

DISCIPLESHIP 201

**Study to Show
Yourself Approved**

Grace Mercy Ministry

Discipleship 201

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For information about the Grace Mercy Ministry visit our web site: www.gracemercyministry.com

DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for His Infallible Holy Word which gives us all the knowledge, understanding and wisdom we need to be true disciples of His. It is our desire that this book will help Christians bring glory to God.

We also dedicate this book to the greatest disciple of the twentieth century – Dawson Trotman (1906-1956), founder of “The Navigators.” He was too busy serving Jesus to accept an invitation from Billy Graham to form a discipleship ministry for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Yet he developed the B-rations that the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has used ever since. Billy said of him, “I think Daws has personally touched more lives than anybody I have ever known.” Graham interrupted his crusade in Oklahoma City to “preach his funeral” in Colorado Springs. He also devoted a week of his “Hour of Decision” radio program to Trotman’s memory. Charles E. Fuller, founder of Fuller Theological Seminary, did the same with his “Old Fashion Revival Hour” program.

The work and writings of Trotman were the inspiration and instrumental in the foundation of the Campus Outreach Ministry and Grace Mercy Ministry. His two most inspirational quotes are:

“Do what others can not and will not do.”

“The greatest amount of wasted time is the time not getting started.”

We urge you to read his story in Appendixes C and D in *Discipleship 101*.

Our Vision

It is the vision of Grace Mercy Ministry to motivate and help every church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to establish a discipleship program. It is also our vision that every believer on Earth go through a discipleship program, whether it is this one or another so every believer can bring the greatest amount of glory possible to God.

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INVITATION

Believer, we invite you to read through this book slowly. Once you complete Step Ten give serious prayer and consideration to moving on to steps 11-15. Not every believer will be able to complete these steps, but go as far as you can. If you cannot complete a step move on to the next one. Finish whatever steps you can.

Unsaved reader, please read Appendix A before you read anything else.

FOREWORD

Every true believer should be devoted to prayer and the Word. We should all pray throughout each day (Ephesians 6.18; 1 Thessalonians 5.17) and read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture every day.

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2.15)

*Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.** (Acts 17.11)*

"Please receive instruction from His mouth And establish His words in your heart. (Job 22.22)

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1.2)

Steps 6 through 10 are a bit harder than the first five, but every believer should be able to complete them.

INTRODUCTION

This series of books is designed to assist all believers in Jesus Christ to disciple themselves and others. Discipleship is extremely important because a believer cannot serve God fully and bring the ultimate amount of glory to Him without being discipled first.

This second book will show you how to set up your personal Spiritual Fitness Program (SFP) and help you develop your prayer life. It will also show you how to use the armor of God to defeat the schemes of the Devil.

Go through Steps Six through Ten and then move on to *Discipleship 301*.

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

Follow this course at your own pace. Go as far as you can.

VI. Set up your “Spiritual Fitness Program” (p. 17).

Completed _____

VII. Study the lesson on prayer (p. 23).

Completed _____

VIII. Study the lesson on the “Armor of God” (p. 33).

Completed _____

IX. Study the lesson on the “Schemes of the devil” (p. 41).

Completed _____

X. Study the “Discipleship Teaching” outline on page 59. Then complete the “Discipleship Study Questions” starting on page 83.

Completed _____

STUDY TO SHOW YOURSELF APPROVED

All believers should study the Bible on their own. If you do not know how to study the Bible complete this workbook and then move on to Steps 11-15 in *Discipleship 301*. You can also ask your pastor to teach you how to study the Bible.

STEP SIX

SPIRITUAL FITNESS PROGRAM

Every believer needs to set up a Spiritual Fitness Program (SFP) to grow in faith. Without one a believer will be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4.14). Here several things every believer should consider doing on a daily and regular basis:

1. **Pray** (Deuteronomy 9.25-26; 1 Samuel 15.11; 1 Chronicles 16.11; Psalm 88.9; Proverbs 15.29; Isaiah 56.7; Matthew 5.44; 6.5-6; 7.7-11; 26.41; Luke 11.5-10; 18.1-8; John 14.13-14; 15.16; 16.24; Acts 1.14; 2.42; 4.31; 6.4; 1 Corinthians 7.5; Ephesians 6.18; Philippians 4.6; Colossians 4.2; 1 Thessalonians 5.17; 1 Timothy 2.1-2; 5.5; 2 Timothy 2.8; James 1.5; 1 Peter 3.7).
2. **Listen** to Scripture (Deuteronomy 4.10; Proverbs 8.34; 22.17; 23.12; Luke 8.15, 21; 11.28; James 1.22; Revelation 1.3).
3. **Read** Scripture (Deuteronomy 17.19; Isaiah 34.16; Revelation 1.3).
4. **Study** Scripture (Proverbs 2.1-5; 8.34; John 5.39; Acts 17.11; Romans 15.4; 2 Timothy 2.15).

