the Lord. Some of the highlights of the program, in addition to learning the 12-point plan, include learning how to share your personal testimony in soul winning, memorizing verses of Scripture that pertain to soul winning, reading selections of instructional and motivational literature on soul winning and listening to sermons on soul winning by some outstanding preachers in America. Attending a weekly training meeting and going soul winning with your assigned trainer each week are also required in order to receive the full benefit of the program.

A Certificate of Completion will be given to all who satisfactorily complete the program. Upon winning your first person to the Lord, you will receive a gold ***"The Soul-Winner's Club"*** lapel pin containing an emerald-color stone. When you have led three persons to the Lord and they have walked the aisle in the church and made a public profession of faith, you will receive a pin with a ruby-color stone. In addition, when fifty people have been led to the Lord, a pin with a diamond-color stone will be presented.

"The Soul-Winner's Club" is an ongoing 12-week program that meets every Wednesday evening at 7:00pm downstairs in the Music Room. The starting date for each 12-week session is announced from the pulpit and can be found in the bulletin prior to each starting date.

"The Soul-Winner's Club" is a biblical program to *"use the early church soul-winning fervour of yesterday to train Christians how to win people to Jesus Christ today in order that they may be able to experience eternal life tomorrow."* We truly believe that what you, as a new convert, learn here will produce a rewarding and life-changing experience in your Christian life, as well as in those of many others with whom you come in contact.

It is our prayer that as you are learning this program, God will place in your heart the same burden that Jesus had for lost souls. Matthew 9:36 says, *"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd."*

Our prayer and the goal of this class is that you also will desire to practice faithfully what you have learned, just as the disciples did in Acts 5:42, which says, *"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."*

Make certain that you sign up for this class on Wednesday nights so you can start winning people to Christ on a regular basis. *Go back this week and review the verses on Soul-Winning found in Lesson 7!*

Lesson Ten

*Every new convert needs
to live as if today were
the day that Jesus may
come again!*

Lesson Ten:

Every new convert needs to live as if today were the day that Jesus may come again!

- Understanding that Jesus' promise to come back again is true and eminent!
- Accountability unto God in the life of the child of God in light of Christ's return!
- Understanding that there are eternal rewards for faithful service as a child of God as well as understanding that there are eternal losses for choosing to be an unfaithful servant of the Lord!

"Christianity" is more than just a "religion", it is a relationship with God through His dear Son, Jesus Christ!

"Christianity" is a way of life and a way of living each day in the hope and expectancy that today could very well be the day that Jesus comes back again to take His children Home to Heaven!

Jesus told His disciples in John 14:1-3, *"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**"*

When we physically die, the Bible teaches that the souls of those of us who are saved go immediately to be in the presence of God in the place called Heaven that our Lord has prepared for those who receive Him into their hearts as their Saviour!

II Corinthians 5:1 tells us, *"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle [referring to our physical bodies] were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."*

Just a few verses down in that same chapter, the Apostle Paul explains in II Corinthians 5:6-8, *"Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."*

So we see and understand that when a saved person dies, our body, referred to here as our 'earthly tabernacle', may be buried in the ground and dissolved away, but our soul is taken immediately into the presence of the Lord where we will forever be with the Lord in Heaven!

But for the born again child of God, there is something else that we need to remember too, and that being, if the Lord Jesus comes back again before we die, we would never have to die physically!

And this is what Jesus spoke of when He promised there in John 14:3 that one day, He would indeed come again to take His children Home to Heaven, where we will be with Him for all eternity!

Again, the Apostle Paul put it this way in I Corinthians 15:51-57 when he said, *"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, ['sleep' here referring to physical death] but we shall all be changed, In*

a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

In other words, there is coming a day when the Lord Jesus will indeed come again with all those saints of God who are already in Heaven, and He will step out on the clouds and call all His children Home to be with Him before the wrath of God is unleashed upon this wicked and vile earth!

Paul writes to the church at Thessalonica in I Thessalonians 4:13-14 and says to them, *"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."*

Paul then goes on to describe in I Thessalonians 4:16-18 what will happen on the day our Lord Jesus returns by saying, *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."*

On that day, the Bible says, the trumpet of God will sound, and the Lord Jesus himself shall descend from Heaven with a great shout, *"...and the dead shall be raised incorruptible..."*, meaning, the bodies of those Christians who died and were buried before the Lord comes back, those bodies will be raised up from the dead and gathered up into Heaven where they will receive a new incorruptible body that will never again die!

