NEW LIFE!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17



BASIC BIBLE TRUTHS FOR NEW BELIEVERS

VINCENT SAWYER

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NEW LIFE!

"Therefore if any man be in Christ,
he is a <u>new</u> creature:
Old things are passed away;
Behold, all things are become <u>new</u>"
II Corinthians 5:17

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INTRODUCTION



"Behold, I make all things new"! This promise given by the LORD God describes the new eternal city that will one day be the home for every Christian (Revelation 21:5). What a future awaits those who have trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior! But God not only has abundant life waiting for you in the future, He has abundant life for you to experience now! (John 10:10)

The Bible says: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a <u>new</u> creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become <u>new</u>"
(II Corinthians 5:17) Every believer in Jesus Christ is already a new creation, a new person, with new direction in life, new ambitions, new hope, and a new life! Everything for the believer is new! God has even put within our hearts - "a new song" (Psalm 40:3)!

This Bible study is designed to guide new and growing Christians into a greater understanding of their new life in Christ. All you need to begin is a Bible, a pen or pencil, and a quiet place to study. You can do this Bible study by yourself, or better yet with another Christian friend. Before each lesson, pray and ask God to "open your eyes" to the wonderful truths found in His Word (Psalm 119:18). You are now ready to learn about your new life as a believer in Jesus Christ.

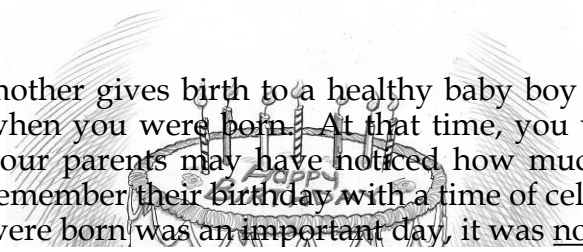
I sing a new song
since Jesus came
serve a new master
wear a new name
walk a new road
have a new goal
know a new peace
down deep in my soul!

Lesson 1

"A NEW FAMILY"

(A Change by <u>Adoption</u>)

One of the happiest times in life is when a



mother gives birth to a healthy baby boy or girl. There was a specific time and place when you were born. At that time, you were given the last name of your father and your parents may have noticed how much you looked like them. Most people even remember their birthday with a time of celebration each year. Even though the day you were born was an important day, it was <u>not</u> the most important day of your life.

The Lord Jesus spoke of a birth more important than even your physical birth. He said that it is not enough for someone to be born once, but they must be born <u>twice</u>.

In this lesson, we will discover what Jesus meant when He said, "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7).

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "BORN AGAIN"?

To be "born again" simply means to be born anew into <u>God's</u> family. It means to become a <u>child</u> of God.

READ John 3:1-8 and answer the following questions:

1. According to Jesus, why is it <u>important</u> to be "born again"? (John 3:3)

   _____

   _____

2. Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant by the phrase "born again." What type of birth was Nicodemus thinking about? (verse 4)

_____

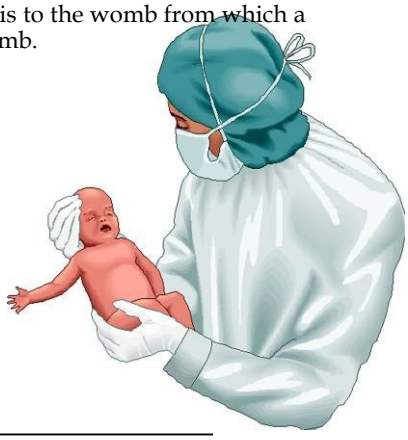
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3. To be born out of a mother's womb (v. 4) is the same as being born out of "water" (v. 5) or in other words to be born out of "flesh" (v. 6). Jesus says that this physical birth is not enough to enter into "the kingdom of God." What type of birth is needed to enter that Kingdom? (verses 5 & 6)

_____

* Note: A woman who is pregnant with a child carries her baby in her womb which is filled with "water" -technically called "amniotic fluid." In this context, Jesus' reference to "water" is to the womb from which a child enters this life. Job 38:8 also uses the analogy of water issuing out of a womb.

4. Because the new birth is a spiritual birth and not a physical or visible birth, what does Jesus compare this birth to? (verse 8)



_____

5. What did God do for you so that you could be "born again" and have everlasting life? (John 3:16)

_____

_____

6. It is sad that not everyone has this everlasting life. God's Word says that there are two groups of people in this world. According to John 3:36, what are these two groups?

_____

_____

7. What does a person have to do with Jesus Christ in order to become a child of God? (SEE: John 1:12)

_____

_____

To "receive" Jesus Christ means to accept Him by <u>faith</u> to be your very own Lord and Savior from sin and Hell. The Lord Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sin so that you would not be condemned for your sin (Romans 8:1). He then arose from the dead so you too will live through Him (I Corinthians 15:3-4). Jesus suffered your penalty so that you could be brought into right relationship with God (I Peter 3:18). He is your only way to everlasting life (John 14:6). The day you call upon Jesus and receive Him, you are saved from perishing and become a member of God's family (Romans 10:13)!

Have you ever accepted Jesus Christ into your heart? (SEE: Revelation 3:20)_____

_____

8. Who is it that gives us this new birth (John 1:13)?
Circle one:

a. Your father

b.
A
priest
c.
God

9. God knew in advance who would be part of His family. This is called "predestination." How did He make you His child? (Ephesians 1:5)

_____
_____

10. If you have been adopted into God's family, you can now call God by what name? (Romans 8:15)

_____
(Note: "Abba" is the Aramaic word for Papa or Daddy)

11. What does our loving God call us when we are born again?
SEE: I John 3:1*
* (Note: "I John" ["First John"] refers to the first epistle of John near the end of your Bible.)

_____
_____

WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE OF BEING "BORN AGAIN?"

Just as growing children have a tendency to "take after" their parents, children of God will also take after their Heavenly Father as they grow up spiritually.

