

New Testament Ministries

Milk  
of the  
*Word* Book One  
*New convert care program*  
*A Scriptural follow-up program that works*

**Dr. James Wilkins**

“...feed my lambs.” John 21:15

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Dr. James Wilkins

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## DEDICATION

This book is lovingly dedicated to my wife, Louella, who for forty-one years helped me nurse and develop the “LAMBS” which the Lord gave us in our ministry.

Together we would like to present this book to the pastors and to their churches in an effort to help conserve the results and develop THEIR LAMBS INTO FULL-GROWN SHEEP.

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## SIMPLE STEPS IN USING THIS BOOK

1. The Pastor or Discipleship Director appoints a Role Model who has gone through these lessons.
2. The Role Model introduces the book to the new convert. He goes over the "Dear Disciple" letter and fills in the blanks on the Prayer List Page.
3. The Role Model goes over the Daily Declaration and explains how to do it each morning and evening.
4. The Role Model explains the grading procedure. He explains that the new member is to read each daily assignment on the day assigned for each part of his lesson before answering any of the questions.
5. Then he is to fill in the blanks on the day designated: Monday's on Monday, Tuesday's on Tuesday, etc.
6. Each week the Role Model sets up a visit for a Saturday or Sunday, at an appointed time, to fellowship, review, and go over the questions.
7. The Role Model assigns the proper grade.  
  
A = Excellent: Did the work on a daily basis.  
B = Good: Did all the work, but not on a daily basis.  
J = Future Judgment: Did not complete all the blanks.
8. The Role Model has prayer, leaves, and makes his report.
9. The same procedure is followed each week.

DEAR DISCIPLE,

Isn't it thrilling to think of yourself as a DISCIPLE OF CHRIST? You have accepted Jesus as your Saviour, and as commanded in II Peter 3:18, you are now in the process of growing in Grace and the Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

DID YOU KNOW...

**That** Jesus came into the world that you may have eternal life and have it more ABUNDANTLY? (John 10:10)

**That** Paul admonished his converts to be "...strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might." (Ephesians 6:10)

**That** God gave us the Holy Bible, so the child of God could be perfect (mature or full grown), and be completely furnished for every good work? (II Timothy 3:16-17)

This Book, "*Back to the Basics*" was written for you with the purpose that God had in mind for your life. God wants you, HIS LITTLE CHILD, to become A CHAMPION.

In order to become a champion in any area of life, one must submit to DISCIPLINE AND TRAINING. This book will give you the practical outline, exercise, and proper guidance, which will lead to a successful, abundant life.

Read the ascribed lesson, fill in the blanks EVERY DAY, and STRIVE TO MAKE AN "A."

Repeat the DAILY DECLARATION at least once every morning and evening.

Repeat the memory verse every morning and evening until you have memorized it.

We look at the early New Testament disciples with starry eyes and think of them as "Spiritual Giants" or "Heroes of the Faith. Yet, by following the simple steps outlined in this book, you will become a real Bible disciple in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century. God will use you to bless and help your family as He used the New Testament disciples 2,000 years ago.

**Remember**, Jesus said that when you pray, enter into thy closet and shut the door. Why? Because He wants the person not to be distracted as he prays aloud. On the following page, we have a sample for you to follow. When one prays aloud and knows he is praying properly, it will create real confidence and boldness in one's prayer life.

Congratulations and God bless you. Always remember, NOW YOU ARE HIS DISCIPLE, and you can expect Him to help you just as He helped the disciples who lived for Him in the Bible days.

Yours for Spiritual Growth,

Dr. James Wilkins

**How to Begin your Lesson:**  
"OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN"

With knowledge that the Bible commands each disciple to pray regularly and with a desire to pray more consistently in order to secure definite results, now make the following prayer list.

**Pray for These Things:**

1. **I'll pray for myself**— for a humble, submissive spirit toward Christ.
2. **For my family** — that I may be a Christian testimony and a blessing to each one of them.
3. **For my pastor** — that God will give him the grace, spiritual power and wisdom to lead, feed, and shepherd the flock.
4. **For my country** —that God will send revival to our nation, especially to those in high positions.
5. **For our missionaries** — for their safety, success, and support. (Write down the missionaries' names and their countries.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ country \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ country \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ country \_\_\_\_\_

6. **For my lost loved ones and friends.** Write down at least three people whom you will pray for daily.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Date prayer answered \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Date prayer answered \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Date prayer answered \_\_\_\_\_

7. **For evangelists and other special workers,** and call them by name. James Wilkins

**How to Conclude:** IN JESUS' NAME (authority), AMEN."

**FOR ADDED BLESSINGS AND GROWTH**

"...as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:..." (Prov 23:7)

This verse is one of the greatest PSYCHOLOGICAL and BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES.

WHAT A PERSON THINKS IS THE TYPE OF PERSON HE WILL MANIFEST.

- If one thinks negative worldly thoughts, then he WILL LIVE A NEGATIVE AND WORLDLY LIFE.
- If one TAKES INTO HIS MIND positive thoughts of faith, then HE WILL LIVE A POSITIVE LIFE OF FAITH.
- One CAN CHANGE A POOR SELFIMAGE by developing good positive habits.
- One CAN STRENGTHEN ONESELF AND INCREASE FAITH by doing three things:
  1. majoring on good, healthy thoughts,
  2. washing ones mind by reading and memorizing scriptures, and
  3. stating right objectives and positive goals
- ONE CAN DEVELOP A GOOD, HAPPY INNER SELF BY THIS SIMPLE DAILY EXERCISE.

A MUST!! REPEAT THE DAILY DECLARATIONS AT LEAST EVERY MORNING AND EVENING.

A MUST!! STRIVE TO MEMORIZE THE MEMORY VERSE EACH WEEK.

**RETENTION,  
WILL IT BE 6% OR 62%**

**Do you want to learn? It is really up to you!!**

These lessons were designed so you can maximize your ability to learn and remember what you have learned.

**6 %**

If you read an article once, chances are you will not remember much about it after a period of time. In reading this article, the average person can only recall 6% of what he read just two weeks earlier.

If, however, you read the article and review it for six consecutive days, the average retention goes up to 62%.

**62 %**

**To maximize your retention**, the following method of study is given. On the first day, read your lesson for Monday and fill in Monday's blanks. On Tuesday, review Monday's questions before reading Tuesday's lesson and filling in Tuesday's blanks. On Wednesday, review the previous two days' questions before reading and filling in the blanks for Wednesday. Continue and do all lessons.

**Each week** when the Role Model comes to check your lesson, he will read each day's questions and when he comes to a blank, he will help you fill it in. After checking all the blanks, the Role Model will lead in a discussion of each day's principle.

**When you finish** the discussion of the week's exercises, you will have reviewed most of the principles six times, and your retention should grow to 62%

**WILL IT BE 6% OR 62%**

# Lesson One

## WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

MAY WE JOIN OUR VOICE IN WELCOMING YOU INTO GOD'S GREAT FAMILY OF BELIEVERS AND INTO THE LOCAL CHURCH FAMILY.

**INTRODUCTION:** God has a tremendous love and concern for you. In fact, His primary concern is for **you**, His little child, and for **your** proper growth and development.

It was because of His great desire for your happiness and welfare that He called special men into full-time Christian service as pastors. A Pastor is to teach you to grow spiritually.

The first pastor whom God called was the Apostle Peter and His first instruction to him, as pastor, was in behalf of people like yourself when He commanded, "...**Feed my lambs.**" [new converts].

THE BASIC JOB OF A PASTOR IS IN THREE REALMS.

He is to.

- take the oversight or lead the flock;
- feed the flock;
- protect and develop the flock.

It is wonderful and exciting when a person is

born again and starts living for the Lord. We want to rejoice with you, because it is thrilling to have another member in our growing family. However, there are three areas, which may bring you hurt or disappointment.

**FIRST**, MANY PROFESSED CHRISTIANS DO **NOT** ALWAYS ACT AND LIVE LIKE A CHRISTIAN SHOULD. You have been saved in one of America's deepest periods of apostasy. By the term, apostasy, we mean that America has fallen away from practicing real Bible principles. It was these Bible principles which made our nation great. Many professed Christians, in a period of apostasy, do **NOT** live like they should.

Their poor, unfaithful, careless lifestyle, as a church member, will be one of your biggest obstacles to overcome. This one problem will greatly hinder you if you let it.

One of the leading evangelists made this statement concerning our day of apostasy. He said, "Things are so far below normal that when you meet someone who is normal, you think they are abnormal."

This series of lessons is designed to help new converts become established on solid Biblical principles and continue to grow properly.

In order for you to grow spiritually and help your family and friends, you must not allow anything to discourage you. You must make an earnest effort to obey what the Bible teaches. A person learns what the Bible teaches when he learns how to study

(rightly divide) the Word of God.

**SECOND**, YOU MAY HAVE AS MANY OR MORE PROBLEMS NOW THAT YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN THAN BEFORE YOU WERE SAVED. Some of your family and friends may become distant or stand-offish for a while. Keep a good attitude, stay in your church family, and keep praying for them. Do not take any negative talk or rejection personally; their problem is not with you. It is a problem between themselves and God. Be faithful, keep working with them, and you will win every one of them.

**THIRD**, YOU WILL BECOME AWARE THAT THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT CHURCHES AND BELIEFS. It seems that no one cares when a person is lost and going to hell, but every-one will attempt to get you to go to their church, once you are saved.

The reason we started you out in this book, **UNDER YOUR ROLE MODEL**, is to help you learn how to study the Bible and be able to DETERMINE WHAT IS SCRIPTURAL AND RIGHT, **SO YOU CAN MAKE WISE AND BIBLICAL DECISIONS**. If you will stay in this book and do the exercises on a daily basis.

**THESE LESSONS ARE DESIGNED TO MAXIMIZE YOUR ABILITY TO LEARN**. If an average person reads an article once in two weeks, he can only REMEMBER 6% OF WHAT HE READ. If he reads it for six consecutive days, THE AVERAGE RETENTION RISES TO 62%. Please review the blanks for each previous day for the fullest benefit.

**THE CHRISTIAN REALM HAS THREE FAMILIES** a person can belong to: his domestic family, his heavenly family, and his church family. There should never be any problems arising in our domestic family, yet over one out of every three marriages end in divorce. Many of our American homes resemble a battleground: the kids are fighting among themselves; mom is yelling at the kids for fighting; and dad is fussing at mom for not being able to “control those kids.” Family members are upset with “the in-laws,” while neighbors are not speaking to each other. Some internal problems plague almost every domestic home in America.

There should never be any friction in God’s great family of believers, but the Pentecostals do not always love the Baptists, and the Baptists do not always show “brotherly kindness” to the Pentecostals, and the Methodists... etc. It is common knowledge that there is conflict among God’s people, in the family of God.

Since there is conflict in our own families, conflict on the job, conflict among religious leaders, there will arise problems from time to time in our local church families. When this happens, one should react in the same way he did with his own natural blood kin: calmly and constructively. Remember, when you were growing up and there was a problem in your family, you didn’t run away from home, but you stayed and let your parents work it out. **SHOULD A PROBLEM ARISE IN YOUR CHURCH FAMILY, STAY AND LET THE PASTOR HANDLE IT**. This will enable you to grow in grace and knowledge, regardless of any problem which may arise.

**“LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE” IS THE ADMONITION OF JESUS** (Matthew 5:16). The term “so shine” is a directive. It tells us how to let our light shine. In verse 15, Jesus said that a man doesn’t light a candle and put it under an object such as the bed or a basket, but he places it upon the candlestick so it may be benefited. The candle (light) represents the believer while the candlestick represents the church. **“...the seven candlesticks...” “...are the seven churches.”** (Revelation 1:20), Jesus is telling the believer to **“Let your light so shine...”** [place his candle upon a candlestick or join a church]. This simple directive teaches two things:

1. You are not born into God’s great family just to sit.
2. You are to join a church by following the scriptural order of being saved, baptized, and becoming part of a local church family.

**YOU HAVE STARTED ON A JOURNEY WHICH WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE AND INTO THE AGES TO COME** (Ephesians 2:7). God has designed you with eternal glory in mind (I Peter 5:10). He has commanded you to lay up treasures in Heaven (Matthew 6:20). The next few weeks may be the most important in your life, so please do your best to master everything in our series of lessons.

### **A NEW LIFE**

**LIFE COMES THROUGH BIRTH.** This is an accepted fact in all realms of life. A little kitten is

born into the cat family, a puppy into the dog family, and a little boy into the human family. Physical life comes through physical birth.

**JESUS SAID, “YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN”** (John 3:3-7). Jesus used the physical principle of life starting with a birth, which happens at a definite time and place, resulting in a new little creature that has the same type of life as its parents to illustrate the great principles of a spiritual birth,

### **LIFE BEGETS THE SAME TYPE OF LIFE.**

A little puppy is born into a dog’s life and his lifetime is about 13 years in duration. An elephant may live well over 100 years: Why? He was born of an elephant. A little boy is limited to approximately 70 years. Why? He was born of human parents, and God set men’s life expectancy to threescore and ten. A person who is born of God has the same type of life, which his Father has: eternal life. God is from everlasting to everlasting (eternal). Therefore, when one is born of the Spirit (born of God) he has the **SAME TYPE OF LIFE AS DOES HIS HEAVENLY FATHER, AN ETERNAL OR NEVER ENDING LIFE.**

**A NEW LIFE PRODUCES A NEW NATURE.** A puppy acts like a dog. Why? He was born of a dog and inherited a dog nature. A boy acts like a man, because he gets his nature from his father. A man born of God receives God’s nature. He becomes a new creature. II Corinthians 5:17 says, **“...if any man *be* in Christ he is a new creature:...”** We receive a divine nature in addition to our human nature (II Peter 1:4).

### **A NEED FOR GROWTH**

**ONE ENTERS THE FAMILY AS A BABE.**

One needs the milk of the Word in order to grow. When a baby is born into our family, he needs milk or a special formula prepared just for him. God uses this physical truth to illustrate the standing of a new Christian in the family of God. He is a babe and needs the “sincere milk of the word” which will cause him to begin growing spiritually (I Peter 2:2).

When a baby is born into a family, he must have proper and constant attention. He is given loving care, which is just as important as a proper diet.

**First**, he is hand-fed until he is capable of being taught how to feed himself. After many months of loving and careful care, he is able to feed himself, and take his place with the rest of the family at the dinner table.

**THIS PROCEDURE MUST BE FOLLOWED IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM, ALSO.** In fact, the very first words in the Pastoral Commission to Peter were, “...**Feed my lambs.**” [new converts].

Since the pastor is charged with feeding the lambs, it is his responsibility to take the milk of the Word to them and train them in how to use the Bible, so they can feed themselves. **HE IS ABLE TO DO THIS BY TRAINING OLDER MEMBERS TO BECOME ROLE MODELS** to work as an extension of his ministry. They are to teach the new converts their spiritual phonics, so they can read and rightly divide (study) the word of truth. They work under the pastor’s supervision in helping each new convert receive the love and acceptance, which he

personally needs.

**GOD HAS A PRE-DESIGNED LIFE FOR YOU TO LIVE.** Ephesians 2:8-10 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.**” God has a purpose and a work, which he saved you to do. If you will honestly submit to that purpose, you will prosper and be wonderfully happy and successful.

**A PROMISE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT  
(MATURITY)**

**JESUS CAME THAT YOU MAY HAVE ABUNDANT LIFE** (John 10:10). We get eternal life when we are born into God’s family and submit to Christ’s will: giving ourselves to Him and following Him. He never intended for a Christian to murmur, complain, gossip, gripe, or be defeated. He designed our lives to be full, happy, overcoming, and victorious. This is the type of life you will live if you master the ten lessons in this book.

“...**these men which have companied with us...**” (Acts 1:21). We see in this verse the requirement for one to become an apostle. One of the important essentials illustrates a great principle in **SPIRITUAL GROWTH**. In filling the office which was vacated by Judas. Peter said to pick a man who had companied with them, beginning with the Baptism of John until the ascension of Jesus. A man who was **FAITHFUL TO ALL THE CHURCH**

SERVICES.

Jesus stated the requirement of becoming a disciple when He said, “...**let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**” These early DISCIPLES LITERALLY LIVED IN THE PUBLIC AND HOUSE TO HOUSE SERVICES OF THE CHURCH.

If you want to grow and be a happy Christian, which enjoys abundant life, IT IS IMPERATIVE that you come to all the regular services of the church.

- Sunday Morning
- Sunday Evening
- Wednesday Evening

For an adventurous life, start learning as a silent partner by coming to the visitation service!

**THE PROGRESS OF GROWTH IS THROUGH TESTINGS**

**YOU ARE IN THE WORLD, BUT NOT OF THE WORLD.** There are two great powerful systems at work in this universe. There is the world system in which the devil is the “...**prince of the power... that now worketh...**” (Ephesians 2:2), and there is the heavenly system: God’s power and way of life. Jesus said, “...**but because ye are not of the world..., therefore the world hateth you.**” (John 15:19). That means you are no longer of that world system, nor should you live any longer like a lost man lives. You now have a new life to live. You can no longer be happy living as you did before you

were “born again.”

**THE WORLD IS AGAINST YOU** (John 15:19). These are the words of Jesus, “...**ye are not of the world,... therefore the world hateth you.**” The world system was against Jesus, and it is against every born again believer who lives for Jesus. “...**all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**” (II Timothy 3:12)

**YOU WILL HAVE CONFLICT WITH FAMILY MEMBERS** (Luke 12:51-53). The reasons? You have a new nature; they do not. You have God’s love in your heart. They have not yet been born again, so they do not have God’s love in their heart. Do not become offended and hurt when they say things which are uncomplimentary and negative toward you, the Church, or the Lord. **THEIR PROBLEM IS NOT WITH YOU**, it is with God, and they are taking their inner problems with themselves, OUT ON YOU. So do not become hurt or offended; stay cheerful and happy, and you will win them to Christ.

**THESE TRIALS WERE DESIGNED BY GOD FOR YOUR GROWTH.** You can overcome these trials, and you can win your family to the Lord, “...**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house**” [family] (Acts 16:31). That plain promise of winning your family to the Lord is based upon your walking by faith, keeping God’s Word by faith, and expecting God to keep them until He saves them. You will have the victory if you will accept it.

**LIGHT AFFLICTIONS WERE DESIGNED FOR YOUR ETERNAL GLORY.** “For our light

**affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;**" (II Corinthians 4:17).

**WE SHOULD NOT BE TROUBLED WHEN WE EXPERIENCE PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF OUR CHRISTIAN LIVING.** "But, and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy *are ye*: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled" (I Peter 3:14).

The Lord sees us in every situation, and He tells us to pray and ask for grace to live for Him. HE WILL NOT FAIL US. "...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5), It is a spiritual exercise for us to strengthen our spiritual muscles and to grow into stronger Christians.