At the same time, the Bible goes on to say, *"...Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."*

And this is that "blessed hope" spoken of in Titus 2:13 that we, as born again children of God, have to look forward to...our Lord's eminent return, and what a wonderful and glorious day that will be! And oh, how we should ever be *"...Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"*

The lost world around us cannot understand why we, as Christians, look up when things go wrong in this world instead of looking down. But it is because we know, Jesus is coming again! And it is for this reason that we, as God's dear children, should determine to live daily for Him and seek daily to live our lives in such a manner that is well pleasing to Him!

The world may laugh at us and say to us, *"We've heard that story for many years, and He has still not come!"*

But child of God, the lost world never thought Jesus would come the first time as prophesied in the Old Testament Scriptures...but He did come!

And just as sure as He fulfilled His promise and came to this world the first time, Jesus will one day fulfill His promise to come again and take us Home to be with Him even as we read in II Peter 3:10-11, where the Bible says, *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness...?"*

New convert, you and I have been saved to live for and to serve the One who has saved us and who has called us as His own! Therefore, as we look around us and see all those things that are coming to pass in our world today just as the Bible has foretold that it would, and *"...Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness...?"*

If we are truly looking for the Lord to return and if we expect it to happen at any moment, just as the Bible says, then we should live our lives in such a way each day that is so pleasing unto our Lord and is so spiritually different than the way the world lives and certainly different from the way we used to live before we received Jesus as our Saviour, so that we will not be ashamed to stand before Him when He comes and calls us Home!

The Apostle Paul reminded the Christians living in Corinth in I Corinthians 9:14, *"Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."* And so it should be with us today, that we love the Lord enough to literally *"practice what we preach"* to be true!

For you and I shall indeed stand before Him one day, and give account unto Him for how we have lived for Him and served Him since we were saved!

The Bible reminds us in II Corinthians 5:10, *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."*

Christian, don't be ashamed to stand faithfully for the Lord in this wicked world in which we live! The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 10:11, *"For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."*

Child of God, serve the Lord with gladness and come before His presence with singing and with a joyful spirit—don't be ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ who has so wonderfully and marvelously saved you!

Jesus said in Mark 8:38, *"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."*

Will the Lord Jesus look at His Heavenly Father one day and say, *"Yes, Father, this is one of my children, but I am so sad and ashamed to say, he never lived for you the way he should have after he got saved!"*

Oh, may we never forget that one day, when we, as born again Christians, stand before the Lord, Matthew 16:27 says, *"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."*

The Apostle Paul put it this way in Romans 14:12, *"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."*

Let's determine that when we stand before the Lord one day in Heaven, that we are not going to stand ashamed because we were not faithful to live for Him as we should have while on this earth! And as we face each new day, let us determine to live as if today were the day the Lord Jesus might return and take us Home to be with Him!

Here Are Some Verses To Read And Mark In Your Bible This Week About The Return Of Jesus Christ!

John 14:1-3, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

II Corinthians 5:1 "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

II Corinthians 5:6-8 "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

I Corinthians 15:51-58 "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Mark 8:38 "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."

Lesson Eleven

*Every new convert needs
to continue to grow for
the Lord from day to day!*

Lesson Eleven:

Every new convert needs to continue to grow for the Lord from day to day!

- Learn how and why you need to keep yourself clean with God each day
- Learn how and why you need to read the Word of God on a regular basis
- Learn how and why you need to pray for your family and friends
- Learn how and why you need to let your light so shine before men (Matthew 5:16)
- Learn how and why you need to attend Sunday School faithfully to grow in the Lord and in His Word
- Learn about the different Sunday School Classes within this church and how you can become part of one of them each week after completing this course
 - o NOTE: Teacher, give a list of the new converts in this class to each Sunday School Teacher so that each teacher may then make contact with each of the new converts and invite them to attend their class

You need to understand that after a little baby is born, it begins to grow each day. It grows from being an infant that needs constant care and attention into early childhood, where that child learns to walk and to talk and dress itself under the guidance of responsible and loving parents, whose goal it is for that child to one day grow up and become a mature, responsible adult. And so it is with us as born again children of God, for it is only natural that God's children hunger and thirst after righteousness so they too can grow up in the Lord and become spiritually mature and responsible Christians who will desire to be about the Heavenly Father's business!