What will God's children be like?

Those who are born of God will:

I John 2:29 - _____

I John 4:7 - _____

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING "BORN AGAIN"?

1. If you are "born again," you will be able to overcome the pressures of what?

(I John 5:4-5)
_____

2. You can have an assurance of eternal life that is not based on the words of men but on the _____ _____ _____ (I Peter 1:23).

3. If you belong to Jesus Christ, what will He do for you? (John 14:1-3)

_____
_____

_____
_____

MEMORY VERSE - JOHN 3:16

Lesson 2

"A NEW FUTURE"

(A Change in My <u>Assurance</u>)



Many people are concerned about their future. To prepare for future years on earth, many have invested money into social security, retirement funds and life insurance, etc. While such investments may provide a sense of peace of mind for many, they do not guarantee you will live long enough to benefit from them, nor do they give you assurance of life after death.

The best "insurance" cannot be purchased from man, but it can be freely yours from God. If you are a "born again" Christian (See lesson 1), your Heavenly Father wants you to feel secure in His family. Therefore, God has already provided real "insurance" for your future so that you can have a new peace of mind and a real assurance of everlasting life.

This lesson will unfold God's eternal security for your future.

WHAT ABOUT MY FUTURE?

READ I Peter 1:3-9 and then answer these questions:

1. Someone who is in God's family has a future inheritance where? (I Peter 1:4)

_____

2. Complete this sentence from verse 5 - God promises that this inheritance is "reserved" for those people who are _____
_____

_____.

3. Look at your answer to question # 2 again. In your answer what word do you think shows that the believer is securely "guarded" by God so that he will never lose his future inheritance in Heaven?

-

4. God again promises that you will receive something in the future because of your faith in Christ. What is it? (verses 5 & 9)

_____
_____

[Note: It is important to remember that you will not only have eternal life in the future, but you have it right now! (John 3:36; 5:24)]

5. Even though we are saved, and God loves us, is the Christian life always an easy life without difficulties? (verses 6 & 7) _____ _____

6. Even though no believer living today has ever seen Jesus Christ with his eyes, what does our belief in Him cause us to do? (verse 8)

-

-



HOW LONG WILL I BE SAVED?

READ **John 10:27-30**
and answer the following questions:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Good Shepherd (Psalm 23) and we who trust Him are His sheep.
What did He do for us so that we could become His sheep and live eternally? (See: John 10:11)

_____
_____

2. If you are one of Christ's sheep, what two evidences will be in your life to show that you are His? (John 10:27)

1)_____ 2) _____
_____[Note: We hear Christ's voice today as He speaks to us through His Word - The Bible]

3. What does Jesus freely give to His sheep? (verse 28) _____

4. How long do you think "eternal life" will last? [Circle one]

   a. Until I commit a sin b. Until I die c. For ever and ever

5. If you have eternal life, what two things does Jesus promise will never happen to you? (verse 28)

   _____

   _____

6. It is true that no one can ever remove you from the hand of Christ. Will Christ ever release you and throw you away? (See: John 6:37) _____

7. What can separate you from the love of Christ? (See: Romans 8:35-39)

   _____
   _____

WHAT HAPPENS IF I SIN?

God does not want any of His children to sin (I John 2:1). But when you do sin, it is not necessary for you to be saved again. God never disowns His children. When you sin, your relationship with God does not end, but your closeness to Him and your joy will be hurt.

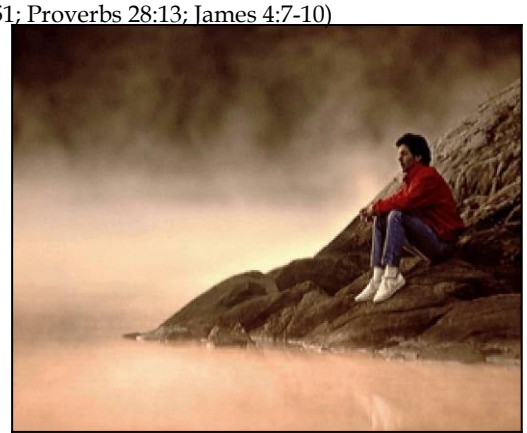
1. What should you do when you sin? (I John 1:9)

   _____
   _____

2. What does this verse say God will do? (I John 1:9)

   _____ _____
   _____

(For more help about forgiveness, see: Psalm 32:1-5; Psalm 51; Proverbs 28:13; James 4:7-10)



WHAT SHOULD I TRUST?

Read I John 5:11-13 and write down one reason why you know that you have eternal life:

_____
_____
_____

Friend, don't trust your <u>feelings</u> about your salvation, but trust the <u>facts</u> of God's Word - The Bible. God's Word promised you eternal life through faith in Christ alone (John 3:16). Can God ever lie or go back on His promise? (See: Titus 1:2)

_____

Your Savior will never abandon you. He has promised: "...I will <u>never</u> leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:6; See also Psalm 37:28)

MEMORY VERSES - I JOHN 5:11-12

Lesson 3

"A NEW FOOD"

(A Change in Appetite)



A popular phrase repeated by health food advocates is: "You are what you eat." It is a recognized fact that good health depends largely on a well-balanced diet.
Like your physical health, your spiritual health and growth also depends on what you "eat," or take into your life. Therefore, your inner man --the spiritual part of you-- must be fed. God has some "spiritual food" for you to consume and digest so that you will be a healthy, strong, growing Christian. This food is His Word - the Bible.

In this lesson, you will discover how important it is for you to know the Bible, God's Holy Word.

IS THE BIBLE NECESSARY FOOD?

When someone is "born again," everything becomes new (II Cor. 5:17), including one's appetites.