**WE ARE KEPT BY THE POWER OF GOD THROUGH ALL TRIALS.** "Who are kept by the power of God through faith..." (I Peter 1:5).

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13),

**THE TRIALS WILL CAUSE US TO BECOME BETTER CHRISTIANS.** "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire,.. " (I Peter 1:7) We will grow because of them. We will become stronger Christians because of them. They will cause us to have a greater reward and position in the glorious 1,000-year reign with Christ on this earth.

**AFTER WE GO THROUGH THEM THE**

**TRIALS WILL PRODUCE JOY.** "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:" (I Peter 1:6). Blessed or happy are you when you have problems, "...for great *is* your reward in heaven:..." (Matthew 5:10-12).

**YOU HAVE STARTED OUT IN YOUR NEW LIFE FOR CHRIST.** If you want to be able to live a life, which will be a blessing TO YOURSELF, YOUR CHRIST, YOUR CHURCH, and eventually YOUR FAMILY, then master the principles which you will learn in our next nine lessons. THEY WILL LEAD YOU TO A FULL REWARD AND A HAPPY "WELL DONE" FROM YOUR SAVIOUR AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.

#### **A MONTH LONG PROJECT**

**Strive to learn by memorizing the New Testament Books**

Matthew	Ephesians	Hebrews
Mark	Philippians	James
Luke	Colossians	I Peter
John	I Thessalonians	II Peter
Book of Acts	II Thessalonians	I John
Romans	I Timothy	II John
I Corinthians	II Timothy	III John
II Corinthians	Titus	Jude
Galatians	Philemon	Revelation

**WELCOME INTO THE FAMILY**

**Monday**

**(Introduction)**

1. How many families can a believer belong to?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. In the church family, a member is to submit to the leader-ship of the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Jesus said that a candle should not be placed under an object such as a bed or \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The candlestick stands for a \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev. 1:20)
5. How long will the journey last? \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 2:7)

**Tuesday**

**(A New Life)**

1. Physical life comes through a physical \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The boy has the same type of life as his \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God is from everlasting to \_\_\_\_\_ or Eternal.
4. When one is born of God, he has \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What type of nature does the believer have in addition to his human nature? A \_\_\_\_\_ (II Peter 1:4)

**Wednesday  
(A Need for Growth)**

1. One needs the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ in order to grow.
2. When a baby is born into a \_\_\_\_\_ he must have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ attention.
3. The very \_\_\_\_\_ words in the Pastoral Commission to Peter were, "\_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_."
4. They are to teach the \_\_\_\_\_ converts their \_\_\_\_\_.
5. They work under the \_\_\_\_\_ supervision in helping each \_\_\_\_\_ convert receive love and acceptance.

**Thursday**

**(A Promise of Accomplishments)**

1. What does the word "perfect" mean? \_\_\_\_\_ (II Timothy 3:17)
2. Jesus came that all believers may have \_\_\_\_\_.
3. We get abundant life when we \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ.
4. The gift of God is \_\_\_\_\_ life.
5. God designed our lives to be full, happy, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.



**IS GOD AS SMART  
AS GENERAL MOTORS?**

**This title may startle you**, as it always gets a startled response when I ask this seemingly dumb question. It seems to catch people off guard. **Is God as smart as General Motors?** There is always one startled Ford owner that makes a quicker recovery than the rest. He answers with a heated **“Yes, God is smarter than General Motors!”**

All Car manufacturers know that their latest model with its power, luster, and performance will lose that power, luster, and performance with the wear and tear of time.

Because of this, they print a manual, which lists all the parts for every single model. Following the manual, mechanics can restore any car to its original power, performance, and luster.

**Is God as smart as General Motors?** God, our creator, must have a manual, which, when followed properly, would tune up man’s life.

If God is as smart as General Motors, **He has a manual**, that when followed will bring any person, regardless of age or condition, to a place where life is happy and fulfilling.

**God’s manual is the Holy Bible.** At first a person may not understand God’s Manual any more than he would a technical parts manual, but if one is serious about living a successful life, he can find that purpose by following God’s manual.

# Lesson Two

## YOU AND THE NEW TESTAMENT FAITH

**“One Lord, one faith, and one baptism”  
(Eph. 4:5)**

**INTRODUCTION:** Does it really matter what one believes? Is it enough just to be sincere? Is there a proper way to interpret the Bible? Is there a true New Testament faith still in existence today? These questions will be answered in this lesson.

### I. THREE WAYS IN WHICH “FAITH” IS USED

There are at least three ways in the New Testament in which the word “faith” is used. They are:

#### A. Personal Faith unto salvation.

**“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.”** (Ephesians 2:8-9). These verses refer to the personal faith, or trust, the sinner places in Christ when he is saved; i.e., **saving faith**.

#### B. The trusting Faith of the saved.

**“...the just [saved] shall live by faith:..”** (Hebrews 10:38). The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is the great faith chapter in the Bible. In this chapter, we have many great achievements for God. They were performed because the individuals believed or

had faith in God. God told them to do it. They believed Him and obeyed Him by faith.

#### C. Faith as “The Faith” or System of Doctrine.

1. **“One Lord, one faith** [system of religious beliefs], **and one baptism”** (Ephesians 4:5).
2. Webster says that Faith means a system of religious beliefs, creed, denominations, or beliefs.
3. When the word “faith” is used in the King James Version, it is used as a system of religious beliefs, and it generally has the definite article “the” in front of it. This rule is without exception in the Greek. When the Bible is referring to “the Faith” as a system of religious beliefs, it always has the definite article “the” in front of it. In this way, one always knows when the word “faith” is being used as a system of religious beliefs.

### II. JESUS SAID “MY FAITH”

#### A. Jesus had a faith.

1. Jesus told the church at Pergamos, **“...and hast not denied my faith,..”** or literally, you have not denied the system of doctrine (teaching) that is mine (Revelation 2:13).

2. Jesus, after teaching His disciples for three and one-half years, commissioned them by saying, **“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:..”** (Matthew 28:20). Jesus had an order of things He taught them or “The Faith.”

**B. The church in Jerusalem had a faith (Acts 8:14).**

The Apostle Paul, before his conversion, **“...made havock...”** of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 8:1-3). Years later, he recounted the incident as he wrote to the churches of Galatia. He said, **“Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia; And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ: But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.”** (Galatians 1:21-23).

**C. One will be rewarded for keeping “the faith.”**

1. Statement of fact. One will not be crowned except he strives lawfully. **“And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.”** (II Timothy 2:5). This teaches that God has a proper way of doing things and if we do them the way He

commands, we will be crowned or rewarded.

2. **There will be earthly rewards** for keeping the faith. **“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”** (Galatians 3:26). The word translated “children” is the Greek word “U’ous” which means a full grown son. There are three Greek words translated sons. One means a baby; another means a son of junior or intermediate age; while “U’ous” means a mature or fullgrown son. The definite article is before the word Faith. This verse literally means we are mature sons of God by keeping the faith, or by practicing the proper system of religious beliefs.
3. **This is a tremendous reward.** There are many of God’s children who are living a poor, defeated, fearful life. By knowing and practicing the true New Testament faith, a person grows above this. He can be confident, because he knows where he stands with God, what life is all about, where he is going when he dies, and how to sense and please God.
4. **There will be eternal rewards** for keeping the faith. One will be presented **HOLY, UNBLAMEABLE, AND UNREPROVEABLE IN HIS SIGHT** if he continues in the faith (Colossians 1:22-23).

**Please note:** these are saved, baptized members of the church in Colosse. What a tremendous promise—to be presented to Jesus HOLY, UNBLAMEABLE, AND UNREPROVEABLE You say, “What’s the catch?” Yes, there is one, and it is tied up in the little word “**IF**.” One will be presented HOLY, UNBLAMEABLE, and UNREPROVEABLE in His sight, **IF**, he continues in the faith. It is important what you believe. It is important how you practice what you believe. You will be rewarded for keeping the faith.

5. **Paul rejoiced at his anticipated reward** for keeping “the faith.” He said, “**I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course** [the job Jesus gave him to do when He saved him], **I have kept the faith:**” (II Timothy 4:7). Then, he almost shouts as he says in **verse 8**, “**Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness,..**” Because Paul fought in the army of God, finished his job, and kept the true teachings of Christ, he was looking forward to HIS REWARD.

### III. The “FAITH” that is found in all ages.

Jesus instituted a system of doctrine. Paul said there was one faith, one Lord, and one baptism. Now we know that there are many faiths or systems of doctrine. Paul meant that there was one true faith. The Bible teaches that

there is a true way to interpret every single doctrine in the Bible. The Bible assures the perpetuity of that true New Testament faith.

#### A. The Faith during the New Testament days.

There had to be a faith during the time of the New Testament. Jesus started it; the church at Jerusalem continued it; and Paul, first persecuted it and then preached it (Acts 8:14; Galatians 1:23).

#### B. The Faith during the latter days (I Timothy 4:1-3).

1. “**Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, *and commanding to abstain from meats,..*”**

- a. Notice the time element—“**...in the latter times...**”
- b. “**...depart from the faith, [system of doctrine] giving heed... to doctrine [teachings] of devils.**” What is the doctrine of devils?
  - Forbidding to marry
  - Abstaining from meats
  - The ordinance forbidding priests to marry was passed in

1123 AD, and is included in this dispensational period. Therefore, it is considered “...in the latter times...”

2. **The FAITH** has been in existence from the setting up of the church in Acts, through today. This is the dispensation period, which is considered as the “...latter times...” It, “...latter times...,” was in effect in 1123 AD, and some forsook **the faith**. Some could not have departed from the faith in the “...latter times...” if the faith had not continued through that time?

C. **The Faith in the last days (II Timothy 3:1-8).**

1. **In the last days**, men are reprobates concerning the faith.
2. **The time is the important element** in proper understanding of this passage. “...last days perilous times shall come.” (v1). **Note:** The “...last days...”
3. Paul notes all the conditions, which will prevail **during the “...last days...”**
4. Then he concludes by saying, “...so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.” How could these be reprobates toward the “faith” during the “...last days...” unless the “faith”

existed?

D. **“The Faith” found in all ages restated.**

1. **Jesus started it**--the church at Jerusalem, and the Apostle Paul continued it by preaching the gospel through the remainder of the New Testament days.
2. **Some left “the faith”** during the “...latter times...”
3. **Some were reprobates** toward it in the “...last days...”
4. **Jesus assured the church** He would be with them throughout the church age if they taught what He commanded them to teach. **“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”** or [age]
5. **The Bible teaches** that Jesus established a true New Testament faith during his ministry and that that true faith has continued down through the ages, and it is still being taught today.

**IV. THE BIBLE ADMONISHES ONE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN THE FAITH**

- A. **“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him; Rooted and built up in him and stablished in the**

**faith, as ye have been taught,..**  
(Colossians 2:6-7).

- B. **“...that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;..”** (Philippians 1:27b).
- C. **“...it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”** (Jude 3b)

These Scriptures are presented so clearly by the Holy Spirit that they need no further comment. The fact that Jesus had a faith that has been perpetuated by the Holy Spirit, and that a person would be rewarded if he continues in the faith, has been proven. If this is so, then this should be enough to cause one to want to be established in the faith.

## V. THE FAITH IS TO BE PRACTICED AS WELL AS BELIEVED.

The emphasis in the New Testament is on doing as well as believing.

### A. Jesus and the New Testament faith.

1. **Dr. Luke reminds Theophilus** that Jesus began to do and to teach (Acts 1:1). **Notice:** The **doing** comes before the **teaching**.
2. **Jesus, referring to the scribes and Pharisees** said, **“This people draweth**

**nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.”** (Matthew 15:8). Jesus said, **“...but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.”** (Matthew 23:3), and he strongly denounced the scribes and Pharisees as hypocrites.

### B. Paul “Did” versus Paul “Said.”

1. **Paul said.** The Holy Spirit used the Apostle Paul to write fourteen (14) books of the New Testament. In proving all the major New Testament doctrines, Paul is quoted very often. This is good! This is what a Bible student ought to do. He should have a **“...Thus saith the Lord...”** or a **chapter and verse** for everything he believes. It is GOOD TO SAY—Paul said!
2. **Paul did.** PLEASE NOTICE what **Paul did** as well as what **Paul said**.
  - a. He went night and day with tears (Acts 20:31).
  - b. He went from house to house (Acts 20:20).
  - c. He became all things to all men that he may save some (1 Corinthians 9:22).
  - d. He kept back nothing that was profitable (Acts 20:19-20); But gave his all (Romans 1:14-15).

- e. He fasted (11 Corinthians 11:27).
- f. He suffered more than almost any man (II Corinthians 11:23-28).
- g. He finally gave his life as a martyr (II Timothy 4:6-8).

**C. Jesus never intended for people to stress the letter of the law and call it “standing for the faith.”**

- 1. **He said, “...worship the Father in spirit and in truth:..”** (John 4:23).
- 2. **He said, “By this shall all *men* know ye are my disciples [true disciples], if ye have love one to another.”** (John 13:35). You don’t cut them down because they have a slight doctrinal difference. You can’t convert and teach people by beating them over the head, or by having a self--righteous, holier than thou attitude.
- 3. **Contending for the faith** means being strong in the Bible and sweet in the Spirit.
- 4. **In closing**, one question remains to be asked, **“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;...?”** (II Corinthians 13:5)

**MY FAITH**

**Monday (Three Ways)**

- 1. Personal faith or \_\_\_\_\_ Faith is the first mentioned in this lesson.
- 2. Who are “the just” referred to in Hebrews 10:38? \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. Where is the faith chapter found in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. Webster defines “The Faith” as \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. How do you know when faith means the Faith as a system of religious belief? \_\_\_\_\_.

**Tuesday  
(Jesus said, “My Faith”)**

- 1. What Church did not deny the true faith? \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Jesus taught the disciples for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- 3. We grow into mature sons of God by keeping \_\_\_\_\_ (Galatians 3:26).
- 4. We will be presented Holy, unblameable, and unproveable if we continue in the \_\_\_\_\_. Colossians 1:21-23.
- 5. Paul was expecting to be rewarded for fighting a \_\_\_\_\_ fight, for \_\_\_\_\_ the course, and for \_\_\_\_\_.

keeping the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Wednesday**

**(The Faith Found in all Ages)**

1. Who started the true faith?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Who first persecuted it then preached it?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Spirit speaketh expressly in the \_\_\_\_\_ times.
4. Men will be reprobates toward the faith during the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Jesus says, "...lo, I am with you **always, even unto the end of the world...**" or \_\_\_\_\_.

**Thursday**

**(The Bible Admonishes)**

1. How did the disciples in Colosse learn the faith? Colossians 2:7-8. They were \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Stand fast in \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit, with one mind, striving for \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel (Philippians 1:27).
3. Jude said earnestly contend for the \_\_\_\_\_. (Jude 3).
4. The faith has been perpetuated by the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Since the Bible commands it, one should want to be \_\_\_\_\_ in the faith.

**Friday**

**(Paul Did Verses Paul Said)**

1. Jesus began \_\_\_\_\_ and then \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 1:1).
2. Why did Jesus denounce the Pharisees? They say \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Paul went night and \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Paul went from house \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 20:20).
5. He became \_\_\_\_\_ to all men that he could save some. (I Corinthians 9:22),

Having studied this lesson and found that Jesus established a true faith and assured its perpetuity throughout all ages, I now promise the Lord that I will first submit myself to Him and to Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, whom God gave to help me learn. By God's grace, I will be true to the Lord, His Faith, and His cause until He comes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

**Questions to ask the discipler:**

**DAILY DECLARATION**

**Repeat Aloud Each Morning And Evening**

I will strive to contend for the faith by being strong in the Bible and sweet in the Spirit.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35).

CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
A.M.							
P.M.							

“OVERHEARD IN THE ORCHARD”

Said the Robin to the Sparrow  
“I should really like to know  
Why the anxious human beings  
Rush around and worry so?”

Said the Sparrow to the Robin  
“Friend, I think that it must be  
that they have no heavenly father  
such as cares for you and me.”

Elizabeth Cheney

# Lesson Three

## GOD'S INSPIRED WORD

### II Timothy 3:16-17

**INTRODUCTION:** The Bible is a divinely inspired library of 66 books (39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament) written by forty different writers over a period of about 1500 years. The word "bible" comes from the Greek word "bibila," which means "Books." "The Books" was the name of this library of 66 books until shortly after A.D. 400 when it received the name "Bible."

#### I. HOW DID WE RECEIVE THE BIBLE?

##### A. Men of God were inspired by the Holy Spirit

1. "All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God..." (II Timothy. 3:16)
2. **Inspiration, comes from the compound Greek word:** Theos, God, and Pneustos, Breathed. All scripture is "God breathed."
3. **Peter stated, "...but holy men of God spake as *they were* moved by the Holy Ghost"** (II Peter 1:21).

The Greek verb is translated "Moved," in II Peter 1:21. "Being moved" means literally, to be moved upon, or to be carried along; i.e., as by a

strong current or mighty influence. The verb form is the passive participle, and can be translated. "when moved upon or borne along by...." This distinctly teaches that the Scriptures were not written by mere men, or at their suggestion, but by men moved upon, prompted, indeed, driven by the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

4. **Jeremiah is a perfect illustration** of God moving upon or breathing upon men to write the Word of God. After severe persecution, He decided he would not prophesy any more, but after God breathed in his soul, he stated, "...**But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay* [refrain].**" (Jeremiah 20:9)

##### B. These inspired men wrote on goat skins, sheep skins and papyrus scrolls.

1. God used about forty different writers.
2. They lived as much as 1500 years apart in time.
3. They came from different backgrounds.

But all of them were moved upon by the Holy Spirit and directed to write where they were in perfect harmony with each other. The Holy Spirit, the author of the Bible, superintended each writer.

**C. These men wrote in three different languages.**

1. **Hebrew:** Most of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew.
2. **Chaldee or Aramaic:** Parts of Daniel, Ezra and Jeremiah were written in Chaldee.
3. **Greek:** The New Testament was written in Koine Greek.
4. **Hebrew and Greek** are now dead or unchanging languages. The meaning of original words have not changed since they were written. This means that men can study the original languages and receive the same truth and knowledge as when they were written.
5. **There are hundreds** of other languages and dialects in addition to our English language. The King James Version (1611 AD) is the word of God, and the only acceptable translation to this author, and the only one he has ever recommended.

**D. For hundreds of years, these Books were copied by hand.**

1. **The scribes who copied** these books were the most highly educated and the skilled men of their day.
2. **One objection to the Bible**, by its critics,

is it was hand copied and there are so many mistakes. People who are, knowingly or unknowingly, ignorant make this criticism. Some times a copyist might make a mistake. He may use "the" instead of "a" or "that." He may use the singular form of the word instead of the plural form. But when you have 1500 to 2000 manuscripts of that part of the Bible, each one copied by hand, and many centuries old, and only 10 or 20 with that simple mistake in it, then the mistake is easily recognized and corrected.