When we receive Christ as our own personal Saviour and are born again into the Family of God, we may not at first know much about how to live for God or how to serve God or how to tell others about the Lord's great love for them because we are still only 'babes in Christ'. But if we will get into the Word of God and allow the Word of God to get into us, and get into a good Bible-believing and Bible-preaching Church, and decide to be faithful in our attendance to the House of God each week and to Sunday School where we can be taught the Word of God, then pretty soon, we will begin to see Spiritual growth and Spiritual maturity as we begin grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ!

This is God's command for us as new born babes in Christ as we read in II Peter 3:18 which says, *"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."*

As you begin to read the Word of God, and to faithfully attend a good Bible-preaching church, you begin to grow in God's grace and in His knowledge, which is glorifying to God our Heavenly Father!

For eleven weeks now, you have attended this class where you have learned just how much the Lord God really does care for you and how He wants to help you grow for His Glory. Soon, you will be graduating out of this New Convert Class and you will begin to faithfully attend a new Sunday School Class. You will be going from the infant stage of receiving the *"sincere milk"* of the Word of God as a new convert in Christ, to where, as a growing Christian, you will be able to take in more of the *"meat"*

of God's Word so that you can continue to grow in the Lord as a Spiritually mature and obedient servant of God!

The Christian life is a life of continual learning and growing with the express purpose in God's heart of you one day being able to take the message of the Gospel that has so changed your life, and share it with your family and with your friends and with any others you may meet along life's way! Therefore, it is important that you stay faithful to the House of God and that you stay faithful to read and meditate upon the Word of God, and that you desire God's perfect will for your life in all that you do!

There may be ups and downs in your new life in Christ, but the Lord God is there with you all along the way to lead you and to guide you through the power and wisdom of His Holy Spirit that has indwelt you from the very moment you received Jesus Christ into your heart as Saviour!

Please understand that just because you are now saved and on your way to Heaven, it does not mean that you are perfect and beyond falling prey to the discouragements of the devil or to the temptations of sin and worldly lusts! The devil will do all he can do to tempt you and to discourage you and to cause you to set your eyes upon men instead of keeping your eyes on Jesus, so be aware of Satan's plan of attack on your life and keep yourself in the love of God!

The Apostle John wrote to fellow Christians and reminded them in I John 1:8-9, *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

So be willing to admit it to God when you have been tempted to sin against His Word or even when you do something that is contrary against His Word! Don't try to cover up your sin with God or allow sin to "stack up" in your life so that sin after sin, it builds up a wall of separation between you and God and breaks down the fellowship that you now enjoy with the Lord through Salvation!

The Bible tells us in Proverbs 28:13, *"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."*

Take that sin to God the moment it occurs and keep your heart cleansed from the stains that sin will leave upon your life if they are simply covered up and left alone!

In the days before electricity, when people used oil lamps to light their homes and to enable them to see outside, one of the most important jobs they had was to keep the globe of that lamp clean and to remove the soot and stain that would rapidly attach itself to the clear globes that projected the light of that lamp!

There may have been a bright flame inside the lamp, but if the globe was dirty and stained by soot on the inside of the globe, there would be no light to allow people to see in the darkness of the night!

The devil would love nothing more than for us to become a glowing lamp with a dirty globe that keeps the Light of the glorious Gospel of Christ hidden from a lost world that so needs God's Light!

Because of the [great responsibility](#) God has placed upon us as His light in this dark world of sin, we are reminded in II Corinthians 4:1-4, *"Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. **But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**"*

When God saved us, He made us to be [ambassadors](#) that represent Him. And now, as His ambassadors, our job is to represent the King of kings and the Lord of lords in all our day to day activities even as we read in II Corinthians 5:20 where the Bible says, *"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. "*

What a [joy](#) it is to be able to [represent](#) the One who loved us and gave Himself for us [wherever](#) we may go! And what joy it is to be able to [share](#) with others the good news of the Gospel and to let them know what our Lord [can do for them](#), even as He has done so great things for us!