1. Job had an appetite for God's Word. He depended on it so much He considered it to be more necessary than what? (Job 23:12)

_____
_____

2. The Lord Jesus Christ said that man does not merely live by bread (food) alone but by what? (Matthew. 4:4)

_____
_____

Read I Peter 2:1-3 and answer these questions:

3. A new Christian, like a newborn baby, needs to have an appetite or "desire" for what? (I Peter 2:2)

_____
_____

4. Why should he desire this? (I Pet. 2:2)_____
_____

5. Before you can "take in" God's Word and benefit from it, what must you first "put out" of your life? (verse 1)

_____
_____

IS THE BIBLE WHOLESOME FOOD?

The Bible will improve your life if you read it daily. The reason is because the Bible is absolutely true and trustworthy. You can totally depend on it, because it is God's Word to man; it is not man's Word about God.

1. Who guided God's prophets so that they wrote exactly what God wanted? (II Peter 1:20, 21)

_____

This guidance is called "inspiration." Inspiration simply means that the Bible came from the very mouth of God (Isaiah 45:23).

2. How much of the Bible has been inspired by God? (II Timothy 3:16)

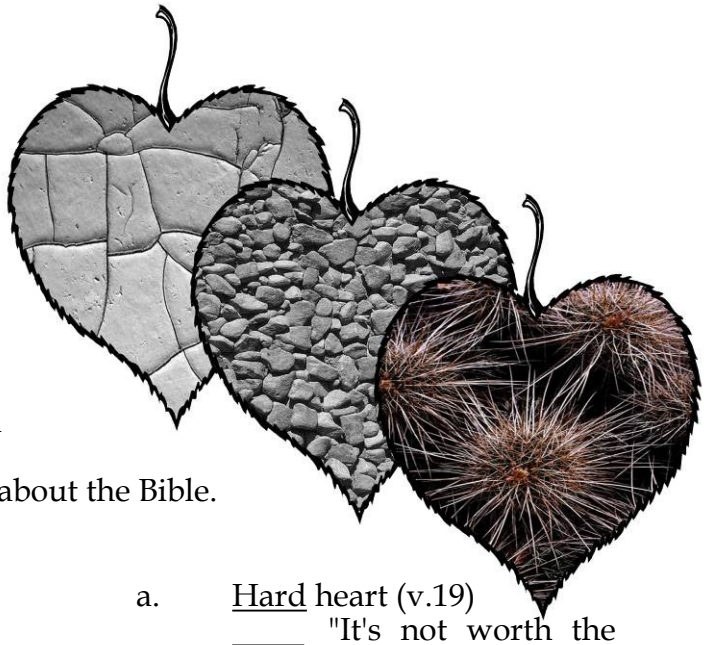
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3. Since the Bible is God's very own Word, what is it profitable for? (II Timothy 3:16)

_____ _____

_____ _____

For further information about the accuracy and dependability of the Bible, read: Matthew 5:18, 24:35; John 10:35, 17:17; Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12; Revelation 22:18-19.



WHAT DO I DO TO GROW?

1. The condition of your heart will determine whether you grow as you read the Bible. Read Matthew 13:3-9 and 18-23.

Note:
The Seed = The Word of God
The Soil = The Heart of man



Many people have different attitudes about the Bible. Match the letter to the statements:

a. Hard heart (v.19) ____ "It's not worth the effort."
b. Stony heart (v.20-21) _____ "I want to know God's Word."
c. Thorny heart (v.22) _____ "I don't care what God says."
d. Tender heart (v.23) _____ "I have other things to worry about. Other things are more important to me."

2. What kind of heart do you have?

3. Turn to **Psalm 119**. This entire chapter emphasizes the importance of the Bible. Nearly every verse has something to say about God's Word.

Before you sit down to read your Bible, what should you ask God to do for you? (Psalm 119:18; compare also verses 33-34).

_____
_____

4. King David, whom God used to pen Psalm 119, said, "Incline my heart unto thy testimonies" (v. 36). This means he asked God to give him a desire or a hunger

for the Bible.

Read verses 97, 113, 127, 163, 167. What one word describes David's attitude toward the Bible?_____

5. God's Word is considered to be "better" than _____ and _____ _____ (verse 72), and "sweeter" than _____ (verse 103).

How much does the Bible mean to you?

6. Many times, sin in our lives will keep us from hungering for God's Word. It has been said that "Sin will keep you from this Book (the Bible), and this Book will keep you from sin." What should you do with God's Word to keep yourself from sin? (Psalm 119:11)

_____ _____

It is very important to memorize verses from the Bible. Especially verses that will help you with an area of weakness or temptation in your life.

7. Besides "hiding God's Word in his heart," what else did David do with God's Word? (Psalm 119:15, 23, 97, 99)

_____ _____

To "meditate" on God's Word means spending time to seriously think about what God's Word says, what it means, and what it means to you.

8. What are the benefits of meditating on God's Word?

Psalm 1:1-3 - _____

Joshua 1:8 - _____

The purpose for reading, memorizing, and meditating on God's Word is so that you will do what God says. In other words, God gave us His Word so that we would trust it and obey it.

9. Read Matthew 7:24-27.
What does the Lord Jesus call those who do what He says? (verses 24-25)

_____ _____

10. What does the Lord Jesus call those who do not do what He says? (verses 26-27)

_____ _____

For further help about obeying God's Word, see: James 1:19-25.