3. **We do not have to depend on the reliability of the translators** nor the truthfulness of men, because God has promised to preserve His Word. **Jesus stated:**

**"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"** (Matthew 24:35).

**"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."** (Matthew 5:18),

**Jesus** had previously told the apostles that the old testament Scriptures were inspired. **David** was inspired to proclaim,

**"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled**

in heaven.” (Psalms 119:89).

## II. INTERNAL PROOFS THAT THE BIBLE IS GOD'S ETERNAL, INSPIRED WORD

### A. The claims of the writers of the Bible.

1. **Paul** — “**All scripture is given by inspiration of God,..**” (II Timothy 3:16).
2. **Peter**—”**...holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**” (II Peter 1:21).

There are **263 direct quotations in the New Testament** from the Old Testament, and there are approximately 350 indirect allusions to the Old Testament,

The expression, “**...thus with the Lord...**” occurs over 2,000 times.

### B. The Old Testament, as it is today, was upon earth during Jesus' personal ministry.

1. **Jesus not only set His approval upon it, but divided it into three divisions: “...which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms,..**” (Luke 24:44)

### C. Jesus PRE-AUTHENTICATED the New Testament in John 16.

1. **Jesus set His approval upon the Old Testament during His personal ministry.** In the last service with His disciples, the night before he was crucified, he told them about the further writings which would be given by the Holy Spirit, which would complete the Holy Canon. None of the New Testament books had been written during His ministry. One of the requirements to write was that an apostle was to have accompanied with Jesus from the time of John the Baptist, until Jesus was caught up to heaven (Acts 1:21-22). They had heard every lesson, seen every miracle and had been personally discipled by Jesus. Events had to happen and experiences must have been lived through before the apostles were equipped to become part of the elite group which the Holy Spirit used as human tools in writing God's eternal word. In **V.12**, Jesus said,

**“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.”**

In **V. 25**, Jesus told them,

**“These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.”**

He then explained that the teaching he would give would come from Him through the Holy Spirit. His exact explanation concerning this future teaching and guidance of the Holy Spirit is recorded in John 16:13. He said,

**“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak:..”**

This is the same procedure that he had Moses and the others use to write the inspired Old Testament books. He concludes the verse by saying, **“...and he will shew you things to come.”**

These experiences were necessary so that the Holy Spirit could draw to their attention the teachings and actions of Jesus as the Spirit superintended them in writing the New Testament books and epistles. Jesus had trained and then qualified the apostles to be used as instruments of the Holy Spirit as a major part in completing His eternal perfect word. The apostle Paul was later called and inspired by the Holy Spirit to contribute his part in the holy writings.

2. **Jesus was speaking directly to the apostles.** The final church services, which Jesus conducted as the Pastor of the church, are recorded in chapters 13

through 16 of John. It is in the latter part of the services, recorded in chapter 16, that Jesus informed the disciples about the necessity of His death and the ministry of the comforter (Holy Spirit).

3. **An illustration of the presentation of God's word.** During a dark period in early American history, there were more books entitled, “The age of Reason” written by the Leading atheist, Thomas Payne, than there were Holy Bibles. Mr. Payne boasted that he would rid the world of Bibles through the assault and presentation of his views of atheism. God sent revival to America. Thomas Payne's book has long been discarded, and the very printing press, which he used to attack the Bible, was later used to print millions and millions of Bibles. God has miraculously preserved His word through many such dark days.

#### **D. The Bible is Under Attack.**

In 1960, when most of this book was written as a thesis, the average person in the United States believed the Bible to be the Word of God, and respected it as such. The King James Version (1611) was revered and accepted as the perfect, inspired Word of God. Under the guise of making it easier to read, there have been many new translations of the Bible. All attempts have fallen far short of their publicized goals. In fact, they are perversions of the Bible;

instead of clarifying the Bible, the very opposite has happened. They have undermined the Bible and caused great confusion and harm.

**E. The Bible was written with the masses in mind, so that the common man can understand it.**

In order to understand the Bible, one must be born again, have someone teach him his spiritual phonics, and then prayerfully study the Bible in order to learn how to read and comprehend its eternal truths. The Bible was written with the masses in mind, and the common man can comprehend its teachings.

**F. God never intended that the bible be read like a novel.**

The Bible is God's manual for the Human race. Man is to be directed by it in order for him to understand His purpose in the light of eternity. God has commanded man to diligently study it. He has promised temporal and eternal blessings to those who search the Scriptures as men who search for hidden treasures. (Proverbs 2:3-5) A casual reader will never receive much good from reading the Bible.

**III. SOME WONDERFUL WORDS ABOUT THE WONDERFUL WORD**

**A. The Bible Is**

The Bible is a light for our understanding  
The Bible is a mirror for our self-knowledge  
The Bible is a sword for our conflict  
The Bible is honey for our delight  
The Bible is a hammer for our obstinacy  
The Bible is milk for our nourishment  
The Bible is meat for our strengthening  
The Bible is a seed for our sowing  
The Bible is gold for our enrichment

**B. The Bible is Forever**

Communists may try to suppress it, Atheists will deny it, scoff at it, and ridicule it. Professors will try to discredit it and vicious attacks have been made on it and against it.

Enemies have sought to destroy it. New versions and perversions seek to do away with it, but still the blessed Old Book is Forever.

The Bible—being inspired is infallible  
being inspired is dependable  
being inspired is eternal  
being inspired is indestructible

“Despised and torn in pieces  
By infidels decried  
The thunderbolts of hatred  
The haughty cynics pride

All these have railed against it  
In this or other lands  
Yet dynasties have fallen  
And still the Bible stands.”  
James M. Gray

**C. Jesus Christ is the Supreme Wonder of the Bible**

The Old Testament conceals Christ  
    The New Testament reveals Christ  
The Old Testament enfolds Christ  
    The New Testament unfolds Christ  
The Old Testament promises Christ  
    The New Testament presents Christ  
The Old Testament pictures Christ  
    The New Testament produces Christ  
The Old Testament symbolizes Christ  
    The New Testament sacrifices Christ  
The Old Testament prophesies Christ  
    The New Testament proclaims Christ  
The Old Testament is law, which Christ fulfilled  
    The New Testament is love, which Christ exhibits  
The secret of the unity of the Bible is Jesus  
The secret of the strength of the Bible is Jesus  
The secret of the beauty of the Bible is Jesus  
    He is the Alpha—and the Omega  
He is the first and the last

Take away the Bible and you take away Christ  
Take away Christ and you take away the foundation of our lives.

**Note:** Some wonderful words about the wonderful Word. (Many of the quotes in this section are from Dr. Earl K. Oldham's book, So It's A Miracle.)

**D. The Bible is our Manual**

When Paul stated that the Bible would thoroughly furnish the believers in all good works, he is simply stating that the Bible was placed on this earth to serve as the manual for the human race. God made us! He gives man his life and maintains it, so it is only logical that he would place a manual or an instruction book upon this earth to direct it. By following the manual, he can live a happy and fruitful life. **One must learn how to read the manual** if he is to follow it successfully and fulfill his purpose while on this earth.

**IV. EXTERNAL PROOF THAT THE BIBLE IS GOD'S ETERNAL, INSPIRED WORD**

**A. The preservation of the Bible**

The fact that the Bible is enjoying its greatest circulation today is evidence that it is inspired. In spite of all the persecution, bannings, burnings, and criticisms, the Divine Book is being read by more people today than ever before, this is an illustration of the preservation of God's Word.

**B. The unity of the Book**

Although it was written during a period of 1500 years by about 40 different writers who had varied backgrounds, there are no contradictions in the Bible. Can you imagine the change and contradictions, which any science book would have, if you took the thesis on its subject from over a period of 1500 years.

Think about the development in the field of medical science over the last 1500 years or in the computer field in the last 15 years. The only explanation for the harmony found in a book where 40 writers, who lived over a vast period of 1500 years, is that they were the human tools God used to bring His eternal book into existence.

**C. Fulfilled prophecy proves the Bible to be inspired**

The accurate foretelling of future events proves the inspiration of the Bible. Left to ourselves, we cannot know what will happen tomorrow, but the Bible prophesied events hundreds of years before they came to pass. Some of the prophecies had to do with the fall of Babylon, the scattering and the preservation of the Jewish nation, the birth and death of Jesus, the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, and numerous other events. These events were prophesied hundreds of years before they came to pass. The Bible is the only book that has been 100% accurate in all its predictions.

**D. The superior, lofty concept of the Bible proves it to be inspired**

When the philosophy of the world is dog eat dog; might is right; and do others before they do you; the Bible teaches us to love our neighbor; feed our enemy; and help our fellow man. Its teachings concerning marriage, the home, and raising children; when followed, lifts a nation up, and its society is one of lawfulness, peace, and prosperity.

**E. Harmony with proven science proves the Bible to be inspired**

When rightly interpreted, the Bible harmonizes with all known facts concerning the physical make up of the universe, the constitution of man, his complex nature and being, the order of animal and plant life, and all other true facts of science.

Much harm has been caused in recent years by Christians trying to harmonize the Bible with some theory of science. They blindly accept all claims of science as true and try to fit the Bible into that theory. This is not necessary, because the Bible is completely true, and all true science is in perfect agreement with the Bible.

**F. The transforming effect of the Bible on people's lives proves it to be a Supernatural Book**

When one considers the dramatic change upon the character and conduct of people who read and obey the teachings of the Bible, one has to realize that the Bible is inspired.

**Biblical Examples of Changed Lives.** Notice the change in Saul to Paul; the 3,000 skeptics on the day of Pentecost were changed to 3,000 disciples; drunkards became sober, God fearing men; harlots became righteous, spirit-filled women; etc.

Perhaps the most vivid example of change, which the Bible produces in the life of an individual, is the example of the Apostle Paul. Before his conversion to Christianity, he hated and persecuted Christians. He led expeditions to destroy the church and had many of its members jailed or executed. **"...he made havock of the church,..."** (Acts 8:3). This harsh Saul (Saul means defiant) was converted and became Paul (means humility), He literally became the leading person demonstrating God's love toward sinful man. He suffered trials, beatings, and indescribable hardships as he gave his life to preach the Gospel, represent God, and win and disciple people.

**A Broad Biblical Scale.** On a broader scale, there were 3,000 hard core

members of the Jewish faith, which came to Jerusalem to worship God on the day of Pentecost and returned to their homelands as Christian missionaries. Why the total change? It was because of the influence of the Living Word and their growth in the written words.

**A Personal Scale.** There were many things which were paramount in changing the author's life; a travelling salesman selling family Bibles found a 16 year old lost kid with some money, and he sold me my first Bible, and later, God saving me when I cried out to Him in desperation. I rejoice every day, because He changed my life forever. However, the primary thing, which changed my life then, and has affected me most since then, was when I learned how to read and study the Bible.

What good is a Bible if the person doesn't read it? For all intent and purposes to many people, the Bible is just another book. However, if someone teaches a new convert how to rightly divide the word so he can understand it, right after he is saved, then the chances are good that he will enjoy reading the Bible and grow into maturity.

**The perfect word of God has exerted the greatest influence on my life, and I am a living testimony of its transforming influence.**

There are thousands of examples of alcoholics made sober, and wicked, depraved sinners converted to loving ministering saints. When a person considers this powerful effect the Bible has upon people who read and then follow its teaching, he must conclude it is because of **THE SUPERNATURAL BOOK.**

### COMMENTS FROM GREAT MEN OF THE PAST

The following are a few comments of great men concerning their view of the Bible.

**Abraham Lincoln:** "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated to us through this book."

**W. E. Gladstone:** "I have known ninety-five of the world's great men in my time, and of these, eighty-seven were followers of the Bible. The Bible is stamped with a Specialty of Origin, and an immeasurable distance separates it from all competitors."

**George Washington:** "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

**Napoleon:** "The Bible is no mere book, but a Living Creature, with a power that conquers all that oppose it."

**Queen Victoria:** "That book accounts for the supremacy of England."

**Daniel Webster:** "If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love of the Scriptures. If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."

**Thomas Huxley:** "The Bible is the sheet-anchor of our liberties."

**Horace Greeley:** "It is impossible to enslave mentally or socially Bible reading people. The principles of the Bible are the groundwork of human freedom."

**Andrew Jackson:** "That book, sir, is the rock on which our republic rests."

### HOW DID WE RECEIVE

#### Monday

#### (Introduction)

1. The Bible is a library of \_\_\_\_\_ books, written by about \_\_\_\_\_ writers over a period of about \_\_\_\_\_ years.
2. The word "Bible" comes from the Greek word, \_\_\_\_\_ which means \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Men of God were inspired by the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Inspiration comes from the compound Greek

## God's Inspired Word

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word \_\_\_\_\_ which means God and \_\_\_\_\_, which means \_\_\_\_\_.

5. The men wrote in three languages, \_\_\_\_\_, Chaldee or Aramaic, and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Tuesday

#### (Section D and Internal Proofs)

1. If there are 1,500 to 2,000 manuscripts and only 15 or 20 have a simple mistake; the mistake is \_\_\_\_\_ and corrected.
2. We do not have to depend on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the translators.
3. God has promised to preserve His \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 5:18; 24:35)
4. There are \_\_\_\_\_ direct quotations in the New Testament taken from the Old Testament.
5. Jesus not only set His approval upon the Old \_\_\_\_\_ in Luke 24:44-45, but He \_\_\_\_\_ it into three \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_

### Wednesday

#### (Wonderful Words)

1. The Bible is a \_\_\_\_\_ for our understanding.
2. The Bible being inspired is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Old Testament conceals Christ—the

## Milk of the Word

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New Testament \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.

4. The secret of the Unity of the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The secret of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible is Jesus.

### Thursday

#### (External Proofs)

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible proves it is inspired.
2. The unity of the Bible proves it is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Fulfilled prophecy proves \_\_\_\_\_ to be inspired.
4. Harmony with proven \_\_\_\_\_ proves the Bible to be \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The transforming effects of the \_\_\_\_\_ on people's lives, proves it to be a supernatural \_\_\_\_\_.

### Friday

#### (About the Bible)

1. George Washington said, "It is impossible to rightly govern the \_\_\_\_\_ without God and the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Abraham Lincoln had this to say, "I believe the \_\_\_\_\_ is the best gift God has ever given to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. "The \_\_\_\_\_ is no mere book, but a living creature, with a power that

- \_\_\_\_\_ all that oppose it" Napoleon.
4. "The Bible is worth all other books which have ever been \_\_\_\_\_." Patrick Henry.
  5. Andrew Jackson stated, "That Book, Sir, is the \_\_\_\_\_ on which our republic rests,"

Having studied this lesson on God's inspired Word, I am convinced that the Bible is God's infallible, eternal Word. I will study it each day, will strive to learn it well enough to teach others also.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Grade

**Questions to ask the discipler:**

**DAILY DECLARATION**

**Repeat Aloud Each Morning And Evening**

"The Bible is worth all the other books which have ever been printed." Patrick Henry

**MEMORY VERSE:** "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 Timothy 3:16-17)

CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
<b>A.M.</b>							
<b>P.M.</b>							

**SEVEN LOGICAL PRINCIPLES OF LIFE**

1. There is a God OR there is no God.
2. If there is a God, THEN God made man.<sup>a</sup>
3. If God made man, THEN He did so for a purpose.<sup>b</sup>
4. If God made man, THEN there MUST BE A BOOK: **which reveals that purpose** to man.<sup>c</sup>
5. If God **made man for a purpose**, THEN there must be a FUTURE DAY in which man will stand before his Creator and GIVE ACCOUNT of **how he fulfilled his purpose**.<sup>d</sup>
6. If God made man for a purpose, then man will be rewarded or penalized in direct proportion as to HOW HE FULFILLED **that purpose**.<sup>e</sup>
7. **If all of the above is true**, and God gives you life and continuance on this earth, THEN **He** **has a rightful claim to your love and obedience!**<sup>f</sup>

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<sup>a</sup> Genesis 1:1

<sup>b</sup> Genesis 1:26-27

<sup>c</sup> II Timothy 3:16-17

<sup>d</sup> John 5:28-29

<sup>e</sup> Ecclesiastes

<sup>f</sup> I Corinthians 6:19-20

# Lesson Four

## RIGHT DIVISION OF THE BIBLE

### 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.**” (II Timothy 2:15).

**INTRODUCTION:** Perhaps there is no other realm in religious circles where there is a more obvious weakness than in the realm of rightly dividing the Word of Truth. The proof of this statement is manifested in the many contradictory beliefs stemming from the same Scriptures. There is a real need for people to learn to rightly divide the Bible.

### I. THE RIGHT DIVISION IS MADE BY STUDY

#### A. There is a RIGHT way

1. This forceful command to study in order to rightly divide the Bible, proves there is a right way to view every doctrine in God's Word.
2. Seek the help of the Author. One of the many works of the Holy Spirit is to aid the believer in understanding the Bible. The Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible, and one should pray earnestly for His guidance as he studies Gods Word.

3. One must realize that many times wicked men or even the Devil may be speaking, so one should prayerfully seek God's leadership as he studies.

### II. THE GRAND (large) DIVISION OF THE BIBLE

#### A. There are two natural divisions of the Bible

1. The natural division in the Bible is obvious. There is the Old Testament and the New Testament.
2. The Word “Testament” means covenant or agreement.

#### B. The Old Testament has three divisions. (Luke 24:44-45):

1. **The Law of Moses.** Most scholars agree that this division is made up of the first 17 books of the Bible: Genesis through Esther.
2. **The Prophets.** This division includes all of the books from Isaiah through the remainder of the Old Testament: seventeen books in all.
3. **Psalms.** This third division includes 5 books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and The Song of Solomon.

#### C. The New Testament has three logical parts.

1. **Historical books** The books which are primarily historical are: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and the Book of Acts.
2. **Doctrinal books** There are twenty-one epistles or letters, which make up this section, which are basically doctrinal. If you include the Book of Hebrews, fourteen of these letters were written by Paul.
3. **A prophetic book** The Book of Revelation is the book in the New Testament which is primarily prophetic.

### III. THERE MUST BE RIGHT DIVISION FOR PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORD

#### A. All of the Old Testament is inspired.

1. **In this section** we are not discussing inspiration of the Word, but we are considering rightly dividing the Word. All of the Bible, the entire 66 books, is the inspired Word of God.
2. **In consideration of rightly dividing the Word**, there is one expression which must be clearly understood, and that expression is, "Rule of faith and practice."
  - a. Rule means standard or what we go by.
  - b. Faith means "*the faith*" or what we believe. People always ask, "What

faith are you?" We understand this to mean what denominational persuasion or church doctrine do you believe in?

- c. By practice, we mean how to practice or do the things we believe.
3. **By rule of faith and practice**, we mean what we believe or go by, and how we practice or observe it.
4. **The reason** Jesus divided the Old Testament into three parts is because we are not under all three divisions today as our rule of faith and practice.