And how do we keep our "spiritual globes" clean on a daily basis? Stay in God's Word even as the psalmist David wrote in Psalms 119:9, *"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."*

[Stay faithful](#) in attending church and Sunday School even as those early Christians were so faithful to do as we read in Acts 2:46-47, where *"...they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*

And when you don't know what to do in a situation, [follow God's command](#) found in James 1:5 which says, *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."*

[Stay faithful](#) to pray for God's Power in your life as well as for your family and loved ones! Oh, may we be found faithful to [pray](#) for our city, our county, our state, and for our nation, that God might once again hear our prayers and bless us as His people!

The Bible says in II Chronicles 7:12-14, *"And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and*

seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Oh, that we as Christians would pray for our country and be the shining lights for Christ that God wants us to be for we learn in Proverbs 14:34 that *“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”*

Dear new convert, make up your mind today that when you graduate out of this class, that you are going to be found faithful to join a good Sunday School Class where you can continue to grow in the Lord and learn how to become the Spiritually strong and Spiritually mature Christian that God has saved you to become!

Never forget the words of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, that are found in Matthew 5:16 where he challenged the people to *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

May our Lord Jesus Christ help you, as His dear child, to continue to grow in the might and power of His Holy Word!

*“Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
Matthew 5:16*

Here Are Some More Verses To Read And Mark In Your Bible **About Continuing To Grow In The Lord Jesus Christ!**

Psalm 1:1-6 "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish."

I Samuel 12:23 "Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:"

II Chronicles 7:12-14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Joshua 24:14-15 "Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

James 5:16b "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Jude 1:21 "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

Hebrews 12:1-3 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

Romans 10:11 "For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

Hebrews 10:23-25 "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Lesson Twelve

*Every new convert needs
to commit themselves to
the One who has
saved them!*

Lesson Twelve:

Every new convert needs to commit himself to the One who has saved them!

- Show your commitment to God by not being ashamed of the One Who has saved you!
- Show your commitment to God by joining a Biblically sound, Bible preaching Church!
- Show your commitment to God by getting involved in the Church you have joined!
- Show your commitment to God by giving of your time, your talents, your temple, and your treasure unto the Lord!
 - NOTE: Teacher, encourage each student to make a public profession of faith in Christ, to follow the Lord in Believer's Baptism, and to join the Church if they have not already done so by the time this class is completed!
 - NOTE: Teacher, make certain each pertinent Sunday School Class Teacher has a list of those students scheduled to complete the New Convert Class by the end of the tenth lesson week.
 - NOTE: Teacher, make certain that each student completing this class has indeed chosen a Sunday School Class to become part of next Sunday. Make certain you follow-up with the teacher of that class to make certain they have contacted the new converts and have invited them to attend their class and that the new convert is actually attending a class on Sunday.

As we complete this series of lessons designed to help you, as a new convert in Christ Jesus, to know how you ought to live for the One who has saved you and given you His Gift of eternal everlasting life, we ask that you consider the words of the Apostle Paul found in I Thessalonians 4:1-7, which says, *"Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."*

We would encourage you to live unashamedly for the Lord in all aspects of your life and in the presence of all you meet and do your business with from day to day remembering Romans 10:11 which says, *"For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."*!

If you have not already done so, we would encourage you to make a public profession of your faith in Christ Jesus today when the invitation is given by the Pastor in the church service and let people know that you have indeed been saved and that you are grateful unto God for saving you!

And if you have not already done so, we would encourage you, as a born again believer, to make the commitment to follow the Lord in Believer's Baptism and put on that "spiritual wedding band" that lets everyone around you know that you are saved and that you are not ashamed of what Christ Jesus has done for you!

We would also encourage you today, if you have not already done so, to commit yourself to the Lord and to the ministry of His Church by becoming a faithful and active member of this Church, which has loved you, and through which someone came and presented the message of the Gospel to you, and you chose to receive Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour! You see, it is through this local church that you have not only come to know Christ as your Saviour, but it is through this church that you have come to grow in the Lord and to become aware of the many opportunities that God has given you to serve Him through the outreach ministries of this local church!

And as a member of this local body of born-again, baptized believers, you should seek out areas of ministry in which you can be used of God to take the message of the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth!

After you become a member of this church, you should faithfully support the ministries of this church through your prayers, and through your participation in its various ministries. And because you desire these ministries to remain available to reach out and touch the lives of still more who need to hear the message of the Gospel, you should be found faithful to financially support the work of this local church through your tithes and offerings even as God has prospered you, so that the work of this local church ministry may continue to reach those who are lost and need to hear the message of the Gospel!