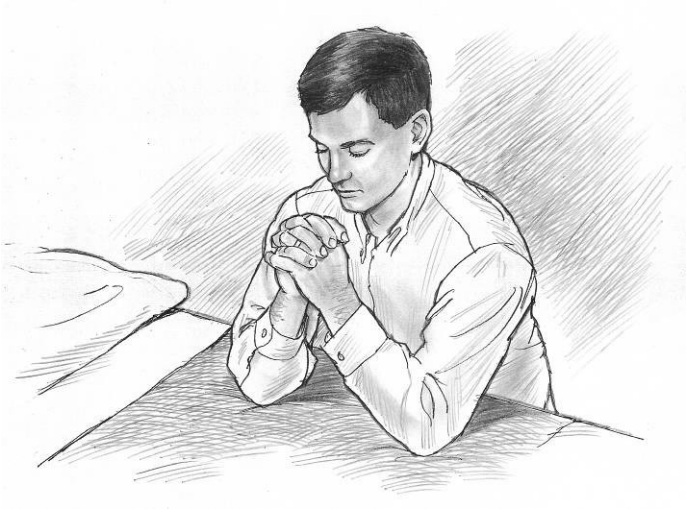
MEMORY VERSE - MATTHEW 4:4



Lesson 4

"A NEW FAITH"

(A Change in Who I <u>Ask</u> For Help)



Communication is an important part of any relationship. Without good communication, thoughts, feelings, and desires remain unknown. Just as Godly parents enjoy hearing their children talk to them, your Heavenly Father loves to hear His children talk to Him. God Himself says: "The prayer of the upright is His delight!" (Proverbs 15:8)

In the previous lesson you learned that God talks to you through His Word, the Bible. In this lesson you will learn that you talk to God through prayer.

WHERE DO I GO FOR HELP?

God says: "Call unto Me and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3).

Turn to Psalm 86 and answer these questions:

1. How often did David pray? (verse 3)

2. King David, like every believer, had many needs in his life. What are some of the things David prayed for?

   Psalm 86:3 -

   Psalm 86:4 -

   Psalm 86:5 -

   Psalm 86:7 -

   Psalm 86:11 -

   Psalm 86:16 -

3. Besides asking God to meet his various needs, what else did David include in his

prayers? (Psalm 86:12)

HOW DO I PRAY?

Prayer is simply talking to God from your heart.
Please read Matthew 6:5-13.

1. According to the Lord Jesus, when you pray your words should be sincere, not hypocritical. You should not pray to be seen by whom? (verse 5) _____ _____

2. Also Jesus taught that your prayers should be meaningful. In other words, God wants your prayers to come from your heart. Because of this, how does Jesus tell us not to pray? (verse 7)

_____

(Note: The word "vain" means empty or without meaning; the word "repetition" refers to repeating the same words over and over.)

The Lord Jesus gives a great lesson on the "manner" (or the "how to") of prayer in verses 9-13. In doing so, He did not intend for you to repeat these very words over and over again. This would be considered "vain repetition." Rather, Jesus gives you a pattern for how to pray. He gives you a model, an example, a format, or outline for prayer, so that you can have an understanding of what you should pray about each day.

3. Since you have been "born again," you have a personal relationship with God. Because of this relationship, you can call God by what name when you pray? (verse 9)?

_____

4. Match the verse reference to the statement (See verses 9-13):

When you pray you should pray about these matters:

Ask God for protection from sin - Verse

Ask God to provide our needs - Verse

Spend time praising God for who He is - Verse

Let God know how much you desire His plan ("His will") for your life and for the future - Verse

Ask God to pardon your sin - Verse

DOES GOD REALLY ANSWER PRAYER?

Notice Matthew 7:7-11.

1. The Lord Jesus Christ promised answers to prayer. What word occurs three times in Matthew 7:7 to prove this?

   -

2. How many of God's children can receive answers to their prayers? (verse 8)

   -

   Read again Matthew 7:9-11.

3. What type of gifts does our Heavenly Father give to His children? (verse 11)

   -

WHOSE PRAYER DOES GOD HEAR?

1. Even though God promises to answer prayer, each promise has a certain condition that must be met. State the conditions described in the verses below:

   Mark 11:24 - a.

   Mark 11:25 - b.

   John 14:13-14

   John 15:7 - a.

   b.

   I John 3:22- a.

   b.

   I John 5:14-15 -

   James 5:16 -

   God loves to hear the prayers of those who are living lives which honor Him. The Bible says: ". . . the prayer of the <u>upright</u> is His delight" (Proverbs 15:8).

2. What is one reason why God does not answer some prayers?

(James 4:3) _____

FOR WHOM SHOULD I PRAY?

Besides praying for yourself, God says that we should also pray for whom?

(I Timothy 2:1) _____

* This means you should pray for those you know who are unsaved (I Timothy 2:4) and for those who are saved.

* Start a prayer list and include the names of your family, distant relatives, friends, neighbors and fellow Christians.

* To know how to pray for believers, study Colossians 1:9-11, and pattern your prayers after the Apostle Paul's example.

MEMORY VERSE - JEREMIAH 33:3

Lesson 5

"A NEW FIGHT"

(A Change in My Adversity & Adversaries)



The Christian life is an abundant life, but not necessarily an easy life. It is a life with direction, but not without obstacles. It is a life of victory, but not without conflict. When you were saved, God called you to be a soldier (II Timothy 2:3-4), a wrestler (Ephesians 6:12), a fighter (II Timothy 4:7) -- not for physical man-to-man combat, but for spiritual battle.

In this lesson, you will learn about trials, tribulations, and temptations and how to conquer them.

WHO IS MY OPPONENT?

The Godly Christian has <u>three</u> basic opponents, who will (to one degree or another) seek to fight against him.

1. **Your opponent** is the _____ (I Peter 5:8).

2. How are you to resist this enemy?

   a. I Peter 5:6 -

   b. I Peter 5:7 -

   c. I Peter 5:9 -
   [For more help about resisting the devil, see: James 4:7-10.]

3. **Your opponent** is the _____ (John 16:33).
   [Note: "World" = The world's system of thinking with it's ungodly philosophies & attitudes;

"Tribulation" = pressures or trouble]

4. Read Matthew 5:10-12. Sometimes Christians are persecuted by others. Why?

   Verse 10 -

   Verse 11 -

5. How should you treat those who oppose you? (Matthew 5:44)

   a. _____ b. _____ c. _____ d. _____

[For more help about facing persecution in the world, see: John 15:18; Acts 5:41; Philippians 1:29; I Peter 4:12-14.]