#### B. The Law was done away when fulfilled by Jesus

1. Jesus said that we were under all of the law or none of the law as our rule of faith and practice. Jesus said, in Matthew 5:17-18, "**Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets** [two of the three parts of the Old Testament]: **I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.**" Why did he come? He did not come to destroy the law or the prophets but to fulfill them. Then he went on to state, "**For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot** [like a dot over the English letter "i"] **or one tittle** [like a crossing of the English letter "t"] **shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be**

**fulfilled.”** (Matthew 5:17-18) Jesus emphatically states that the smallest part of the Mosaic Law would stay in effect until all of it was fulfilled. All of the minor parts of the Mosaic Law and all of the ceremonial part of the law is still in effect today (as our rule of faith or practice) or none of them are.

2. The TEN COMMANDMENTS were written by God in stone.

The only record of God's writing that we have is the Ten Commandments. God wrote the Ten Commandments in stone and gave them to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

- a. In II Corinthians 3:7-11, Paul refers to that which was written in stone clearly the Ten Commandments) as the ministration of death. In the same passage he refers to that which was written and engraved in stone (the Ten Commandments) as the ministration of condemnation and said it was Done Away. In order to pinpoint that he was referring to the Ten Commandments, he tells of the brightness of Moses' face when he came down from Mt. Sinai, after seeing the backside of God. This reference to Moses' face makes it absolutely positive that Paul was referring to the Ten Commandments as the ministration of death and condemnation, and that they were done away with as our rule of faith and practice.

- b. In Colossians 2:14-17, Paul said that Jesus fulfilled all the demands of the Mosaic Law and took it out of the way as our rule of faith and practice by nailing it to His Cross. Since Jesus fulfilled all of the types, symbols, and requirements of the Law, it was taken out of the way as the rule of faith and practice.

**C. The division referred to as “the Prophets” was done away as our rule of faith and practice.**

1. Jesus referred to the division of the prophets along with the division of the law in Luke 16:16 and stated that these two divisions of the Old Testament were in effect until John (John the Baptist [the last O.T. prophet and the first N.T. preacher]) but since that time (the time of John) the Kingdom of God has been preached, and all men pressed into it. This simply means that there was a change in dispensation (method of God's dealing with mankind) or age (time period in which God dealt in that method with mankind).
2. Under the Law, the Jews were required to bring an animal to be sacrificed, which testified of their faith in the atoning work of the coming Messiah (Jesus). After Jesus came, which fulfilled the types and rewarded their faith, there was no longer any need for them to offer a lamb because the real Lamb of God had come.

3. In Hebrews 1:1-2, it tells us that in times past, or in previous dispensations, God spoke to the fathers (previous believers) through the prophets “but hath in the last days” (present dispensation) spoken unto us by His Son. Therefore, we can see in these two Scriptures that there has been a change in dispensations (the way God deals with mankind). We are living in this new age or present dispensation.

**D. We are commanded to use the division of the Psalms today.**

1. **Paul told the Ephesian church, “Speaking to yourselves in psalms...”** (Ephesians 5:19).
2. The Colossians were admonished, **“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms...”** (Colossians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 14:26),
3. **In the division of Psalms, there are five books.** People of all ages need the message, which is contained in these five books. Ecclesiastes 3:14 states that what God does, He does perfectly. Since God, the Holy Spirit, is the author of the five books, they are perfect and do not need to be repeated again in the New Testament. Therefore, God divided the Old Testament into three parts and fulfilled two of the three divisions and incorporated the third into the new faith

and practice, which are the Psalms and the New Testament., When one realizes the central message of each of these books, he will realize that all believers (in all ages) had/have need of these books.

- a. **The Book of Job** –Job answers the question of why a righteous man suffers. It shows that the righteous man, through God’s grace, will overcome and triumph.
- b. **The Book of Psalms** –This book teaches us to say “A-men!” and to praise the Lord! To have complete trust and faith in the Lord through our earthly journey and to praise Him as we travel toward Heaven.
- c. **The Book of Proverbs** –This is the book by which a father is to raise his children. What a tremendous need there is in the world today for the Book of Proverbs, God’s book, to be read and followed so as to raise our children up in the way they should go.
- d. **The Book of Ecclesiastes** — Many people are asking, “Who am I? What is this life all about?” The Book of Ecclesiastes answers these questions. It clearly tells us what life is all about and how to live and be happy.

e. **The Book of the Song of Solomon**

—This book shows the love between the Bride and the Bridegroom. It illustrates the love and the attitude that the church should have toward Christ and His Second Coming.

E. **The Law and the Prophets still hold an important place in our churches today.**

1. **The foundation of the Bible** rests upon the Law and the Prophets. They tell us where we came from and who we are. They furnish most of the prophecies, which were fulfilled in the New Testament. Without the Law and Prophets, the rest of the Bible would not make good sense.
2. **The Divisions of the Law and the Prophets** are used for history, types, prophecy and admonitions today.
3. **These two divisions** are just as important as ever, and they are just as inspired as ever. However, in order to properly divide the Word of God, one must understand that two of these three divisions in the Old Testament were fulfilled (the Law and the Prophets) and taken out of the way as our rule of faith and practice for today. The New Testament superseded them. All of the moral teachings, which are eternal, were reincorporated in the New Testament. Psalms and the New Testament make up

the perfect infallible rule of faith and practice which the churches and Christians are under today.

4. We use the King James Version (1611 AD). There is no easy way of learning the Bible. One must seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit and apply himself to the study of the Word if he is to grow into a mature Christian. The King James Version is the Word of God, so study it carefully. Do not fail into the snare of turning to a version or translation because it is easier to understand. Nothing great has ever been accomplished through taking the path of least resistance. You can understand the Bible if you apply yourself to a prayerful, deliberate study. Jesus commanded, “...**search the scriptures...**” (John 5:39).

But one will never learn to use the Bible properly until he seeks the leading of the Holy Spirit as he studies – Then, please notice – Then, he must obey what he learned - Doing the Word

**MONDAY**

**(Introduction)**

1. How can we escape being ashamed when we stand before God? (II Timothy 2:15); **“Rightly** \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. Who should a child of God try to be approved by: man, God, or denomination? By \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Where is the most obvious weakness in religious circles today? Of \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What proof do we have for that statement? In the many \_\_\_\_\_ stemming from \_\_\_\_\_.
5. There is a need to learn to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

**TUESDAY**

**(Right Division by Study)**

1. The forceful command to study proves what?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. One should pray earnestly for the \_\_\_\_\_ guidance as he studies the Bible.
3. How is right division of the Bible made? \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Wicked men and even \_\_\_\_\_ are quoted in the Bible.
5. Because of this, one must \_\_\_\_\_ the leadership of God as he studies.

**WEDNESDAY**

**(Grand Division of the Bible)**

1. What is the grand division of the Bible? The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Testaments.
2. Testament means \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
3. There are \_\_\_\_\_ parts in the Old Testament.
4. What are they? (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and (3) \_\_\_\_\_
5. What are the three logical parts of the New Testament? (1) \_\_\_\_\_ books, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and (3) a \_\_\_\_\_ book.

**THURSDAY**

**(Right Division—Proper Understanding)**

1. In this section we are studying \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ not inspiration.
2. How many books of the Bible are inspired?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. What does "rule" mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What does "faith" mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. What do we mean by "practice"?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**FRIDAY**

(The law, Prophets, and Psalms or Section III B,C, and D)

1. The ten commandments were written by God  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The law and prophets were until  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. What book did God give which aids fathers in raising children? The \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What two divisions of the Old Testament were fulfilled as the rule of faith and practice? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

5. What are we under today as our rule of faith and practice? The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Having studied this lesson and learned that there is a proper method to divide the Word of God, I will prayerfully study the Bible in order to show myself approved unto God. I will submit myself to my Pastor as the Shepherd of the Flock in order to better interpret and practice the teachings of the Bible. I will endeavor to set an exact time each day to study my Bible.

\_\_\_\_\_ Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade

**Questions to ask the discipler:**

**DAILY DECLARATION**

**Repeat Aloud Each Morning And Evening**

The Bible was written for me and I can understand it.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15)

**CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING**

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<b>A.M.</b>							
<b>P.M.</b>							

**“HOW READEST THOU?”**

**It is one thing** to read the Bible through,  
Another thing to read to learn and do;  
**Some read** it as their duty once a week,  
But no instruction from the Bible seek;  
**While others** read it with but little care,  
With no regard to how they read nor where.  
**Some read** to bring themselves into repute,  
By showing others how they can dispute;  
**While others** read because their neighbors do,  
To see how long twill take to read it through;  
**Some read** it for the wonders that are there,  
How David killed a lion and a bear,  
**While others** read it with uncommon care,  
Hoping to find some contradictions there;  
**Some read** as if it did not speak to them,  
But to the people at Jerusalem.  
**One reads** with father’s specs upon his head,  
And sees the thing just as his father said,  
**Some read** to prove a pre-adopted creed;  
Hence understand but little what they read;  
**For every** passage in the book they bend,  
To make it suit that all-important end.  
**Some people** read, as I have often thought  
To teach the book instead of being taught;  
**And some** there are who read it out of spite.  
I fear there are but few who read it right.  
**But read** it prayerfully, and you will see,  
Although men contradict, God’s Words agree;  
**For what** the early Bible prophets wrote,  
We find that Christ and His apostles quote,  
So trust no creed that trembles to recall,  
What has been **penned by one and verified by all.**  
Author Unknown

# Lesson Five

## YOU AND THE GOLDEN KEY

**INTRODUCTION:** This lesson is dedicated to the late Dr. Ben M. Bogard and his “Golden Key,” which will help us to unlock or properly interpret the Scriptures.

Men have always followed simple rules in Bible interpretation. The Bible was written so that the common man could understand it. The famous translator, John Wycliffe, wrote the following rules of interpretation. He said, “It shall greatly help ye to understand scripture.”

If thou **mark** not only what is **spoken** or **written**,  
But **of whom** and **to whom**,  
With **what words**, at **what time**, and **where**,  
to **what intended**,  
With **what circumstances**,  
Considering **what goeth before**, and **what followeth**.”

### I. THE GOLDEN KEY

A. **This Golden Key is represented by four questions which will help unlock the Scriptures.**

They are:

1. **Who** is speaking?
2. To **whom** is he speaking?
3. About **what** is he speaking?

4. **When** was he speaking?

### II. WHO IS SPEAKING?

A. **Many may be surprised to learn that God does not do all the talking in the Bible.**

1. Remember the Bible teaches that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. The Holy Spirit directs and inspires the writer to give the account or conversation, but He does not inspire an individual to do wrong. He gives the account of the deed, but does not inspire the person to commit it.
2. In the Bible one finds verses uttered by God, angels of God, fallen angels, the devil, sinners, prophets, fools, harlots, and even a she-donkey.
3. It is very important to know “who is speaking,” because it may be the words of the she-donkey or the devil who is being quoted.

### III. TO WHOM IS HE SPEAKING?

A. **There is much confusion, because people fail to realize that Scripture was written by someone to someone.**

1. **Not all statements** written in the Bible were written to a person living today, and you do not need to apply them to yourself directly.

2. **Sometimes** Scripture is addressed to Israel as a Nation.
3. **Sometimes** Scripture is written to a certain church in a certain town, and sometimes certain Scripture is directed to all churches as a whole.
4. **While at other times**, Scripture is written to a particular man under peculiar circumstances.

B. **One thing a person should always remember when striving to understand a Scripture is “To WHOM is he speaking?”**

#### IV. ABOUT WHAT IS HE SPEAKING?

A. **It has been said, “Anything can be proven by the Bible.”**

**This is true only** when the Scriptures are taken from their proper setting and misapplied to a subject to which it was not meant to apply.

1. Once a man used the Bible to prove it was a sin to cut off a puppy’s tail. The Scripture? “**...What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**” (Matthew 19:6).
2. Once a pastor startled his sleepy congregation by saying, “I can prove by the Scriptures that you should all hang yourselves.” The Scripture? The one

about Judas hanging himself, and the command, “Go ye therefore and do likewise.”

#### V. WHEN WAS HE SPEAKING?

- A. **The fourth question**, and many times a very important question, is “When was he speaking or about what time was this spoken?”
- B. A good example of the time element in proper interpretation is found in Matthew 28:15.

The “this day” to which Matthew refers is until the time he wrote the book of Matthew, some thirty years after the resurrection of our Lord.

#### VI. THE BIBLE, NOT EMOTIONS, IS TO BE OBEYED!

A. **Is the Bible the absolute authority?**

The author presents this question, not because of any doubt he has of the authority of the Bible, but in order to make the reader think. Jesus said, “**...the scripture cannot be broken;..**” (John 10:35). “**Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.**” (Luke 21:33).

Paul said, “**All scripture *is* given by inspiration...**” (II Timothy 3:16-17), and will thoroughly furnish and equip the believer to

every good WORK.

**Are these statements true?** Do you believe that God would place a book on the earth with explicit commandments and directions for mankind to follow? Or do you believe He would set up a system where the individual emotions of man would dictate what is right or wrong? Which would be the safest guide? A perfect book, which when properly interpreted, would give a safe guide to every man in every age; not a system where the feelings of the individual would dictate what is right or wrong.

1. **No true Bible believer would say.**

Every person who knows anything about the flexibility of man's emotions and the infallibility of God's Holy and Perfect Word would have any problem with this question. No one would say that one should depend upon his feelings instead of obeying a plain command of the Bible. The apostles declared, **"...let God be true, but every man a liar;.."** (Romans 3:4). **...We ought to obey God rather than men."** (Acts 5:29).

2. **But there is a problem!**

In Bible days, the Pharisees circumvented the plain commands of the law by claiming ultra scriptural gifts. Jesus rebuked them for their hypocrisy in Matthew 15:4-9. The plain command of the Bible to honour thy Father and

Mother, was set aside. These Pharisees would claim to believe the Bible, but they would disobey its plain teachings by claiming that it was a special gift, or that they had a special gift. They would say, "Yes, the Bible is true and one ought to obey it, but we have something you do not have; we are special. Jesus exposed their error and denounced their disruptive practice by saying in vs. 6-7, **"...Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites,.."**

**VII. THE NEGATIVE AS WELL AS THE POSITIVE**

We have noted the positive command to the believer to "rightly divide" the Word of God. It is to show oneself a workman, which needs not too be ashamed when he stands before his creator.

A. **NOTICE THE POSITIVE once again**

Note the word, workman. It did not say student, even though we are to be students of the word, BUT the purpose that one should study the Word is so he can be a proper workman for the Lord; not just to learn the word, but to do it.

B. **"...that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."**

Paul declares that God saved man for a purpose and that the believer is to PROVE what is that good, acceptable and perfect will for

which he was saved. The POSITIVE command for rightly dividing the word is to find out what God saved that person to do. You are to STUDY, literally be very diligent or thoughtful—intense in your efforts to find your purpose and then give yourself to the task of becoming a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1) in your efforts to become a proper workman.

C. The **NEGATIVE** command for rightly dividing the word

**“Of these things but *them* in remembrance, charging *them* before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, *but* to the subverting of the hearers. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.”** (II Timothy 2:14-16)

1. **What is your purpose for learning the Bible?** It is to subvert, win, train, or develop the hearers.
2. **What is the purpose of learning to use the Bible?** It is to be a proper workman for the Lord. To be APPROVED by God, not man as you serve the Lord.
3. **One is not to study just to know**, but he is to study in order to follow the lifestyle and pattern, which God has laid out for his workers (children) to follow.

4. **He is not** to strive or learn the word to argue or try to straighten people out. Refuse profane and vain babbling, study so you will be able to help people; never to show your skill or ability.

**VIII. TEST AND TRAIN YOURSELF**

Test yourself by turning to a Scripture at random, and find out who is speaking in it. You may have to read back a few verses or even turn back to the beginning of the book (epistle or letter), but study until you discover who is speaking.

After you have found out who is speaking, then proceed to the question, **to whom is he speaking?**

After you have determined the first two points, then proceed to the third question, **“about what is he speaking?”** Then, if applicable, answer the question of **when was he speaking**. By going through these four questions, you will be able to determine the true meaning of most verses.

**PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!**

**Follow that routine** over and over again until it is just a natural thing for you to ask yourself those four questions, as you read your Bible.

In order to obtain skill in rightly dividing the Word of God, stay in the **NEW TESTAMENT** as you practice. There are 27 books in the New Testament. Twenty-one of these inspired books are epistles (letters), which were written by someone: to an

individual, a local church, or to the saved (these are called general epistles [letters]). If you count Hebrews, the Apostle Paul wrote fourteen of these letters. The Apostle John wrote five of these letters, and Peter and Doctor Luke each wrote two. It is easier to determine these four questions in the New Testament than in the Old Testament, because the books are smaller. After you master the Golden Key (four key questions) in the New Testament, you will be confident to study anywhere in the Bible; but to be a good student of the Word, you must persevere.

### AN EXAMPLE FROM ONE OF GOD'S GREATEST

George Mueller lived in England a little over 100 years ago. He set out to prove that **God would still answer prayer in "these last days."** He would have to be considered one of God's greatest and most successful "workmen." The author will close this section with some advice from that Spirit Filled Prayer Warrior who changed his generation.

### THERE WAS A DAY WHEN I DIED:

Died to George Mueller: to his opinions, his desires, and his will;

Died to the world: to its approval or disapproval; and  
Died to the acclaim or disclaim of his brethren.

Since that day, I have studied only to show myself approved unto God.

This advice captures the true meaning of II Timothy 2:15: "...**approved unto God,**..." and "...**rightly dividing the word of truth.**" It catches the Spirit of God as well as the "Truth" or exactness

of what the verse states, If you follow this example and advice, you, too, will have an impact on your generation.

### IX. USE THE KEY TO BLESS HUMANITY

- A. It is not enough for one to know how to study.
  1. **James said** that one must be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only. It is not enough to learn that there is a true faith, which is presented in the Word of God, but we must practice it.
  2. The Bible commands a person to study that he may rightly divide the Word of truth. By using these four questions, he will be able to unlock and understand the inspired Word of God.
  3. This system will enable a person to understand the Bible well enough to tell others of the hope, that he has within himself, thus fulfilling God's greatest desire of spreading the truth.

**Monday**

**(The Golden Key—Who is Speaking?)**

1. The Golden Key will help us to \_\_\_\_\_ or properly interpret the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Bible was written so the \_\_\_\_\_ could understand it.
3. The golden key is made up of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is the first question one should ask in interpreting a Scripture.
5. Name four different entities who are quoted in the Bible.  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_

**Tuesday**

**(The Golden Key—To Whom Is he Speaking?)**

1. Who is the most unlikely creature that speaks in the Bible? A \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Why is there so much confusion in reading the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. What is the 2<sup>nd</sup> question in the Golden Key?