And what you give to the Lord financially through this local church should be given out of a grateful and loving heart even as we read in II Corinthians 9:7 where the Bible says, *“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”*

We don't seem to mind or be offended when we have to pay for a good meal at a nice restaurant and even giving a good tip to the waitress for serving us, do we?

We don't seem to mind or be offended when we have to pay a high price for fuel in our cars each week to get back and forth to work or go on vacation or when we have to pay for any other thing in life we love to do, do we?

So why should we mind or in any way be offended when the Lord commands us to give, even as He has prospered us, of our money to the work of His local church and to the church to which you belong as a member?

We purpose in our heart to give unto the work of the Lord, not grudgingly, or out of necessity, but we give unto the Lord because we love the Lord, and because we realize that were it not for the Lord and for the strength that He has given unto us, we would not even be able to hold down a job in order to receive a paycheck each week or each month!

Jesus said in Matthew 6:19-21, *“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*

You will find that there are indeed eternal, everlasting rewards for being found faithful in the work of the Lord and in reaching the world with the message of the Gospel, but remember, that work begins right here where you are today, and that being through the soul-saving ministries of God’s local Church!

May God bless you as you continue to serve Him and as you now commit yourself to the work of the Lord that He has saved you to do! May our dear Lord now enable you to remain faithful to serve Him as the One who loved you and who gave Himself for you so you could be saved even as you are this day!

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If you would like to obtain more Bible Study information pertaining to your new life in Christ Jesus, please visit the ***“Recently Accepted Christ”*** page on our church website for downloadable Audio Sermons as well as for a downloadable Discipleship Manual at ***www.opendoorchurch.org/what-if/recently-accepted-christ.html***

There are also several AUDIO SERMONS listed on this ***“Recently Accepted Christ”*** page that you may freely listen to or download in .MP3 format as well as download and print the corresponding Discipleship Manual entitled ***“No Turning Back”*** in .PDF format.

The corresponding discipleship manual may also be downloaded or printed out from this direct link on the ***“Recently Accepted Christ”*** page at ***www.opendoorchurch.org/images/stories/No%20Turning%20Back.pdf***

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Note to the New Convert in Christ: If you have additional questions about your new life in Christ, please feel free to ask the Teacher of this class and/or your Pastor to arrange a time where you can talk with them about your questions! Your Pastor, as well as the teacher of this class, are men of God who are there to help you to continue to grow in your day to day walk with the Lord Jesus Christ and are always willing to help advise you and to direct you in seeking true and godly wisdom found within the pages of the God’s Holy Word!

Note to the Teacher of this New Convert Class:

Teacher, as you finalize this class and present each new convert with a Certificate of Completion for faithfully attending this twelve week class, please take the time to pray with the class that God has given you to teach and to encourage to live for God this past twelve weeks!

Do your best to encourage each new convert to remain faithful to love the Lord God and to commit themselves not only to make a public profession of their faith in Christ Jesus, but to obediently follow the Lord in Believer’s Baptism and to join the church as a faithful, loving, obediently serving and giving member!

If you have the opportunity, have someone take a group picture of you and the members of this class to keep as a record of remembrance of their attendance in this New Convert Class.

If you can, plan to have someone take a picture of each New Convert as you present to them their Certificate of Completion reward for their faithfulness to attend this class. This will serve both as a reminder of how good God has been to them as well as become a keepsake to them that will grow in value as the years pass by!

As time allows, try to Biblically answer any questions they may have regarding what they have been taught in this class and encourage each one to be found faithful to attend their new Sunday School Class in the days and weeks to come!

Make certain you have contact information on each of the new converts who have attended this class and that you pass that information on to the Sunday School Teacher that will be teaching each of these new converts in the weeks to follow their graduation from this class!

As you are well aware, the devil, our adversary and their adversary, will do all he can do to discourage them and to defeat them and to cause them to fall away from faithfully serving the Lord! So do all you can to occasionally follow-up on each of them and to applaud them for being faithful to church and to serve the Lord and to lovingly reprove them should they become unfaithful in their service to the Lord.

Teacher, you have been and shall forever serve as a great influence to these graduating new converts, so keep your eyes on the Lord even as you encourage them to do the same! Never forget the words of the Apostle Paul written to Timothy, his own dear son in the faith, found in II Timothy 2:1-2 where he charged him saying, *"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."*

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