6. **Your opponent** is the _____ (Galatians 5:16-17).

   The "flesh" refers to your sin nature. The Bible calls this sin nature "the old man" - the old you (Ephesians 4:22-24). This old nature still lives inside of you, but so does a new nature.

7. What is this new nature called? (Galatians 5:16-17)_____[This is a reference to the Holy Spirit who lives in you - I Corinthians 6:19-20.]



A story is told of an Indian Chief who was saved. Soon after his conversion to the Lord Jesus Christ, he noticed that a battle raged inside of him. He approached the missionary who had led him to Christ and said that he felt as if two dogs were fighting inside of him. The white dog wanted him to do good, but the black dog wanted him to do evil. The missionary asked him, "Which one of them wins?" To which the Indian replied, "The one I feed the most."

You must feed your new nature (the Spiritual you) and starve the old nature in order for you to win. You feed the new man by reading the Word of God and by letting God's Spirit control you (v. 16).

WHAT AM I TO DO?

Read James 1:2-16 and answer these questions:

1. What should your attitude be toward the different kinds of temptations (trials and tests) that come into your life? (James 1:2)_____
_____

2. God may allow problems to come into your life so that you can see how genuine your faith really is. When your faith is tried (or tested) you can be joyful because God is trying to produce what in your life?

   (verse 3)_____

3. There is a reason for every trial you face. Sometimes you may not know why the problem is happening or what to do about it. What should you do at a time like that? (verse 5)

   _____

4. Some people make excuses for themselves by saying, "I couldn't help giving in to the temptation - the devil made me do it." or "God made me this way." The Bible, however, teaches that: Temptation does not come from whom? (verse 13)

   People are tempted because of whose lust or desires? (verse 14) _____
   _____

5. To have desires or appetites is not sinful. God gave you normal desires and appetites that are to be satisfied His way. Any time you satisfy an appetite in a way that is against God's Word, you have sinned.

   For example: (Match the following words to the statements found below.)

   --**Drugs** (Revelation 21:8; 22:15)
   --**Fornication and adultery** (I Corinthians 6:9, 15-20)
   --**Drunkenness** (Ephesians 5:18; Proverbs 20:1, 23:29-31)
   --**Gluttony** (Proverbs 23:21)
   --**Laziness** (Proverbs 6:6-22, 26:14)

   a. Eating is not wrong (I Cor. 10;31; I Timothy 4:4), but _____ is sin.

   b. Being thirsty is not wrong (John 19:28), but _____ is sin.

   c. Sleeping is not wrong (Mark 4:38), but _____ is sin.

   d. "Good feelings" are not wrong (John 10:10), but _____ are sin.

   e. Sex in marriage is not wrong (Hebrews 13:5), but _____and
   _____are sin.

6. Temptation is not sin; yielding to it is. When you choose to "give in" and do something that you know is wrong -- at that moment, you have sinned. God describes the stages that come when someone "gives in" to sin and does not repent of it. Seriously look at the "life cycle" of sin (James 1:15):

   a. What is conceived? _

b. What is born? _____

c. What is the end? _____

SOME COMFORTING ASSURANCE

1. When you are tempted, what does God always provide? (I Corinthians 10:13)

   _____

   _____

2. If you are not sure whether something is right or wrong, ask yourself this question:

   "If I do this, will I bring _____ to _____?"
   (I Corinthians 10:31)

3. When we face difficult times, Who helps our weaknesses and prays for us? (Romans 8:26-27)

   _____

4. When things seem to go wrong, even when you love God and are seeking to do right, what does God promise? (Romans 8:28)

   _____

   _____

5. Who is on your side? (Romans 8:31)

SOME WISE ADVICE

See Ephesians 6:10-18.

1. Where should you get your strength from? (verse 10)

2. What kind of battle are you engaged in? (verse 12) _____

3. Therefore, what should you put on? (verse 11, 13)

4. List the spiritual pieces of "armor" that will help you fight your next spiritual battle:

   _____ (verse 14) _____ (verse 14)
   _____ (verse 15) _____ (verse 16)
   _____ (verse 17) _____ (verse 17)
   _____ (verse 18)

5. In verse 17, one piece of the armor is called the "Word of God." See: Matthew 4:1-11). What phrase did Jesus repeat three times showing the power of the Bible

over Satan? (Hint see verses 4, 7, 10)

_____

Scripture memory is an essential element of winning your spiritual battles. Are there areas of weakness in your life? If so, memorize verses that will help you in those areas. By doing this, you will be ready for your next fight.

MEMORY VERSE - EPHESIANS 6:11

Lesson 6

"A NEW MASTER"

(A Change in My Allegiance)



Who gives the orders, the general or the soldier? Who leads the company, the president or the common laborer? Who guides the class, the teacher or the student? Who calls the plays, the coach or the team members? In all of life there exists the necessity for someone to lead and others to follow, someone to be in authority, and others to be in submission. Above all relationships, this principle is true between Christ (the Master) and the Christian (the servant).

In this lesson, we will learn what it means to follow Christ -- our Lord!

WHO IS MY MASTER?

The Lord Jesus said: "No man can serve two masters" (Matthew 6:24).

1. The Christian has only <u>one</u> Master. Who is He? (Matthew 23:8-10)

   _____

2. Who did the Apostle Paul serve? (Romans 1:1)

3. Everyone lives for something. According to God, what did you serve ("live for") before you were saved? (Romans 6:17)

   _____

4. Now that you have been "set free" from the old slave master ("sin"), whose servant did you become?

   (Romans 6:18)

   (Romans 6:22)

5. Romans 6:23 shows the great difference between your old master and your new Master. What did you deserve to be paid by your old master (sin)? _____ _____

   [Note: The word "death" refers to <u>physical</u> death (Romans 5:12), <u>spiritual</u> death (Ephesians 2:1, 5), and <u>eternal</u> death (Revelation 20:14-15; 21:8).]