- \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Sometimes the Scripture is addressed to \_\_\_\_\_ as a nation.
  5. What must a person always remember if he is to interpret the Bible properly?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

**Wednesday**

**(About What, & When Was He Speaking?)**

1. What is the 3<sup>rd</sup> question in the Golden Key?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. It has been said that \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.
3. When is this statement true? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What is the 4<sup>th</sup> question in the Golden Key?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?
5. Which question is the Key to understanding Matthew 28:15? \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday**

**(The Bible, Not Emotions – Section A & B)**

1. A perfect book when properly \_\_\_\_\_ would be a \_\_\_\_\_ to every man.
2. The Pharisees circumvented the plain

## You and the Golden Key

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- \_\_\_\_\_ of the law by claiming special \_\_\_\_\_.
3. These Pharisees would claim to \_\_\_\_\_ but would disobey its plain teachings.
  4. Note the word \_\_\_\_\_ it did not say student, even though we are to be \_\_\_\_\_ of the word.
  5. The believer is to \_\_\_\_\_ what is good, acceptable and \_\_\_\_\_ will for which he was saved.

### Friday

**(The NEGATIVE command through end of chapter)**

1. What is the \_\_\_\_\_ of learning the Bible? To subvert, \_\_\_\_\_, train or \_\_\_\_\_ the hearers.
2. Stay in the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament as you practice in order to obtain \_\_\_\_\_ in rightly dividing the word of God.
3. The four Key Questions \_\_\_\_\_ will work anywhere, but you will have to \_\_\_\_\_ in order for it to do so.
4. He set out to prove that God would still answer \_\_\_\_\_ in these \_\_\_\_\_ days.
5. After George Mueller died to self, critics, and what his friends thought, he studied the Bible to show himself approved unto God a \_\_\_\_\_.

## Milk of the Word

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Having studied the Golden Key and found that the Bible was written for common men to understand, learn, and then teach others; I therefore enter into my lifelong study of God's Word, so I may share its truths with others.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Grade

**Questions to ask the discipler:**

### DAILY DECLARATION

**Repeat Aloud Each Morning And Evening**

I will please God and strengthen myself by studying the Bible, His word, each day of my life.

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

CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
A.M.							
P.M.							

**WHY ARE YOU ON THIS EARTH?**

**You** didn't ask to come in,  
**You** won't be here long.  
**You** were born with a nature to sin,  
Alas, **you** will soon be gone!

So why are **you** here?  
What's life all about?  
**You** had better start thinking,  
Because soon **you'll** be going out!

To lose one's wealth is sad,  
To lose one health more,  
But to never find one's purpose,  
Is a loss that no man can restore!

Dr. James Wilkins

## Lesson Six

### GOD DESIGNED YOU TO WIN SOULS

**INTRODUCTION:** John 10:10 states that Jesus came that you may have abundant life. He didn't come that you may have just life but that you may live an abundant, victorious life. He designed you to win, to achieve, to live victoriously.

Many people read this verse — “Jesus came that you may have life [that's physical life] and might have it [life] more abundantly [that's eternal life].” This is not the proper interpretation of this verse. When the Bible refers to life it means eternal life, “God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son, He that hath the Son hath life [what kind of life? eternal life]. He that hath not the Son of God hath not life. John the Baptist made it even plainer in John 3:36 when he said that a person who has not received eternal life, “...**shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.**” So the plain meaning of John 10:10 is that the believer has eternal, or never ending life, when he received Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. In addition to this He came that the believer may live an abundant, victorious, happy, successful, and fruitful Christian life.

#### I. WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF THE RIGHTEOUS?

A. “**The Fruit of the righteous [Saved] is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise**” (Proverbs 11:30).

1. **GOD'S WORD DECLARES**—Everything

reproduces “...**after his kind,..**” (Genesis 1:24).

- a. What is the fruit of an apple tree? Apples.
- b. What is natural when a young man and a young woman are married? Do they have to be superhuman, or an outstanding specimen of humanity in order to start a family? The obvious answer is, NO.
- c. What is the fruit of cattle? The answers to these three questions are so absolutely plain that as evangelist Carl Hatch would say, “Even a 3rd grade retarded child could answer it”.
- d. Everything, which is alive, is to reproduce “...**after his kind,..**”

2. **Who are the righteous** in Proverbs 11:30?

- a. The Bible declares that a righteous person is one who has the imputed righteousness of Christ (a believer or a saved person) (Romans 4:3-5).
- b. The word “righteous” is an old English word for saved.
- c. In our modern, every day language,

we would say “The fruit of the SAVED.”

3. **The “Tree of Life”** is symbolic of eternal life.

The normal function of a saved person is to win souls. The tree does not produce fruit for its own benefit but for the benefit of others. The fruit of the saved is to win others to Christ. That is the normal function of a believer. That is exactly what Jesus commissioned His church to do (Matthew 28:18; Mark 16:15).

4. **God’s interpretation of “The fruit of the righteous...”**

a. One does not have to wonder about the proper meaning of fruit, for Proverbs 11:30 states that **“The fruit of the righteous [saved] is a tree of life;..”** So we see the fruit is eternal life.

b. Proverbs 11:30, has two phases.

- The first phrase is **“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life;..”**
- The second phrase is, **“...and he that winneth soul’s is wise.”** This shows us that when we win souls we give others the ability to have the fruit of life also.

## II. GOD HAS PROMISED THAT YOU CAN WIN SOULS.

### A. God’s Divine Method.

**“He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves [fruit] with him.”** (Psalms 126:6).

1. Notice, “He”

He is not a preacher.

He is not someone who has a gift of gab.

He is not someone who has a special calling.

He is just HE (anyone).

1. Notice “Shall”

That’s a definite promise to the one who goes (Burdened with the word). **“...doubtless come again with rejoicing,..”** is an absolute promise from Almighty God.

2. Notice ‘with rejoicing’

There are four descriptive terms of the job the soul-winner will have.

- **“...like them that dream.”** (v. 1)
- **“...mouth filled with laughter,..”**

- “...tongue with singing:..” (v. 2)
- 3. “...then said they among the heathen, **The LORD hath done great things for them.**” “**The LORD hath done great things for us; *whereof* we are glad.**” (Psalms 126:2-3) Denotes success.

#### **B. These Verses Promise the Abundant Life.**

It states that anyone who goes with a concern for souls, with a message from the word:

1. Will doubtless come again with abundant, victorious life like them that dreamed, mouth filled with laughter, and tongue with singing.
2. Everyone noticed the blessing of God upon their life. They acknowledged God’s blessing: “...**whereof we are glad.**”

#### **C. Five Simple Steps**

You were not only designed to win, but God gave the simple steps for bearing fruit, which bring the abundant life.

The steps are:

1. Going — To the Lost
2. Weeping — Concerned
3. Sowing — The Message

4. Having Faith — A sure promise (Doubtless)
5. Rejoicing —Because of souls won.

### **III. GOD HAS CHOSEN THE WEAK THINGS**

#### **A. How are you feeling?**

1. Do you feel like you can’t”?
2. Do you feel like you are unable to win souls?
3. Do you feel that you have too big of a Fear Problem?
4. Do you feel that you have too much of an inferiority complex to overcome?
5. Do you feel that maybe you are just too dumb?
6. Do you feel that you are too self-conscious to win souls?

#### **I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU**

#### **B. God Chose Little People.**

That’s right, God chooses little people, weak people, and people who have inferiority complexes to do great things. Read I Corinthians 1:27. He chose:

- A 17-year old boy —Joseph — To save his family Israel.

- A Jewish maiden — Esther — To deliver her whole country.
- A Hillbilly shepherd boy — David — to become Israel's greatest king.
- An ignorant fisherman — Peter — to become the first pastor and chief apostle.
- A little boy with a sack lunch, a man with a rod, a man with an ox-goad, a widow with two mites, and YOU.

**C. But you say, "I feel so weak, so unworthy."**

Good, that is a sure sign you can do it because God has chosen the weak things.

Paul went with tears, with fear and trembling, and he commanded us to work out our salvation (what we were saved to do: bear fruit [win souls]) with fear and trembling. So if you are scared, feel weak, feel foolish, or self-conscious, you have all the evidence of qualifying to become a great soul-winner (I Corinthians 2:1-3; Acts 20:31; Philippians 2:12).

**IV. HOW THE PEOPLE WHO WORKED WITH PAUL BECAME GREAT SOUL-WINNERS**

**A. Paul did It.**

The Apostle Paul must have had a tremendous way of developing new converts. He would go into a heathen city, win souls to Christ, leave in a few months with a sound, highly trained, self-supporting church behind.

This church was generally large in membership with pastors and deacons, and would continue on in a Scriptural way even after the Apostle left. But HOW DID HE DO IT?

**B. How he did it.**

Paul used a sure-fire method which produced great results. Paul's method would produce great results today. His method was so simple that most completely overlook it — it had four simple steps. Those steps are:

1. He taught people how to witness in a public meeting.
2. He showed people how to witness in a public service (a soul-winning demonstration).
3. He taught a person how to witness in a home. He was a teacher-example to the young convert while out winning souls.
4. He showed a person how to do it in a home (on the job training).

**C. Paul's Method is Used Today.**

1. Teach a person how to swim, then get into the water.
2. First, there is drivers education, then there is drivers training.

3. He taught the principles of soul-winning and then he showed them how in a soul-winning demonstration.
4. He would take one student out, explain the procedure, and then perform what he explained.
5. He would do this until his student had teamed sufficiently; then the student would in turn, become a teacher. Paul would take another new convert and develop him using this same procedure.
6. If the convert was slower, Paul took more time. If he learned more rapidly, Paul took less time. This method still works today.

## V. YOU CAN BECOME A GREAT SOUL-WINNER

### A. You are to Grow in Grace.

1. In II Peter 3:18, Peter tells the disciples “...**grow in grace, and in the knowledge**”. This means to continue to grow in grace and knowledge.
2. A little girl of five years of age cannot do what her big sister of fifteen years of age can do, but through the process of natural growth, she may grow up and exceed her big sister in many ways.
3. You may not be able to witness and win souls now, but you can grow into a

mature, fruitful Soul-Winner.

### B. I Can Do All Things Through Christ.

Paul said he could do all things through Christ who strengthened or helped him (Philippians 4:13).

1. Is God a respecter of persons? NO! (Acts 10:34).
2. God’s grace can help you to do all things. Especially a natural thing which He designed you to do.
3. That natural thing is the Fruit of the Saved, Soul-Winning.

### C. We are to walk by faith.

Walk by Faith means, submit yourself to your pastor to be trained (with fear and trembling as a Soul-Winner).

### D. Witnessing was designed by God for all of God’s children.

Witnessing was designed so everyone could learn to do it. Witnessing is one of the simplest, easiest things for a person to do. Once you learn the simple steps in witnessing, it becomes a natural way of life.

### E. Three Basic Principles.

All a person has to do is, learn to do three basic techniques.

1. One must learn how to get into a soul-winning (spiritual) conversation.
2. One must learn what to say in a soul-winning conversation (one plan).
3. One must learn what to do at the close of a soul-winning conversation.

**One will begin to learn these principles in our next lesson.**

**MONDAY**

**(Introduction)**

1. He designed you to to \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Many people read John 10:10, "Jesus came that you may have life [\_\_\_\_\_]" which is a wrong interpretation.
3. What type of life does the believer receive when he is saved? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In addition to eternal life, what type of life has Jesus designed us to live? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. John the Baptist said a person either had eternal life or the \_\_\_\_\_ of God \_\_\_\_\_ on him.

**TUESDAY**

**(The Fruit of the Righteous)**

1. Everything reproduces after \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 1:24-25).
2. The word "**righteous**" is an Old English word for \_\_\_\_\_.
3. "**Tree of life**" is symbolic of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ function of a saved person is to win \_\_\_\_\_.
5. God's interpretation of the Fruit of the Righteous is a tree of life and He that \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.

**WEDNESDAY**

**(God Has Promised)**

1. He, that is not \_\_\_\_\_, or someone with a gift of \_\_\_\_\_ or someone with a special \_\_\_\_\_ but it is he (\_\_\_\_\_).
2. "Shall" means an absolute promise from \_\_\_\_\_ God.
3. The soul-winner has the fullness of joy which the Psalmist described as \_\_\_\_\_ them that dreamed, mouth filled with \_\_\_\_\_, tongue with \_\_\_\_\_ and everyone commented that God has done \_\_\_\_\_ things for them whereof they were \_\_\_\_\_.
4. God not only designed the saved to win souls but gave \_\_\_\_\_ to bearing fruit.
5. The steps are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (doubtless) \_\_\_\_\_ because of souls won.

**THURSDAY**

**(God Chose—How the People)**

1. God has chosen the \_\_\_\_\_ things.
2. Paul went with \_\_\_\_\_, with fear and \_\_\_\_\_ and commanded us to \_\_\_\_\_ out our salvation with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. If you feel weak, foolish, self-conscious, then you have all the \_\_\_\_\_ of qualifying to become a great \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Paul taught them \_\_\_\_\_ in a public service.

5. He showed a person how to do it in a home (on the \_\_\_\_\_).
6. Paul's method of training soul-winners still today.

**FRIDAY**

**(You Can Become)**

1. You can become a \_\_\_\_\_ soulwinner.
2. You may not be able to witness and \_\_\_\_\_ souls now, but you can \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Is God a respecter of persons? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Walk by faith means submit yourself to \_\_\_\_\_ to be trained (with fear and trembling) as a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Once one learns the simple steps in witnessing it becomes a \_\_\_\_\_ of life.

I accept that the Bible teaches that I was designed by God to win souls. I will therefore submit to the training program of our church as a trainee, silent partner in their "on the job training" program. I will attend at least one visitation service each week. I now dedicate myself to becoming a Fruit Bearing Christian.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Grade

**Questions to ask the discipler:**

**DAILY DECLARATION**

**Repeat Aloud Each Morning And Evening**

God's purpose for my life is for me to become a happy, victorious, overcoming, fruitful Christian.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; and he that winneth souls *is* wise" (Proverbs 11:30)

CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
<b>A.M.</b>							
<b>P.M.</b>							

**IT WAS JUST A VISIT**

One day I rang a doorbell  
In a casual sort of way.  
T'was not a formal visit,  
And there wasn't much to say.

I don't remember what I said  
It matters not I guess  
I found a heart in hunger;  
A soul in deep distress.

He said I came from Heaven,  
And I often wondered why;  
He said I came to see him,  
When no other help was nigh.

It meant so little to me,  
To knock on a stranger's door;  
But it meant heaven to him,  
And God's peace for-ever-more.

John R. Rice, D.D.

# Lesson Seven

## THE COUNT-DOWN METHOD

### “A Simple Soul-Winning Plan”

- FIVE!**      **Five Approach Questions**
- FOUR!**      **Four Spiritual laws** contained in four Scriptures
- THREE!**      **Three possibilities** after the soul talk is given
- TWO!**      **Two people on a team.** For best results, go two by two. Two separate people each with a job to do.
- ONE!**      **One supreme purpose** of a soul-winning effort is to learn to work with the Holy Spirit in presenting the plan to the lost in a way which will bring him to Christ.

**INTRODUCTION:** God wanted everyone to win souls, so He made it so simple that ANYONE can understand how to do it. **There are only three parts** to a soul-winning effort.

1. **The opening** of the plan or the approach.
2. **The body** or the message during the soul talk.

3. **The termination** of the talk or the close. After a short period of informal conversation (about 5 to 10 minutes) in which one breaks the ice with the prospect, the soul-winner should begin his opening of the soul-winning talk. **The OPENING contains five approach QUESTIONS.** These approach questions bring the conversation to the main body of the soul-talk, the message.

The message centers around four spiritual laws, which are found in four scriptures.

1. **The fact of sin** (Romans 3:23).
2. **The consequences** of sin (Romans 6:23a).
3. **The remedy** for sin (Romans 5:8)
4. **The individual response** (Romans 10:13)

When these four principles are presented to the lost, there are three possibilities or reactions to the witness.

1. He **will want** to be saved.
2. He **will not want** to be saved.
3. He will hesitate in making a decision.

A personal worker simply has to learn what to do in these three situations.

The Bible pattern in soul-winning is for the

soul-winning team to consist of two people. One to do the **witnessing** while the other serves in **assisting** the soul-winner.

The final principle is the **ONE SURPEME** purpose of the visit, which is to work with the Holy Spirit in presenting the plan of salvation to the lost.

### TAKE TIME TO MASTER

1. The five approach questions,
2. How to apply the four simple Scriptures and;
3. Learn what to do when he receives one of the three reactions. If he masters these 3 principles, then he can and will become a great soul-winner.

### I. THE OPENING OF THE PLAN

A. **Begin with five to ten minutes of conversation, which is designed to make the prospect like you.**

1. **Talk on his interest level.** In order to be effective in witnessing, one must learn to control the conversation. He does this by asking questions, which will keep the prospect talking about things, in which he is interested.
2. In visitation, one takes the fear and the distress out of witnessing by sending an SOS. The letters. SOS. each stand for an

area of conversation which will lead the prospect to the object of the visit which is presenting Christ, the message).

S. — Self interest — hobbies, vacations, and family interest

O. — Occupation — works, homemaker, or student

S. —Soul-winning message

3. **The opening** is designed where the soul-winner makes a transition from a friendly visit and an enjoyable fellowship in which the prospect talks on his level of interest to a soul-winning effort. This is the point where many soul-winners or would-be soul-winners choke up and are unable to make a smooth transition to a visit where the message of salvation is given. One can learn to make a smooth transition to the message by asking **five simple questions**. The soul-winner has been asking questions, which have kept the prospect talking on his interest level. The approach questions are so automatic and in harmony with your designed, controlled conversation that the prospect has consented to the soul-winning message without resentment, and in most cases, is anxious to listen.

### A. The Five Approach Questions

1. **You are interested in Spiritual things**

**aren't you?** It is better to say, I can see by the plaque on the wall..., by our conversation..., by the Bible there that you are interested in spiritual things, aren't you?

2. **Have you ever considered that you need eternal life?**
3. **If you should die today, do you know for sure that you would go to Heaven?**
4. **You would like to know, wouldn't you?**  
"Well, yes, I would like to know."
5. **If I could take your Bible and show you how you could know for sure, would you consider doing something about it?**

Upon his affirmative answer, you reach inside your pocket or hand bag and pull out your concealed weapon, the New Testament, or you present your Bible and proceed to show him the message.

**A. Master the approach questions.**

In mastering the approach questions, one will eliminate many questions, which the prospect will ask. They are one of the vital parts of witnessing, and they must be MASTERED!

**II. THE MESSAGE CONTAINED IN THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS**

The message is found in four simple scriptures, the first scripture is:

**A. THE FIRST SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE IS THE FACT OF SIN:**

**"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"** (Romans 3.23).

1. The Word, "all", places us "ALL IN THE SAME BOAT"

This means that **I have sinned**. That means **the finest person in the world has sinned**. That means **"YOU" have sinned**.