   However, what did your new Master (God) freely give you?

   (Romans 6:23) _____

6. God has been so good to you. Because of His mercy toward you, what should you give to Him? (Romans 12:1)

   _____ _____

7. The Lord deserves our best. When you give yourself to Him, what type of "sacrifice" should you be? (Romans 12:1)

   a)_____ b)_____ c)_____

8. What type of "sacrifice" should you <u>not</u> be? (verse 2) _____

9. To give your body to God as a "living sacrifice" means to totally surrender (or hand over) your life to Him. It means to recognize that He is the Lord and Master of your life and that you are His obedient servant. Such surrender is called "dedication." Are you willing to dedicate yourself to obeying God?

   To really answer that question, ask yourself: "Am I willing to give up (or stop

doing) anything in my life that is not pleasing to God?" "Am I willing to change anything in my life that God's Word tells me to?" "Am I willing to do whatever God asks of me?" _____

10. Besides the fact that God has been merciful to you, what are some other reasons why you should be willing to do anything God says?
(I Corinthians 6:19-20)

_____

_____

If you are a true Christian, you are not your own Master. The reason is simple: God bought you, and because of this you belong to Him.

11. What price did God pay to purchase you? (I Peter 1:18-19)_____

> *If you have not done so already, now would be the right time to bow your head and tell God something like this: "Lord, I realize that You bought me with Your blood. You own me. My life is Yours. I want You to control my life from this time on. I am willing to do whatever the Bible says - Amen."*

WHAT DOES MY MASTER WANT ME TO DO?

Read the verses below and determine what God's priorities are for your life.

1. What should be "first" in your life?

   Mark 12:29-30 -

   Matthew 6:33 -

   No one who loves the Lord, and wants to put Him first should be ashamed of Him (Luke 9:26). Rather, we should be willing to confess Him publically before others (Romans 10:9; Matthew 10:32)

   * The Bible teaches that the believer's first step of public obedience is to follow the Lord's command to be baptized.

2. Who commanded baptism? (Matthew 28:18-20)

3. In Whose Name are you to be baptized?

   (verse 19) _____ _____ _____

4. After the Apostle Peter preached about God's salvation, how did the people respond to his message before being baptized? (Acts 2:41)

_____

_____

5. What did the people do before being baptized in Acts 8:12?_____

_____

[Note: The Bible clearly teaches that one must be a believer in Christ before being baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 8:37, 10:47-48, 18:8). The Bible does not teach infant baptism.]

6. Are you a believer? _____ _____

If you are a believer, you can show your faith by being baptized. Baptism is an outward expression of an inward change. It is a picture or symbol of your spiritual union and oneness with Christ (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12). Baptism is God's way for you to show your faith in Christ and your desire to follow Him for the rest of your life. Believer's Baptism is the **first step of obedience** for the Christian.

Read **Acts 8:26-39.**

7. Whom did the Eunuch need to learn about and believe in before he was baptized? (verses 35-37)

_____

8. The word "baptized" simply means to be immersed (submerged) under water. What evidence for immersion do you see in these verses?

Verse 38 - _____

_____

Verse 39 - _____

_____

[Note: "Sprinkling" or "pouring" is NOT the Biblical mode of baptism.]

9. After becoming a believer and being baptized, the Eunuch went on his way with what attitude? (verse 39) (compare also Acts 16:33-34)

_____

10. Would you be willing to take this first step of obedience and show your allegiance to your new Master, Jesus Christ?

MEMORY VERSES - ROMANS 12:1,2

Lesson 7

"A NEW FELLOWSHIP"

(A Change in My Associations)



All of us need friends. Someone to confide in, talk to, laugh with, and trust. God created man as a social being. Because of this, man has an inner desire to have personal relationships with others.

However, you should not have close friendships with just anybody. Rather you should associate with good company. If you have been born again, God wants you to make friendships with His children (with people that share the same beliefs and love the same Lord as you do).

God has established a setting to make genuine friends and to build good relationships. This setting is a Bible-centered church. It is through such a gathering that Christians commune together, pray together, sing together, learn together, and mature together. In this lesson, you will learn about the importance and blessing of assembling with God's people.

DOES IT MATTER WHO I FELLOWSHIP WITH?

God teaches that the type of friends you have will eventually determine what type of person you will become. He warns us with these words: "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (I Corinthians 15:33).

1. Proverbs 13:20 describes two kinds of people. What are they called?

   Person A

   Person B

2. What is the result of associating with them?

   Person A

   Person B

Read II Corinthians 6:14-18 and answer these questions:

3. What command does God give in II Corinthians 6:14?

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

   NOTE: A common practice in Bible days was to put a "yoke" (a wooden harness) around the neck of two oxen so that they would plow a field in harmony and unity with each other. An ox was not to be yoked up with a donkey, since the two animals would not work together well because they were entirely opposite in strengths, habits, and nature (cp. Deuteronomy 22:10).

4. God gives us five examples to illustrate why a Christian should not "yoke up"

with unbelievers.

In your own words describe the point that God is making in verses 14-16:

_____
_____

_____
_____

5. What should you do if you are already involved with a false religion, or mixed up with bad company? (verse 17)

_____
_____

_____
_____

WHY SHOULD I ASSEMBLE WITH OTHER BELIEVERS?

If you know and love the Lord and you meet someone else who does, you will notice that you have a closeness or "common bond" with them.

1. What did the early church continually do because of this common faith in Jesus Christ? (Acts 2:42)

   They continued in

   They continued in

   They continued in

   They continued in

2. Because of their common belief, what words show the <u>unity</u> (or "oneness") of these Christians?
   (Read verses 44-47)

   -

   -

   -

3. What words show this same unity in Acts 4:32?

-

-

-

4. God commands that Christians should not do something. What is it? (Hebrews 10:25)

_____
_____

5. Even though certain believers in New Testament times had a problem of forsaking (abandoning) the assembly, God teaches that church attendance will be even more important when? (Hebrews 10:25b)

*_____ _____
_____

(*The Day that is approaching refers to the day of Christ's return - Jesus is coming back again! (Hebrews 10:37 - cp. Romans 13:11-12; Philippians 1:6, 10; 2:16; II Thessalonians 2:2).

6. Why should we go to church? We go to provoke (encourage) fellow Christians to do what? (Hebrews 10:24)

_____

_____

7. The phrase "one another" can be seen throughout the New Testament. What should you be doing for fellow Christians?

_____ one another (Romans 13:8)

_____ one another (Romans 14:19)

_____ one another (Romans 15:7)

_____ one another (Romans 15:14)

8. God establishes certain types of workers in churches. One of them is the pastor. What is his purpose? (Ephesians 4:12)

_____
_____

9. In I Corinthians 12 God compares the church to the human body. Your body has many parts ("Members"), but it is one body. The church body is the same way. Who joins believers into this one body?
(I Corinthians 12:12-13)

-

10. Read verses 14-18 and answer these questions:

_____ TRUE/FALSE Some members of the body are not needed.
_____ TRUE/FALSE Every member of the body does the same job.

11. Believers in a church body have the same Holy Spirit, Lord Jesus Christ, and God the Father, but they each have differences in what?

I Corinthians 12:4 -
I Corinthians 12:5 -
I Corinthians 12:6 -

12. What gifts or abilities has God given you? _____
_____
_____

How can you use them to help fellow Christians?

Every believer needs the fellowship, support and encouragement of other Christians. We depend on each other because God says we are "**members one of another**" (Romans 12:4-5). Because of this, our LORD expects each one of us to be committed members of a church. However, you should not join just any church. Even though no church is absolutely perfect (since we are all sinners saved by grace), a good church will seek to honor God and His Word.

Look for the following basic qualifications in the church you plan to join:

a. The church should sincerely believe, teach and obey God's Word - The Bible (I Timothy 3:15; II Timothy 3:16; 4:2)

b. The church must teach that people are saved only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ; not by works (Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5)

c. The members should love and serve one another, and have a desire to see others come to know Christ as Savior (John 15:12; Matthew 28:19-20)

d. The Church should be separated from worldliness and unBiblical religious alliances and associations (I John 2:15-17; II Corinthians 6:14-17)

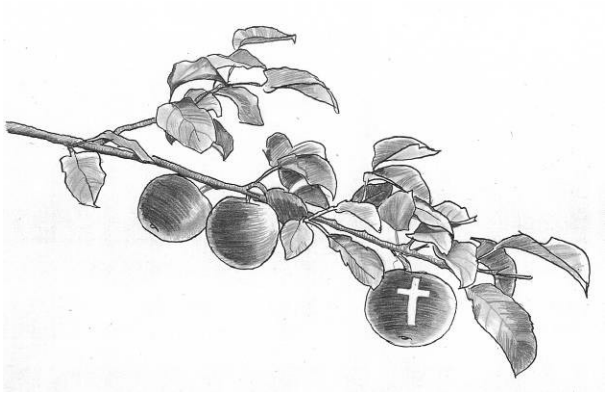
e. The Church leaders must be dedicated to holy living and meet the standards set forth in I timothy 3:1-12.

MEMORY VERSE - HEBREWS 10:25

Lesson 8

"A NEW FRUIT"

(A Change in My Attitudes & Actions)



How do you know the difference between an apple tree and an oak tree? Basically, one will produce apples and the other will produce acorns. An orange tree is distinguished from an elm tree in that it bears oranges. A banana tree produces a harvest of bananas and a grape vine yields grapes. It is obvious that a tree or vine is known by its fruit. So it is with the Christian.
According to Jesus Christ, a saved person is distinguished from an unsaved person by his fruit. He said: "...By their fruits ye shall know them" (Matthew 7:20).

Before you were saved, God says your life produced bad fruit that would lead only to death (Romans 7:5). Now that you are joined to Jesus Christ (by faith in Him), you can "bring forth fruit unto God" (Romans 7:4). You also can now serve God in a new way -- by the power of the Holy Spirit who is in you! (Romans 7:6). God did not save you because of any "good works" you did for Him (Ephesians 2:8-9), but He did save you so that you would do "good works" for Him (Ephesians 2:10).

In this lesson, you will learn about the good new fruit that God wants to grow out of your life.

HOW DO I PRODUCE FRUIT!

Read John 15:1-5 and answer these questions:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ describes Himself as the "vine" and Christians as the "branches." What must Christians do to produce fruit? (John 15:4)

   _____
   _____(Note: To "abide" in Christ means to remain close to Him in your daily life. Just as a branch receives necessary water and nutrients through the vine, so you receive spiritual strength and God's blessings by remaining in close fellowship with Jesus your Savior.)

2. What can you accomplish for God without abiding in Christ? (John 15:5)

   _____

3. You will have answers to prayer and be a fruitful Christian if you abide in Christ. What must also abide in you? (John 15:7)

4. When your life produces much fruit, who is glorified (honored)? (John 15:8)

5. If you are a fruitful and obedient Christian, what will your life be completely full

of? (John 15:11) __ _____

6. Any fruit that Jesus produces through your life will not be temporary, but eternal. What phrase shows that your fruit will endure forever? (John 15:16)

_____

WHAT FRUIT SHOULD BE <u>INSIDE</u> MY LIFE?

Read Galatians 5:22-23 and notice the fruit that the Holy Spirit produces on the inside of a Christian. Write the fruit (in verses 22 or 23) next to the statement below:

1. When I am tempted to worry, the Spirit can produce the fruit of _____

2. When others treat me badly, the Spirit can help me to treat them with _____

3. Rather than being selfish and hateful, the Spirit gives me the fruit of _____

4. Though times may be difficult, and life's pressures build up, the Spirit gives me the ability to be

5. Though others may sadly complain about situations and circumstances, the Spirit reminds me of God's goodness and gives me the fruit of _____

WHAT FRUIT SHOULD BE <u>OUTSIDE</u> OF MY LIFE?