2. YOU HAVE HEARD OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, HAVEN'T YOU?

Most people are trying to keep the Ten Commandments, and by doing so, They hope to go to Heaven when they die! In reality, every normal adult has broken most, if not all, of these commandments. For example:

- a. One of the commandments states, **"Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain:.."** (swear).
- b. Another says, **"Honour thy father and mother:.."** (obey them).

c. Still a third states, **“Thou shalt not bear false witness...”** (lie).

3. IN ORDER TO HELP YOU SEE THAT ALL SAVE SINNED, may I ask you this question? HOW MANY BANKS would a man have to rob before he became a bank robber? By the same logic, one lie would make a person a liar, while one sin would make a person a sinner.

**B. THE SECOND SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE IS THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN:**

**“For the wages of sin is death:”** (Romans 6:23).

1. There are two key words in this verse, WAGES AND DEATH.

Wages means a payoff, penalty or what one gets for being a sinner. Death means separation.

2. **HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO A FUNERAL?**

The body is lying there in the casket. The real person has been separated from his body. That is physical death.

3. **WHEN YOU DIE GOD WANTS TO REACH RIGHT DOWN AND TAKE YOU RIGHT INTO HEAVEN.**

But if you are still in your sins, have

never been reconciled, born again, or saved; God will say to you, Your sins separate you from me, your sins shut you out of Heaven.

4. THERE ARE ONLY TWO ETERNAL PLACES.

Heaven, where God is, and Hell, a literal place of fire, pain, and separation. The wages (pay off), for being a sinner is eternal separation from God in Hell.

**C. THE THIRD SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE IS THE REMEDY FOR SIN:**

**“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”** (Romans 5:8).

1. **GOD HAD THIS PROBLEM TO SOLVE.**

You acknowledged that you were a sinner, and the Bible states that if you pay for your sin, then you will be separated from God eternally in Hell. How can God send you to Hell and at the same time take you to Heaven?

2. **TO ILLUSTRATE THIS PROBLEM.**

Let me ask you this question. “HOW CAN I BE IN TWO PLACES AT THE SAME TIME?” You say, “You can’t be.” God had to work out how I could pay for my sin by dying (going to Hell), and yet be forgiven and go to Heaven. IT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE! His

solution! If someone would die in my place and pay for my sins, then God would forgive me and take me to Heaven for that person's sake.

**3. THAT'S WHAT JESUS WAS DOING ON THE CROSS.**

He was dying as your substitute, paying for your sins. Christ died for you, in your place.

**4. LET ME ASK YOU, "HAVE YOU EVER RECEIVED A TRAFFIC TICKET?"**

Imagine that I received a traffic ticket, appeared before the judge who pronounced judgment upon me by saying, "It will take \$75.00 or five days in jail to satisfy the State of Texas." If I did not have any money and could not pay my fine, the State of Texas would still be satisfied if someone else paid this ticket for me. **THAT IS WHAT JESUS DID ON THE CROSS FOR YOU.** He was paying your SIN TICKET, satisfying THE LAW OF GOD, which demanded payment.

**D. THE FOURTH SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE IS THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE:**

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

**1. THERE ARE TWO KEY WORDS IN THIS VERSE.**

They are "WHOSOEVER" and "SAVED" (redeemed from Hell). WHOSOEVER means you! It means anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord, Jesus died and paid the sin debt for every man. The word SAVED means delivered from Hell.

**2. "SHALL CALL UPON"** means pray or ask the Father.

What this verse says is that if you really understand that you are a sinner, that you are going to Hell, and that Jesus literally died in your place (paid for your sin), and you call upon the name of the Lord (ASK him to save you for Jesus' sake), **HE WILL SAVE YOU FROM HELL.**

**3. JESUS AND HIS FATHER REACHED THIS AGREEMENT.**

If Jesus died in your place and paid for your sin, then God, the Father, would accept His death as full payment for your sins and save you from Hell, if you ask Him to Save you for Jesus' sake. In Heaven, Jesus is seated beside His Father reminding Him of this agreement and pleading the sinners case right now. He is saying, "I died for him, I paid for his sin, now **FORGIVE HIM AND SAVE HIM FOR MY SAKE.**" God will honor His word and save every sinner who turns from his sin, and earnestly desires and asks for the forgiveness of sin. If you haven't already done so, bow your head and pray

this simple prayer right now. “Dear Lord, I acknowledge my sin. I accept you as my Lord and Savior, and from this day on I will live for you. In Jesus’ name, Amen,”

### III. THREE POSSIBILITIES AT THE CLOSE

The plan of salvation has been given, now the prospect will react in one of three ways.

#### A. The Most Vital Time in the Soul Talk.

1. This is the most important phase of the presentations, so master the close.
2. After you have presented a positive, confident image to the prospect in your approach question and in presenting the four spiritual laws, do not become negative or falter here.
3. Go right into your effort by asking the prospect if you may have a word of prayer.

#### A. Enter Into Your Close By:

1. Ask the prospect these questions again:
  - a. You understand you have sinned, don’t you?
  - b. If you paid for your sins you would be eternally separated from God?

- c. That Jesus paid your sin ticket
- d. That He is pleading your case right now to His Father.
- e. That God will save you if you will ask Him in Jesus’ name.

#### 2. Now, I honestly believe that God has spoken to your heart.

- a. Before I leave I would like to have a word of prayer. You wouldn’t mind if I prayed would you?

#### 3. Bow your head and pray.

- a. **Pray the four Spiritual Laws** to him again using his name.
- b. Then ask him to take you by the hand and **repeat this simple prayer.**

“Father, I know I have sinned. If died, I would go to Hell. Please forgive me and save me. Jesus, come into my heart. I repent of my sins, accept you as my Saviour, and trust you to take me to Heaven when I die. Amen.”

#### 4. Say, “You really meant that didn’t you?”

- a. If he says, “Yes, I did.”

- b. You ask, "What did God say He would do if you ask him." Answer: Save Me.
- c. You say, "Can God lie?" Answer: "NO."
- d. You ask, "Then according to the Bible, where would you go if you should die?" Answer: "Heaven."
- e. You say, "Great! Isn't that wonderful?" Now take a few minutes to rejoice with the new convert.

**5. FINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE NEW CONVERT.**

- a. Get him to tell someone of his decision of Salvation.
- b. Show him John 5:10-13.
- c. Lead him in a final prayer and have him promise God that he will be in Church Sunday.
- d. Make plans to pick him up and take him to church.
- e. Introduce him around, sit with him and encourage him to go down and make a Public Profession.

**MONDAY  
(Introduction)**

- 1. The countdown method is a \_\_\_\_\_ soul-winning \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. There are \_\_\_\_\_ approach questions, \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual laws, \_\_\_\_\_ possibilities at the close, \_\_\_\_\_ on a team, and \_\_\_\_\_ supreme purpose in a soul- winning effort.
- 3. The informal visit, which is called S.O.S., is recommended to be \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ minutes in length.
- 4. The \_\_\_\_\_ is contained in five approach \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. The message centers around \_\_\_\_\_ principles which are found in \_\_\_\_\_ Scriptures.

**TUESDAY**

**(The Opening of the Plan)**

- 1. When you have DISTRESS think of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. The first "S" in the S.O.S. stands for \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. The "O" in the S.O.S. stands for \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. The final "S" in the S.O.S. stands for \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. The first approach question is, "Are \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_?"
- 6. If you should die today, do you \_\_\_\_\_ for sure that you would go to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_?  
**WEDNESDAY**

**(The Message)**

1. The first spiritual law is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of sin is the second spiritual law.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ for sin deals with God's love and provision for the sinner.
4. The final spiritual law is the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Jesus is seated \_\_\_\_\_ His Father reminding Him of this \_\_\_\_\_.

**THURSDAY**

**(Three Possibilities)**

1. There are three possibilities at the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The prospect will react in \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ ways.
3. The close is the most \_\_\_\_\_ time of the soul talk.
4. This is the most \_\_\_\_\_ phase of the presentation, so \_\_\_\_\_ the close.
5. After a positive soul-winning effort do \_\_\_\_\_ become \_\_\_\_\_ or falter at the close.

**FRIDAY**

**(Enter Into the Close)**

1. Give the prospect the opportunity of making his own \_\_\_\_\_ by offering to have \_\_\_\_\_ with him.
2. Pray the \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual laws to him using his name.
3. Say, "You really \_\_\_\_\_ didn't you?" Never ask him "How do you feel?"
4. According to the \_\_\_\_\_ where would you go if you should die, is the proper question to ask after he has prayed.
5. What portion of Scripture should you read in order to give him assurance? \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Make an \_\_\_\_\_ to pick him up for church. Sit with him in church. Go \_\_\_\_\_ with him for the public \_\_\_\_\_.

Having studied this lesson on the "Simple Plan in Soul Winning" I will work at, memorize, and do my best to learn how to share my faith in my daily life. I will submit myself to the pastor to become a silent partner-trainee in MY CHURCH VISITATION PROGRAM. I will attend at least one visitation service-training session per week when able to do so and as my church makes such sessions available to me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

**Questions to ask the discipler:**

**DAILY DECLARATION**

**Repeat Aloud Each Morning And Evening**

I will master the “Count Down Method” and win souls.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “I can do all things through Christ which strengthenth me.” (Philippians 4:13).

CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING

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A.M.							
P.M.							

**MY COMMITMENT AS A CHRISTIAN**

**I'M A PART OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED I HAVE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE DYE HAS BEEN CAST. I HAVE STEPPED OVER THE LINE. THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE. I'M A DISCIPLE OF HIS. I WONT LOOK BACK, LET UP, SLOW DOWN, BACK AWAY, OR BE STILL. I NO LONGER NEED PRE-EMINENCE, PROSPERITY, POSITION, PROMOTIONS, PLAUDITS, OR POPULARITY. I DON'T HAVE TO BE RIGHT, FIRST, TOPS, RECOGNIZED, PRAISED, REGARDED, OR REWARDED.**

**MY PAST IS REDEEMED, MY PRESENT MAKES SENSE, MY FUTURE IS SECURE. I'M FINISHED AND DONE WITH LOW LIVING, SIGHT WALKING (NOT WALKING BY FAITH), SMALL PLANNING, SMOOTH KNEES (NOT PRAYING), COLORLESS DREAMS, TAMED VISIONS, MUNDANE TALKING, CHEAP LIVING, AND DWARFED GOALS.**

**MY FACE IS SET, MY GAIT IS FAST, MY GOAL IS HEAVEN, AND MY MISSION CLEAR. I CANNOT BE BOUGHT, COMPROMISED, DETOURED, LURED AWAY, TURNED BACK, DELUDED, OR DELAYED. I WILL NOT FLINCH IN THE FACE OF SACRIFICE, HESITATE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ADVERSARY, OR MEANDER IN THE MAZE OF MEDIOCRITY.**

**I WON'T GIVE UP, SHUT UP, LET UP, UNTIL I HAVE STAYED UP, STORED UP, PRAYED UP, PAID UP, AND PREACHED UP FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST. I AM A DISCIPLE OF JESUS, AND WHEN HE COMES FOR HIS OWN, HE WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM RECOGNIZING ME. MY BANNER WILL BE CLEAR!**

Written by a young African pastor and tacked on the wall of his house.

# Lesson Eight

## PRAYER

### “TALKING TO YOUR FATHER”

**INTRODUCTION:** “...whereby we cry, **Abba, Father.**” (Romans 8:15).

#### I. THE PROPER VIEW OF GOD

##### A. **God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.**

1. Many people view God as living in a far off place, who is the God of Bible characters, and who is not too interested in their personal life and problems. This is completely wrong.
2. God is interested in the smallest details of his children’s lives.
  - a. If He knows the number of hairs on ones head, He is concerned (Matthew 10:30).
  - b. If He sees the little sparrow when it falls, He is concerned with His children’s needs (Matthew 10:29).
  - c. Paul said that He is touched with our infirmities, which means the little problems as well as one’s life

shattering problems (Hebrews 4:15).

##### B. **Prayer comes from the Greek word “Alter,” which means to ask, or asking.**

1. The verse, Romans 8:15, gives the spirit of prayer—“...**whereby we cry, Abba,..**” which is the dearest term for Father. It is not the formal term, Father, BUT THE ENDEARING TERM “DADDY.”

It is used like a little child looking up into her father’s face and pleading, “Daddy, please?”.

2. Jesus instructs the disciples to pray (Matthew 6:1-18). The term “Father” is FOUND TEN TIMES in those 18 verses. This repetition of the word “father” shows that when one prays, one should not think of some far off, impersonal God who doesn’t care. He is to talk to His “Daddy.”

#### II. HOW SHOULD A PERSON PRAY?

##### A. **The beginning of the prayer.**

The Bible teaches us to begin by addressing God in a respectful, reverent way, “Our Father,” or “Our Heavenly Father,” etc.

##### B. The prayer itself.

After addressing God as your Father, the person then asks God for the petition or the

desires that he wants.

1. Things to Pray for

Pray for wisdom, Pray for the lost,  
Pray for daily needs such as a job,  
Pray for daily bread or food,  
Pray for the sick,  
Pray for the pastor,  
Pray for people in authority,  
Pray for people who give you a hard time,  
Pray!

2. Is it right to beg God for things?

The word supplication means begging. This teaches that God encourages his children to be persistent in asking Him for things.

**C. The close of the prayer.**

We are commanded to pray in Jesus' name.

In Jesus' name means by His authority. The child of God has been authorized by Jesus to come boldly into God's presence and present his needs (Hebrews 4:16).

1. In Jesus' name means—for Jesus' sake. (Do it Father), not because we have the authority to pray, but because it will please Jesus to do it for us.
2. There is only one name by which believers are authorized to pray. **“For**

**there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;..”** (I Timothy 2:5).

The word, “Mediator” means intercessor, go-between, or authorized.

**III. THE A B C’s OF PRAYER**

Matthew 7:7 teaches that there are 3 parts to successful praying. These three parts are

- **“Ask, and it shall be given you;..”**
- **“...seek, and ye shall find;...”**  
and
- **“...knock, and it shall be opened unto you:..”**

**A. Ask, and it shall be given you.**

1. The asking part of prayer is what one generally thinks is prayer. It is the first part of successful praying and asking God.
2. The Bible teaches that one ought to have a regular time for prayer.
  - a. The apostles had a set time to pray- **“...at the hour of prayer,..”** (Acts 3:1).
  - b. Daniel went into his house and

- prayed three times a day
- c. A Christian ought to have a regular place of prayer. Jesus commanded, “...**enter into thy closet,..**” (Matthew 6:6),

**B. Seek, and ye shall find.**

This means that when one asks God for something, he is to put legs on his prayers. He is to do his part in bringing the prayer to pass.

Pray for the lost, then tell someone what Jesus did for you.

**C. Knock and it shall be opened.**

1. This means that one should be persistent in his praying.
2. The example of knocking illustrates persistence. In the parable found in Luke 11:8 there is a man who had company but no food to feed them. He went to the storekeeper and beat on the door until he received the bread.
3. The Bible teaches for God’s children to keep praying, seeking, praying, seeking; until they obtain what they are praying for.

**IV. THE EXAMPLE OF PRAYER IN THE BIBLE.**

**A. “Lord, teach us to pray...”**

This sincere request by the Apostles shows the importance they attached to prayer. They never asked Him to teach them to preach, to witness, or to give; but they DID BESEECH HIM TO TEACH THEM TO PRAY.

Many people get the wrong meaning to this verse by misreading it. They read it to say, “Lord, teach us how to pray.” But the word “how” is not found in the verse. The Apostles wanted Jesus to teach them the application of prayer, not how to pray.

**B. Prayer in the Lives of the Apostles.**

After Jesus had spent three and a half years preparing the Apostles for the place of leadership in the early churches, He ascended to heaven. God blessed their efforts, and thousands were saved and added to the church. As their duties and problems were multiplied, trouble began to appear in the church. The Apostles felt that they were being cheated out of precious time and knew they were out of their place of service. Something had to be done, and something was done.

**“...It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look among you for seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint**

**over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”** (Acts 6:2-4).

What was their biggest objection? Where did they think they were being cheated? They wanted to be freed from some of the lesser responsibilities, so they could give themselves “...continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” Notice: ...prayer, then the ministry of the Word. Prayer came first in their lives.

### C. Prayer in the life of Christ.

1. Christ was a great example. The importance of prayer can be seen by the prominent place that it held in the life of Christ. Although He walked on the earth, it seemed that Jesus lived in the presence of God who was in Heaven; He spent much time in prayer. Most of His public deeds and all of His critical moments were preceded by prayer. The following is the best summary of the prayer life of Jesus that the author has seen.

#### 2. Jesus prayed:

- He prayed often. Prayer filled His life.
- He prayed before He faced any great task or trial.
- He prayed in public.
- He prayed in secret (often all night, some-times alone, and sometimes with His disciples)

(Matthew 6:6; Luke 6:22).

- He put a high premium on secret prayer (Matthew 6:6).
- He practiced intercessory prayer (John 17:9-26).
- He promised the power of the Holy Spirit in answer to prayer (Luke 11:13).
- He taught that a sinner could pray for his own salvation (Luke 18:3)

### 3. Jesus is a great example.

In order to further understand the importance of prayer in the life of Jesus Christ, one must realize this amazing fact: He not only WAS A GREAT EXAMPLE in prayer but HE IS A GREAT EXAMPLE in prayer. Prayer is the most important part of His ministry today. Many believe that the work of Christ ended upon His death, but it did not! As far as His atoning work was concerned, it was finished; but Hebrews 7:25 pictures Christ as a very busy man. It says, “**Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**” This statement is backed up by the Apostle Paul in Romans 8:34. “**Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.**”

#### 4. Fellowship with Christ.

If one wants to follow Christ, he has to walk in the light, as He is in the light. **“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.”** (I John 1:7). One must follow the light to Gethsemane, lift up his face, and pray!

### V. YOUR PRAYER LIFE

#### A. The quiet time

Every successful Christian must have a quiet time set aside in his daily life for prayer and communion with God. Jesus called this quiet time, “enter into thy closet.”

#### B. A prayer list

Previously it has been pointed out that one cannot pray in general terms and expect to succeed. He should have definite names and projects to call out before God. If it is necessary to make a grocery list before going shopping, how much more necessary it should be to have a prayer list to bring before God. Aaron, the High Priest of Israel, wore the names of the twelve tribes of Israel upon his shoulders to keep them ever before the eyes of God.

#### C. Pray for power

It takes the power of God to lead a lost man to Christ. God alone can touch, convict, bring to repentance, and save a sinner. But God’s method in reaching the lost has always been by empowering men to do this vital job. Each Christian should pray for power and favor toward unsaved humanity.

1. Some reasons for failure. The following reasons are given in the Book of James as elements that hinder prayer. Such reasons as regarding iniquity in one’s heart and being unforgiving in one’s heart toward a brother will not be enlarged upon, but the author will present the seven reasons which are found in James 4:1-11 for hindered prayer.
  - a. **“...ye ask not.”** (v. 2)
  - b. **“...ye ask amiss,..”** (v. 3). You ask for something to satisfy your own desire.
  - c. **“...friend of the world...”** (v. 4)
  - d. **“...God resisteth the proud,..”** (v. 6)
  - e. Failing to resist the devil (v. 8)
  - f. Failing to draw nigh to God; living too far away from Him. (v. 8)
  - g. Speaking evil of the brethren,

therefore, I will not hear you when you pray (v.11)

**D. In order to live right, one must pray right.**

Unless a person begins his Christian life by having a definite time for prayer and guards that time, he will soon slip into the habit of NOT praying. When this happens, sin will begin to crowd into his life. He will lose the joy of salvation. He will lose his zeal for God's work. Please! Please! Grasp the importance of prayer. Develop good prayer habits and YOU WILL LIVE RIGHT AND SUCCEED FOR GOD!

**Authors Note:** For a complete book on prayer see, "Grandpa, Teach me to Pray" 13 chapters on the model prayer.

**Monday**

**(The Proper View)**

1. Many view God as a God who is living in a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. **"He is touched with our \_\_\_\_\_"** (Hebrews 4:15).
3. What does "aiteo" mean? \_\_\_\_\_.
4. How is the term "aba" used? Like a little child looking up into her father's face and pleading, "\_\_\_\_\_?"
5. How many times is the word "father" found in Matthew 6.1-18? \_\_\_\_\_

**Tuesday (How to Pray)**

1. How do you start the prayer? One starts the prayer by addressing \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What does the word supplication mean? \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What does \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus' name means? \_\_\_\_\_.
4. "In Jesus' name" also means \_\_\_\_\_.
5. How many mediators are there? \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What does mediator mean? \_\_\_\_\_.

**Wednesday (The A B C's)**

1. What are the three steps in Biblical prayer?  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer

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- 2. Seek and ye \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. You ask God for something, and then you put \_\_\_\_\_ prayers.
- 4. Knock means to be \_\_\_\_\_ in your prayers.
- 5. The Bible teaches to keep on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, until you obtain what you are praying for.

**Thursday (Examples of Prayer)**

- 1. The apostles asked Jesus to teach them \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. What was first in the lives of the apostles? \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ a great example in prayer.
- 4. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ a great example in prayer today.
- 5. How can you have better fellowship with Christ in your life? To \_\_\_\_\_.

**Friday (Your Prayer Life)**

- 1. Every Christian ought to have a \_\_\_\_\_ each day.
- 2. Jesus called this quiet time by the phrase \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. What definite request should the believers ask God for? \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. You have not because ye \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. You have not because you \_\_\_\_\_ evil of the brethren.

Milk of the Word

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Having studied this lesson on prayer, I commit to set aside a definite time each day for prayer, and to do all I can to have family prayer each day. I now make my prayer list and will pray for each of these requests every day. My private prayer time will be each day.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

**Questions to ask the discipler:**

**DAILY DECLARATION**

**Repeat Aloud Each Morning And Evening**

The same God who changed the course of History by answering prayer will answer my prayers also.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."  
(James 5:16).

CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING

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A.M.							
P.M.							

### WHAT MOTIVATES YOUR GIVING?

Those who give with the right motive are always receiving and always have more to give. “...**freely ye have received, freely give**” (Matthew 10:8).

**Some Give** to get as much in return, that is exchange!

**Some give** in order to receive more, that is covetousness!

**Some give** expecting notice, that is vanity!

**Some give** to receive favor, that is bribery!

**Some Give** because God commands, that is obedience!

**Some Give** out of a heart of love, that is compassion!

One of the greatest lessons a Christian can learn is to work with the Holy Spirit. Some say, I believe God can do it,” but they do nothing to help the Lord in fulfilling His will. “...**faith without works is dead...**” (James 2:26).

When a person uses money to share God's truth with those who desire His will, God sees to it that the person gains much. “**The liberal soul shall be made fat:..**” (Proverb 11:25).

The great promises of God can only become a reality when one gives in the right Spirit Whether one gives money, kind words, prayer, or encouragement, everything depends upon one's motives.

“**Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**” (I Corinthians 10:31).

## Lesson Nine

### HOW TO HAVE SOMETHING IN HEAVEN

#### WHEN YOU GET THERE

**“...he which soweth bountifully...”**  
(II Corinthians 9:6)

**INTRODUCTION:** When billionaire Howard Hughes died, the common question was, "I wonder how much he left behind?" Thousands of column inches were given in speculation; radio and television commentators ran far and wide in their efforts to outguess the other expert on the question of how much Howard Hughes, the eccentric billionaire, left behind. Finally, an insignificant, smallish, baldheaded accountant, who worked on the staff of the controlling board of one of Mr. Hughes' high corporations, gave a startling, accurate answer to this question, when he said, "He left it all, every red cent of it. He never took one copperhead with him." Having read of the selfish, sinful, lustful life of Mr. Hughes for 35 years, I am sure that that answer was absolutely true. He left every red cent. He never took one copperhead with him ... but it didn't have to be that way.

Everyone has heard of someone who was spending money as though it were going out of style, and yet laugh at the cautioning of some parent, wife, or concerned person, and say, "You can't take it with you. But my friend: that is not true. One can take it with him."

Jesus commanded the Christian to lay up treasure in Heaven. This command to lay up treasure in Heaven would not have been given unless it was possible to lay up, or save one's treasures in Heaven. One CAN TAKE IT WITH HIM, or, to say it another way, one can send it on before him. Read the plain command from the lips of Jesus as found in Matthew 6:19-20.

**“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves [Who? For the preacher? For someone else? Nay, for yourselves.] treasures in heaven [that's for eternity], where neither moth or rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal:”**

**A man with assets of twelve and one half million dollars was converted.** He read that command – “...lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,..” and thought within himself, “How can I convert all my holdings in oil, cattle, land, stocks and bonds into a treasure in Heaven?” He thought further, “Are cattle going to Heaven?” “No,” was the answer. “Will oil go to heaven?” “No” was the answer. Then what goes to Heaven? Boys and girls, men and women go to Heaven. He then began to convert his physical holdings into cash and disperse the money into mission work, building church buildings, helping Bible colleges, and into every Christian work, which would help get men saved or which would prepare men for the work of the gospel.

Many years passed and a white haired old

## How to have something in Heaven when you get there

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man smiled as he pressed his head to his dying pillow and said, "I did it!" "I did it!" "I have successfully converted all my oil, my cattle, and my stocks and bonds into spiritual dividends. All my earthly wealth has been converted into treasures in Heaven! With that, he went to be with his treasures.

### I. THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS FOR INVESTMENT

#### A. This world's system.

1. Jesus said, that you are in the world, but you are not of the world. (John 17:14-17).
2. **"...seek those things which are above,... ..Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth... ..When Christ, *who is our life*, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."** [to be paid or rewarded for your work] (Colossians 3:1-4).
3. **"...be not conformed [become like] to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing [Studying the Bible to learn God's will and becoming more Christ like] of your mind,.."** (Romans12:2).

#### B. The world and all that is in it will be destroyed.

1. **Peter spoke of this event in II Peter 3:10: "...the Earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."**

## Milk of the Word

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2. **This age could end at any minute.** That's right. As these words are penned, there is no assurance that any new member will ever read them. Jesus MAY COME before that class is held. The Bible teaches that His coming is imminent. If He came tonight, the whole world system would go into the awesome great tribulation period. The world system would be destroyed.

#### C. Which system are you going to invest in?

1. **One system** declares that there is no danger of losing one's investment. There is no thief that will steal, and there is no loss of value due to wear or deterioration. The smallest investment will be remembered and rewarded; i.e., a cup of cold water.
2. **Another system** will not survive. All investments will be completely lost or destroyed.
3. **Which company would a financial expert recommend?** A growing company with a bright future or one that is doomed to bankruptcy and total loss. The Financial Expert who made both companies advises and commands: **"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:"** (Matthew 6:20).

How to have something in Heaven when you get there

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4. It is your money and your life! You have the power of decision. You will have to make the choice.

## II. PROSPERITY IS PROMISED TO THOSE WHO GIVE LIBERALLY

**“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*” (Malachi 3:10).**

**“Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:9-10),**

**“The liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.” (Proverbs 11:25).**

**“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal its shall be measured to you again.” (Luke 6:38).**

**“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully” (II Corinthians 9:6).**

Milk of the Word

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### A. **God’s Word promises financial prosperity.**

If one would read these verses as he would a sales contract, or as he would a lease agreement, or as he would a legal, sworn document, he would believe. If he performed the first part of it, and met the first conditions, then he could claim the second part and expect the results promised.

### B. **Read the Promises over again.**

**“Bring ye all the tithes... I will pour you out a blessing and there will not be room enough to receive it.” “Honour the Lord with thy substance...” “...first fruits...” “...barns shall be filled...” “...presses burst out...” “The liberal soul shall be made fat” “...he that watereth shall be watered...” “Give and it...” “...men shall give unto...” “...it shall be measured to you again.”**

We should face the Word of God honestly. God’s Word promises financial prosperity to those who bring tithes and offerings. God not only gives financial prosperity to those who honor Him with their substance and with the firstfruits of their income, but He gives great peace and assurance to those who learn to make God a partner in material things, When one recognizes God’s ownership of everything and gives tithes and offerings as a loving token of obedience, faith, and surrender, he enters into financial partnership with God.

When this happens, he can claim the promise of Matthew 6:33, which promises, **“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”** In the previous verses of the sixth chapter, Jesus illustrates how God takes care of the flowers and the birds that neither sow nor reap. He assures us that the believers are much more important than the flowers and birds and then promises, Seek ye first God will take care and supply all your needs! The author claimed the promise of this verse in 1950, and God has literally supplied all his needs ever since.

#### C. God’s pay is good.

Matthew 19:27-29 shows that God will pay 100% interest on some investments. Think of what that means. 100% interest will be paid on the sacrificial decisions you make to follow the Lord and do HIS WILL! What a paycheck many will have at the judgment seat of Christ!

### III. THE TEMPTATION NOT TO GIVE LIBERALLY.

The Devil works hard to prevent the Christian from giving to the Lord in a generous, systematic way. There are several methods with which He confronts the child of God in order to prevent him from giving. If he can stop his giving, he can stop his growing. If he can stop the Christian’s giving (sowing) he can stop the Christian’s reaping and

rejoicing! The most God-like characteristic the Christian develops is giving. The devil does not want the child of God to become GOD-LIKE. The Christian is commanded to be vigilant (watchful). He is to be watchful of his temptations in the realm of giving.

#### A. Man’s natural desire is to covet.

One does not have to teach a little boy to be selfish or to covet; it is his nature.

1. **Coveting is a respectable sin?** It is strange the way the sin of covetousness is considered by God’s people. It is the respectable sin. It is the sin which strikes the deacon, the preacher, and the Sunday school teacher. The child of God who would never commit adultery, murder, or armed robbery thinks NOTHING OF COVETING.
2. **The sin of covetousness is best described as a Dr. Jekyll — Mr. Hyde sin.** To man it seems nice, acceptable, and a harmless practice. To God it is addicting, deferring from God’s path, enslaving of one’s will, alienating of one’s love, and robbing of one’s purpose.
3. **Coveting is a wicked sin.** Coveting is so dangerous, so wicked, so destructive to the individual, so dishonoring to God, that it is one of the sins of The Ten Commandments:

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Thou shall not kill. Thou shall not commit adultery; Thou shall not covet.... Covetousness brought God's curse on Balaam (Numbers 22:21). Covetousness brought Leprosy upon Gehazi (II Kings 5:20). Covetousness of Achan brought defeat to the army of Israel (Joshua 7) Covetousness brought death to Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-10), Covetousness is the sin of idolatry. (Colossians 3:5).

The church at Corinth (I Corinthians 5:11) was commanded to withdraw from a brother and not to keep company with a brother if he be a fornicator, or covetous, or a drunkard, or an extortioner — no, not to eat.

### **Coveting is behind all ungodly sin.**

The love of money causes all types of sin (I Timothy 6:10)

For the love of money, the bartender makes drunkards, paupers, and harlots out of people and damns their souls to hell. For the love of money, the beautiful woman sells her body. For the love of money, every type of sin is committed under Heaven. God hates this sin of coveting. DO NOT be tempted to covet.

### **B. The natural tendency is to walk by sight.**

Man loves to have faith as long as he can see where he is going. God commands tithing.

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He promises to bless and supply the need to those who tithe, yet man has a problem believing or trusting God, because he:

1. **Can't tithe because of all these bills.** "I just can't see how we can pay our bills if we started tithing."
2. **We'll start tithing when things get better.** "When I get my bills paid down where I can afford to tithe, I'd be happy to do it. I'll start then."
3. **I'm not going to give to that preacher.** There are many, who in looking for some excuse to justify not giving to God, find fault with the preacher. The child of God is to WALK BY FAITH, and TITHE BY FAITH. Do not be tempted to offend God by calling God a liar through unbelief.

### **C. A natural tendency to doubt.**

1. It won't do any good to tithe anyway.
2. That's what the old Jew said, "**It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance.**" (Malachi 3:14) The subject under consideration in this passage is giving. They said, "It doesn't do any good to give anyway."
3. The farmer plants his crops, but he doesn't expect to reap them the next day or the next week. God's laws are sure, one will reap what he sows (It might take

some time or be at a later date). DO NOT doubt God. Give Him the first fruit, and HE will give the harvest at the proper time.

One can overcome the sin of coveting by tithing. Overcome the sin of doubting by giving liberally. Overcome walking by sight by tithing by faith. God's cure for a stingy-selfish-coveting spirit is to accept the promises of God literally and then give, so He can honour his word by giving more back. **“Give, and it shall be given...”** (Luke 6 :38) **“He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully”** (II Corinthians 9:6).

#### IV. TITHING IS TAUGHT THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE

**“And of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee”** (Genesis 28:22)

**“And all the tithes of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's: it is holy unto the Lord”** (Leviticus 27:30).

The dictionary defines the tithe thusly: “To pay or give a tenth part of.” In the Handy Dictionary of the Bible, Merrill C. Tenney, the following is said concerning the tithe: a tenth part of one's income set aside for a specific use—to the government or

ecclesiastics. Its origin is unknown, but it goes far beyond the time of Moses, and it was practiced in the lands from Babylonia to Rome. Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek (Genesis 14:20; Hebrews 7:2, 6). Jacob promised tithes to God (Genesis 28:22)

#### A. Tithing was taught before the law.

1. Ancient times. Most scholars believe that the language used concerning Abel demonstrated that he tithed. We know he brought offerings.

2. Abraham tithed.

**“And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all”** (Genesis 14:20; see also Hebrews 7:2, 6).

3. Jacob tithes 400 years before Moses lived.

Jacob made a covenant with God saying, **“And this stone which I have set for a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that thou shalt give me, I will surely give a tenth unto thee”** (Genesis 28:22).

#### B. Tithing was incorporated into the law.

1. All Israelites were commanded to tithe (Leviticus 27:30-33).

2. The tithe was used to support the Levites

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- and the temple service (Numbers 18:21-32).
3. Additional tithes were required at times (Deuteronomy 12:5-18; 14:22-29).
  4. There were penalties charged for cheating on their tithes (Leviticus 27:31).
  5. The Pharisees tithed on even herbs: **“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith”** (Matthew 23:23).
  6. The tithe in the Old Testament acknowledged and glorified God.
  7. Every Christian should tithe. B. H. Hillard gave a summary of Malachi 3:8-12 as follows:
    - a. **Scriptural:** **“Bring ye all the tithe....”** God has never relinquished His claim on the tithe as the minimum of one’s gift.
    - b. **Simple:** **“Bring...”** Yes, just as simple as coming to church and bringing the tithe; just as a parent bringing a child. To “bring” implies complete control; coercive subjugation.

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- c. **Serviceable:** **“...into the storehouse,..”** The church is God’s storehouse, into which all the tithe is to be brought; none of which is diverted through extraneous channels.
- d. **Sufficient:** **“That there may be meat in mine house,..”** “Meat” means a sufficiency for every need; wherein, under any circumstances, the tithe did fail to meet the requirements, God will make provision for that which is lacking.
- e. **Sublime:** **“prove me now herewith,..”** **“prove me...”** means to give God a chance. To use a slang phrase, it means “to put God on the spot.” It is accepting God’s challenge. God yearns for a chance to bless His people; and that chance comes when we accept God’s challenge.
- f. **Sensible:** **“If I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*”** Common intelligence coupled with faith would lead one to tithe as the means of claiming such a promise. No person can believe this promise and fail to tithe. It would be unthinkable. Believe — tithe 10% Disbelieve -- fail to tithe. There is no alternative.

- g. Satisfying: **“And all nations shall call you blessed, for ye shall be a delightful land”** (Malachi 3:12).

**C. Jesus practiced tithing.**

1. He fulfilled the law (Matthew 5:17-18).
2. He commended tithing (Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42).
3. Jesus practiced what He preached.

**D. Paul taught that the New Testament ministry was to be supported in the same manner as was the Levitical ministry.**

**1. Paul, teaching on giving.**

- a. Does a soldier pay his own salary while in the army (I Corinthians 9:7)?
- b. Does a farmer plant grapes and not eat of the grapes (verse 7)?
- c. Does a herdsman not partake of the flock (verse 7)?
- d. Does an ox not eat of the corn (verse 9)?

**2. The spiritual realm of giving.**

He said that everyone who worked in a physical realm was a partaker of the fruit of

his labor. Then He applied the same principle to the spiritual realm. He stated in Verse 11, **“if we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal [material] things?”**

**3. His illustration of supporting the ministry.**

In verse 13, he asks them if they were not aware of how the Levites were supported. **“They which wait [serve] at the altar are partakers with the altar,”** The Bible clearly teaches that the altar workers, temple workers, and priests were supported by the tithes and offerings of the Jewish people.

**4. His statement on the standard of giving.**

- a. In verse 14, he begins with the expression, **“Even so”**, This expression, **“Even so”** comes from the Greek “Houtos Kai” This is the same word found in John 3:14. **“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so [Houtos Kai] must the Son of man be lifted up.”**
- b. “Houtos Kai” means in the same manner or in the manner previously described.
- c. Paul’s point is that the standard that was used of God to support the Old

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Testament priest and temple workers is the same standard he ordained to support **“They who preach the gospel”** The standard **“Tithe and offerings.”**

- d. The literal statement of verse 14 is **“Even so”** [Houtos Kai]. In the manner previously described or illustrated in verse 14, **“Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live** [to be cared for] **of the gospel”**

- E. **“Let a man give as he purposeth in his heart”** (II Corinthians 9:7).

This is a fine standard to use when a person will let the Bible help him to set the standard.