God not only wants to produce fruit <u>in</u> your life, but He wants to produce fruit <u>through</u> your life. He wants you to be a blessing to others. When Jesus saved you, He gave you eternal life. He wants to give this same gift to others also (I John 2:2; I Timothy 2:4, 6). God's plan for bringing people to salvation is to use Christians (this includes you) to tell them the good news ("gospel") that Jesus saves! (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8).

1. What did Andrew do immediately after he began following Jesus? (John 1:40-42)

_____

2. What did Philip do when he found Christ and started following Him? (John 1:45)

_____

_____

3. When Nathanael doubted, what was Philip's answer? (John 1:46b)

-

4. What did the woman of Samaria do when she realized she had actually met the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ? (John 4:28-29)

_____

5. When the people of Samaria came to Jesus because of the woman's testimony, what did Jesus tell his disciples to look at? (John 4:35)

_____

(Note: The "harvest fields" that Jesus referred to were the large number of Samaritan people who were walking out of their city to meet Him.)

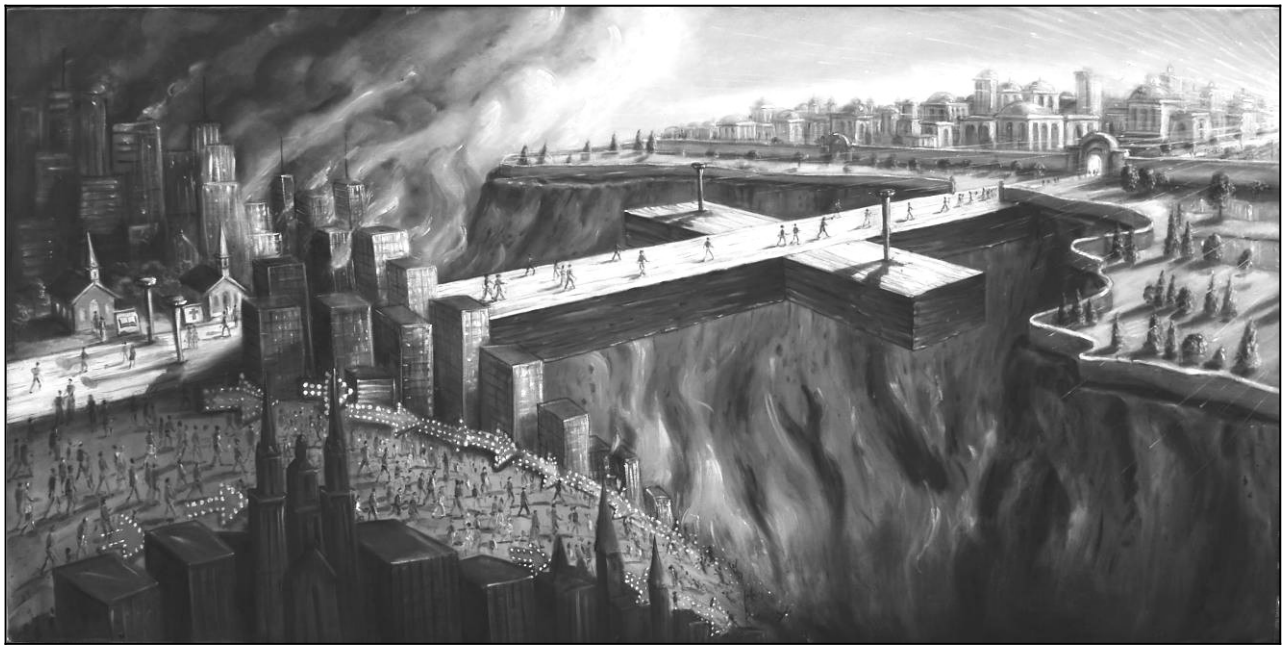
6. What is the result of "gathering fruit unto eternal life" (John 4:36)_____

7. Other than by your words, how will others know you belong to Jesus? (John 13:35)

_____

8. Why must we tell people that Jesus is the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE? (John 14:6)

_____



SOME TIPS TO HELP YOU

Follow this helpful advice to be a fruitful witness for Jesus Christ:

1. Never be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16).

2. Keep your message focused on Christ and what He did on the cross to pay for our sins (John 3:30; I Corinthians 1:23). [Emphasize His death as a substitute payment for sinners - I Corinthians 15:3-4.]

3. Make it personal (Acts 22:3ff). Be willing to share what Christ did for you. This is your testimony about what you have "witnessed" in your life. Witnessing is the most effective means of sharing the Gospel.

   Suggestion: Try to remember the events that led to your salvation. Then write out your testimony and memorize it so you can be ready to tell it to others. You can use this outline to write your testimony -

   - Before I trusted Christ (What I was)
   - How I trusted Christ (What I realized)
   - Since I trusted Christ (What He has done in my life)

4. Always be ready to share the Gospel (I Peter 3:15).

   The following are some Scripture verses you should memorize and be ready to tell to others:

   a. All men are sinners - (Romans 3:10; 3:23; Isaiah 53:6).
   b. There is a penalty (price) for sin - (Romans 6:23; Revelation 21:8).
   c. Man cannot save himself - (Ephesians 2:8, 9).
   d. Christ paid the penalty for sinners -(Romans 5:8; I Corinthians 15:3-4; I Peter 3:18).
   e. God now offers a free gift of eternal life - (Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:8-9).
   f. By trusting in (accepting) Christ, a person will be saved from Hell (John 1:12; 3:16; Romans 10:13; Revelation 3:20).
   g. We can be sure of eternal life - (I John 5:11-13; John 5:24; 10:27-30).

MEMORY VERSE - MARK 16:15