1. Paul was a Jew writing to a church (Church of Corinth), which was started in a Jewish synagogue and was made up of Jewish converts who were familiar with tithing (Acts 18:7-8).
2. The first example of a man purposing in his heart was Jacob. Jacob purposed to give back to God a tenth part or a tithe (Genesis 28:22).

## V. GOD WANTS YOU TO GIVE OF YOUR LIFE SO HE CAN REWARD YOU DURING THE MILLENNIAL REIGN (ETERNITY).

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- A. The reason one should give to God is to express love and gratitude to God. God gave Jesus, His Son, health and all the materials and spiritual blessings of life. One expresses his love and appreciation when he gives back to God.
- B. Giving back to God is one of His methods, which causes spiritual growth in the believer. **“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”**
- C. One can have rewards waiting for himself in Heaven, which will give him eternal blessings IF HE WILL GIVE TO GOD. Let Him reward you and multiply you FOR IT. **“HE which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”** (II Corinthians 9:6).

## GIVING

### Monday

#### (Introduction — Options for Investment)

1. **“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon \_\_\_\_\_.”** (Matthew 6:19).
2. How did the millionaire convert his holdings into the spiritual dividends? \_\_\_\_\_
3. You are in the world, but you are \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 17:14).
4. Which system will not survive? \_\_\_\_\_ (11 Peter 3:10).
5. When Paul said, **“Be not conformed to this world”** (Romans 12:2), what did he mean? \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Which system would be the wise system to invest in? \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 5:19-20).

### Tuesday

#### (Prosperity Promised)

1. What would a person have to do to secure the promise: **“Pour you out a blessing,..”** **“...shall not be room enough to contain it.”** \_\_\_\_\_ (Malachi 3:10).
2. What does God promise the person who will honour the Lord with his first fruits? \_\_\_\_\_

(Proverbs 3:9)

3. The liberal soul shall be \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 11:25)
4. **“Give, and it shall be \_\_\_\_\_; shall men give into your bosom.”** (Luke 6:38).
5. He which soweth \_\_\_\_\_ shall reap \_\_\_\_\_, and he who sows \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_ reap \_\_\_\_\_ bountifully. (II Corinthians 9:6).
6. Are these promises of God literal or should we not believe them? They \_\_\_\_\_.

### Wednesday

#### (Temptation Not to Give)

1. Our natural desire is to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. One of the most God-like characteristics \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What sin is the child of God most likely to commit? The sin of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What does God think of the sin of coveting? He \_\_\_\_\_ it.
5. What sin caused the death of Achan, Ananias and Sapphira? \_\_\_\_\_.

### Thursday

#### (Tithing is Taught)

1. What is the religious definition of “tithe”? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Was tithing taught before the law? Give an example. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Give the seven steps in Mr. Hillard's summary of Malachi 3:8-12.
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_
  5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_
  7. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Give the Scripture where Jesus commended tithing. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Jacob gave tithes about \_\_\_\_\_ years before the law was given by Moses.
6. Give a Scripture, which commanded the Jews to tithe while under the Law of Moses. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_.

**Friday**

**(Paul Teaching on Giving)**

1. Give an example that shows that one is to partake of the fruit of his labours. \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Paul said if we sow unto your spiritual things we should reap from your \_\_\_\_\_ things. (I Corinthians 9:11).
3. How were the Levites (temple workers) supported? By \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What does the expression "Houtos Kai" mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

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5. God wants us to give liberally so we can \_\_\_\_\_ something when we \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

Having studied this lesson on giving, I now understand that the reason God commands His-children to give tithes and offerings is so that they may grow spiritually, and that they may have treasures in Heaven when they get there. I now purpose in my heart to give liberally and systematically of my tithes and offerings. In doing this I will not only help support the work, which has greatly blessed me, but will follow the design plan of spiritual growth, and of laying up treasures in Heaven.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

**Questions to ask the discipler:**

**DAILY DECLARATION**

**Repeat Aloud Each Morning And Evening**

The promises of God concerning the blessings received from giving are just as true as all of His other promises.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” (Luke 6:38),

CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
<b>A.M.</b>							
<b>P.M.</b>							

**TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR THE ROLE MODEL**

1. **THOU SHALT ACCEPT THY SACRED TRUST AS A DISCIPLE.** Jesus commanded, disciple all nations (Matt. 28:19).
2. **THOU SHALT SERVE AS AN EXTENTION OF YOUR PASTOR.** Mention the pastor's love and concern for the family often.
3. **THOU SHALT GUARD YOUR INFLUENCE AT ALL TIMES.** Your life must be in complete harmony with your purpose of strengthening your disciple.
4. **THOU SHALT NOT ATTEMPT TO IMPRESS YOUR DISCIPLE** with your knowledge, but at all times try to further his.
5. **THOU SHALT PRAY REGULARLY FOR YOUR NEW CHRISTIAN** and his family, calling them and their needs by name.
6. **THOU SHALT SIT WITH HIM IN CHURCH,** and introduce him to other good solid Christians, which can aid his spiritual growth.
7. **THOU SHALT BE FAITHFUL TO THE** <sup>Sun</sup> **WEEKLY MEETING IN HIS HOME,** and be constantly alert of ways to encourage him.
8. **THOU SHALT WORK TO ENROLL HIM IN THE REGULAR SERVICES:** Sunday School, prayer meeting, and out-reach.
9. **THOU SHALT NOTIFY THE PASTOR AT ONCE** when you are confronted with a problem which needs his pastoral care.
10. **THOU SHALT CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE AND EDIFY** your new Christian after your period of discipleship has expired.

# Lesson Ten

## THE TORCH IS PASSED

### II Timothy 2:2

**INTRODUCTION:** In the ancient Olympic games much was made of passing the eternal flame to a new generation of contestants who were eager to perform before the waiting masses. But the flame was NOT ETERNAL, and all their great performances, their great achievements, and their daring feats will soon be forgotten FOREVER.

But there is something which one can pass which will NEVER BE FORGOTTEN and ITS GLORY WILL NEVER FADE!

Daniel the prophet spoke of the SOUL WINNER: **“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament: and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever”** (Daniel 12:3). **They that are WISE and he that winneth souls is as shining as the brightness of the firmament and the stars forever and ever.** But, there is much more in Daniel 12:3 than winning souls. There is the Discipleship Program and also “the follow-up” for new converts.

**LOOK!** **“...they that turn many to righteousness”** That means righteous living, which means discipling.

Now, what is the reward for winning them, discipling, developing, or turning many to

righteousness?

They will shine as the stars forever and ever. That means eternal rewards, eternal glory for winning and developing souls.

### I. YOUR PERSONAL COMMISSION FROM PAUL

#### A. The child of God has a personal commission from Paul.

It is a commission to teach what one has been taught. Paul told Timothy, **“And the things that thou hast heard of me [the things Paul taught Timothy] among many witnesses, the same [what Paul taught] commit [teach] thou to faithful men, who [FAITHFUL MEN] shall be able to teach others also,”** (II Timothy 2:2).

1. **There are four responsible teachers** in that verse:
  - a. Paul who taught Timothy,
  - b. Timothy who taught faithful men,
  - c. Faithful men who taught others, and
  - d. Others.
2. **What were the others to do?** It is inferred that they should begin the circle of teaching all over again. This revolving circle of one generation teaching another generation has finally

reached YOU. You have been shown some truths, which you are now under solemn obligation to teach others ALSO!

3. I Peter 3:15 and the Great Commission. In I Peter 3:15, Peter boldly states that the child of God is to: “**and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you.**” The Great Commission to the church commands “**Go ye therefore, and teach all nations**” (Matthew 28:18-20), Thus, the child of God’s duty of teaching others is clearly commanded in the Bible,

#### B. They still act like visitors.

There are so many in churches who, although they have been there for months, if not years, are still demanding to be served and ministered to. They conduct themselves as guests instead of members of the Household of Faith. Are you one of those who is still acting like a visitor?

1. I’m just new to the Faith.

There are multitudes of people who have been saved for years who are still babes in Christ. The author was talking to a man who kept saying, “I’m just a young Christian.” We would talk a while longer, and he would say, “I’m just a young Christian,” He evidently felt embarrassed, because of his

lack of knowledge of God’s word, and he excused himself by telling me, “I’m new to the Faith. I’m just a young Christian.”

Finally, the author asked him, “How long have you been saved?” His shocking answer was “Eight years.”

The **angels** wept in heaven!  
The **sun** turned its head in shame!  
The **birds** stopped their singing!

And if one could have heard it, there was a groan which escaped from the lips of Jesus,

**Eight years old and still a babe in Christ**, still on the bottle, and still untrained.

2. The Book of Acts.

When one reads the Book of Acts, he finds 3,000 saved and added to the 120 (Acts 2:41). In a few days, one finds these new converts going from house to house teaching. In the next few years, their number had swelled to well over 100,000 members. Many of them gave their lives as martyrs. They were strong in the Faith.

In Acts 19, one finds twelve disciples. These twelve, along with all their converts, evangelized the whole province of Asia in the space of two years. From lost sinners, to babes in Christ, to flaming evangelists; ALL IN TWO SHORT YEARS. The Book of

Ephesians, written to them later, proves that they were mature Christians.

3. Pray tell, what is the difference? Today there are many who confess that they are still babes in Christ after being saved for years. In the New Testament days, the disciples became flaming evangelists and evangelized their whole area in two short years (Acts 19:10),

### C. Down on the Farm

1. Doing a day's work.

Many of the older people, people who were raised on a farm, can remember when kids 10-12 years old were doing a man's job. They would work right along side of their bigger brothers in the field from morning to night. It was what was expected of them while they were growing up. One generation was expected to work and was taught to work. The next generation was left in a world of television and idleness and was not expected or taught to work. The first generation was milking cows before growing big enough to reach up to the "faucet" and give the appropriate squeeze. The second generation was still acting like babies.

2. Many today grow up and never learn how to work. Recently, in a nation-wide poll, it was revealed that there were college

graduates who were not trained well enough to hold down a job. It is shocking to learn of college graduates who do not know how to work, who can't find a job.

3. What is the difference in the two generations of "kids."
  - a. Is it the "kids"? NO!!
  - b. It is the parents and the training the parents give their children.

### D. Which pattern are you going to follow?

1. **Are you going to follow** the book of Acts' pattern of being a mature, spirit-filled, soul-winning Christian in a few short months?
2. Will you be like the man who was eight years old and still on a bottle and still whining around like a baby?
3. Will you work like they did, or will you live like those on our modern day welfare rolls who do not have the motivation to work or serve Christ?

## II. THE MISTAKE ILLUSTRATED

### A. What has happened?

One may wonder how things got into the shape they are in. The following story will illustrate the problem.

B. The case of poor penmanship.

A little boy had been repeatedly warned by the teacher to use more care and to take greater pains in using proper penmanship when writing. Finally, the teacher had to take corrective measures.

She said, "Johnny, you are going to have to stay after school and write this sentence 100 times on the blackboard."

She wrote the sentence on the blackboard,

The model sentence was done in beautiful penmanship.

Each letter was formed precisely.

The bell rang, school was over, and Johnny began his long task of writing the long sentence 100 times. The first few sentences were beautiful.

Johnny looked often to the model in order to get the letters formed just right, but alas, HIS FINAL SENTENCE WAS BARELY LEGIBLE.

What was his problem? Where was his failure? What went wrong?

Johnny had looked at the example directly above the line he was writing instead of referring back to the original model, which the teacher had given him as an example.

Alas, our problems Many have been looking at the sloppy examples of careless, untrained Christians who looked at the sloppy examples of others before them instead of looking back and seeing THE PERFECT EXAMPLE IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

**III. PAYING FOR YOUR "RAISIN."**

A. Another country-fide expression.

The old timers used to say, "The only way one can pay for his `raisin' is to raise some `young-ins` of his own,

- **If YOU** have enjoyed these lessons;
- **If YOU** have and grown spiritually because of them,
- **If YOU** have prospered and found your place in the church family, because of this DISCIPLE-SHIP PROGRAM AND YOUR DISCIPLIER, and
- **If YOU** would like to show your appreciation and say an appropriate THANK YOU to your church and pastor;

YOU can do all this and repay your DISCIPLIER for all that he has done for you by "RAISIN" SOME "YOUNG-UNS YOURSELF! There is another new convert coming along who needs a DISCIPLIER just like you.

That old time country saying, you can only pay for your "raisin" by raising some yourself is true spiritually. You show your love, your

appreciation, your thankfulness by teaching, developing and serving others. There is someone who needs your help. You are someone's Big Brother. He is looking up to you and needs your love, encouragement, and help. if you desire to continue your spiritual growth and have the joy of the Lord, then the next step in your Christian life is to help disciple others.

If **they were expected to do it** in THE BOOK OF ACTS, and **they did it** in THE BOOK OF ACTS, then **God expects you to do it NOW!** and **YOU CAN DO IT!!!**

**Monday**

**(Introduction)**

1. In the ancient Olympic games much was made of passing the \_\_\_\_\_
2. The flame was not \_\_\_\_\_ and their daring feats will soon be forgotten.
3. Daniel spoke of the reward of the soul-winner in Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_.
4. **"...He that winneth souls is \_\_\_\_\_."** (Proverbs 11:30)
5. There will be \_\_\_\_\_ rewards for winning and \_\_\_\_\_ souls.

**Tuesday**

**(Your Personal Commission)**

1. It is a commission to \_\_\_\_\_ what you have been \_\_\_\_\_.
2. There are \_\_\_\_\_ responsible teachers in the verse \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_.
3. This revolving circle of one \_\_\_\_\_ teaching \_\_\_\_\_ generation has finally reached \_\_\_\_\_.
4. **"...be \_\_\_\_\_ always to give an \_\_\_\_\_ to every man that asketh you." (I Peter 3:15)**
5. Our duty of \_\_\_\_\_ is clearly commanded in the Bible.

**Wednesday**

**(Are You Still Acting?)**

1. Are you still \_\_\_\_\_ like a Visitor?
2. They conduct themselves as \_\_\_\_\_ instead of \_\_\_\_\_ of the family.
3. Eight years old and still a \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, still on the \_\_\_\_\_, still \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ members to \_\_\_\_\_ added in Acts 2:41 to well over \_\_\_\_\_ in a few short years.
5. From \_\_\_\_\_ sinners to \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ, to flaming \_\_\_\_\_ all in the space of \_\_\_\_\_ years.

**Thursday**

**(Down on The Farm)**

1. On the farm kids \_\_\_\_\_ years old were doing a \_\_\_\_\_ job.
2. It is shocking to learn that some \_\_\_\_\_ graduates do not know how \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What is the \_\_\_\_\_ in the two generations of \_\_\_\_\_?
4. Is the difference in the kids? \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Will you work like they did \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ or will you live like some who do not have motivation or the \_\_\_\_\_ to really \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.

**Friday**

**(Our Mistake Illustrated)**

1. The case of poor \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What was his \_\_\_\_\_ ? Where was his \_\_\_\_\_?
3. We have been looking at \_\_\_\_\_ examples instead of the examples in the Book of Acts.
4. The only way you can \_\_\_\_\_ for your \_\_\_\_\_ is to raise some \_\_\_\_\_ of your own.
5. There is another \_\_\_\_\_ who needs a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. If they \_\_\_\_\_ it in the Book of Acts, then God expects \_\_\_\_\_ It \_\_\_\_\_.

Having studied this book and found how easy it is to learn the simple truths of God's Word, I now am ready to continue to go further in my studies in a more advanced series of lessons. I further desire to "Help pay for my "raisin" by helping a NEW CONVERT as the pastor may direct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

NOTE: Read the "My Ten Declarations To True Discipleship" on the next page.

**DAILY DECLARATION**

**Read aloud each morning and evening**

**MY TEN DECLARATIONS TO TRUE  
DISCIPLESHIP**

Having completed the past ten lessons, I now understand that God saved me FOR A DEFINITE PURPOSE. Therefore, I will do my best in the following areas as a true disciple of Christ.

**I will strive to accept each trial or problem in life as a stepping stone** to a CLOSER WALK WITH CHRIST (I Peter 5:10; II Corinthians 4:17; I Corinthians 10:13).

1. I will read and study the Bible EACH DAY (II Timothy 2:15; Psalms 119:11).
2. I will strive to be FAITHFUL TO THE REGULAR SERVICES of my church (Hebrews 10:25).
3. I will HONOR, SUBMIT TO, and FOLLOW the leadership of my Pastor (Hebrews 13:7; 13:17).
4. I will be REGULAR IN MY PRAYER LIFE and will PRAY SPECIFICALLY for the requests on my prayer list (I Thessalonians 5:17; Matthew 7:7-8).
5. I will return TO CHRIST MY LORD a tenth of my income and will share liberally as the Lord may direct (II Corinthians 9:6-14).
6. I will accept my responsibility to WORLD WIDE EVANGELISM as the Lord may direct (John 20:21; Acts 1:8).

7. I will strive to live my life in the light of the SOON COMING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (John 14:3; Mark 13:34-37; Revelation 20:12).
8. I will strive to be wise and follow the most Christ-like examples of discipleship and WIN SOULS IN MY DAILY LIFE (Proverbs 11:30; I Corinthians 9:22).
9. I will make these declarations, TRUSTING IN THE GRACE OF GOD to enable me to have strength to keep them (Philippians 4:13).

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Grade

**MEMORY VERSE:** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:1-2).

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (I Corinthians 6:19-20).

CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
<b>A.M.</b>							
<b>P.M.</b>							

Questions to ask my discipler:

**NEW CONVERT CARE DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM**

These booklets and books are presented to help the layman in the local church. We are dedicated to aiding the Pastor in strengthening members. Through the New Convert Care Discipleship-Program, we help new converts become happy, active parts of the church family.

Through the Layman Library Series, we present books designed to train and strengthen. **Please contact author for prices.**

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\* Denote Discipleship materials

**THE LAYMAN LIBRARY SERIES**

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- 102 How to Have Something in Heaven When You Get There
- 105 Incentives in Soul-winning

- 106 How to Pray So God Will Answer You
- 111 Points and Poems by Pearl – Pearl Cheeves
- 112 Foreknowledge in The Light of Soul-winning
- 113 Elected “To Go”
- 114 Predestination Promotes Soul-winning
- 115 The Ministry of Paul in the Light of Soul-winning
- 116 The Church, a Place of Protection, Love & Development

**OTHER BOOKS BY DR. WILKINS**

Foreknowledge, Election, & Predestination in the Light Of Soul-winning(160p)  
Essentials to Successful Soul-Winning (258p)  
Designed to Win (Soul winning Manuel) (120p)  
Harvest Time(110p)  
\*Milk of The Word – (Book One) (also in Spanish) (146p)  
\*From Salvation to Service (also in Spanish) (40p)  
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The Kindergarten Phase of Eternity (170p)  
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Not Even a Nickel, Just A Penny (Testimony of Penny Wilkins)(40p)  
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\*The Meat of The Word (186p)  
God’s Cure for America  
God’s Brilliant Plan to Reach Fallen Man

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