5. **Memorize** Scripture (Deuteronomy 6.6; 11.18; 30.14; Psalm 37.31; 40.8; 119.11; Proverbs 2.1; 3.1, 3; 4.1, 21; 6.21; 22.18; Isaiah 51.7; 59.21; Ezekiel 3.10; Romans 10.8; Colossians 3.16).
6. **Meditate** on Scripture (Joshua 1.8; Job 22.22; 23.12; Psalm 1.2; 4.4; 19.14; 63.6; 77.12; 104.34; 119.15, 23, 27, 48, 78, 97, 99, 148; 143.5; Colossians 3.16).
7. **Fellowship** with the brethren (Psalm 22.22; 119.63; Proverbs 13.20; Acts 2.42, 46-47; 5.42; Hebrews 3.13; 10.24-25; 1 John 1.7).
8. **Worship** with your family, the brethren and privately (Deuteronomy 6.13; 26.10; 1 Chronicles 16.29; Psalm 2.11; 29.2; 96.9; 99.5, 9; 132.7; Jeremiah 7.2; Matthew 4.10; John 4.23-24; Romans 12.1; Philippians 3.3; Revelation 4.10; 14.17; 19.10; 22.9)
9. **Share the Gospel** (Psalm 9.1; 26.7; 35.28; 96.2; Proverbs 11.30; Mark 16.15; Acts 2.47; 1 Peter 3.15).
10. **Be disciplined** (Proverbs 1.8; 4.1; 6.20; Eph. 4.11-13).
11. **Make disciples** (Deuteronomy 4.9-10; 6.5-7; 11.18-19; 31.13; 32.46; Psalm 78.3-7; Proverbs 1.8; 4.1; 6.20; 22.6; Joel 1.3; Matt. 28.19-20; Ephesians 4.11-13; 6.4; 2 Tim. 2.2).

1. **PRAY:** Pray often for your family, friends, fellow employees, employer, church members, pastors, and city, state and federal politicians. Pray with your family daily and with church members on a regular basis. Begin and end each day in prayer, and pray throughout the day. Pray that YAHWEH teach you each day as you study His word.

2. **LISTEN TO SCRIPTURE:** Play recordings of the Bible and listen to sermons and Bible studies.

3. **READ SCRIPTURE:** Make a reading program and stay with it. If you read three chapters a day in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament you will read the Bible through in one year. It is also important to read one chapter of Proverbs each day. It does not take more than a half-hour a day to read five chapters. If you watch TV have your Bible handy and read a chapter during commercial breaks. Anyone could read ten chapters a day by just taking a Bible break during commercials.

4. **STUDY SCRIPTURE:** Choose a book of the Bible or a topic to study, and stay with it until you finish it.

5. **MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE:** Memorize key verses from both the Old and New Testaments.

6. **MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE:** Once you have a few verses memorized you can meditate on them any time of the day, and wherever you are. Until then keep a pocket Bible or pocket New Testament handy. Keep a Bible and a few New Testaments in your car at all times for yourself and others. Get into the habit of giving out Bibles and pocket New Testaments.

7. **FELLOWSHIP WITH THE BRETHREN:** Become an active member of a church. Support the church with your time, talents, treasure and spiritual gifts. If you cannot find a real church meet with believers in a home.

8. **WORSHIP:** It is so important that there are more commands to worship YAHWEH than to pray, study the Bible, memorize Scripture or meditate on the Word. Every believer should spend time each day worshipping YAHWEH. We worship YAHWEH by being silent and meditating on the blessings He has given you; by thanking and praising Him by rejoicing and singing.

9. **SHARE THE GOSPEL:** Once you learn how to share the Gospel be ready to do so 24/7. Be sensitive to the leading of the HOLY SPIRIT to share the Gospel. Carry tracts with you

and hand them out as you are prompted by the HOLY SPIRIT. If the person(s) wants to talk – speak with them, but if they do not want to talk ask them to read the tract, and pray as you walk away. Keep a diary of your witnessing. When you lead someone to the Lord invite them to church and make sure they become an active member. If you are not mature enough to disciple them ask your pastor(s) to find someone to disciple them.

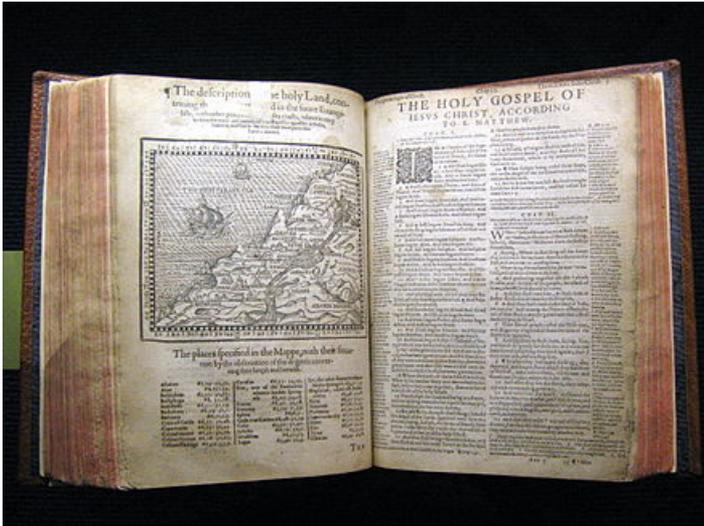
10. **BE DISCIPLED:** Find someone to disciple you or find a good book on discipleship such as *Make Disciples of all the Nations*.

11. **MAKE DISCIPLES:** Once you have been disciplined, start to disciple others. If you are a husband disciple your wife. If you are a father disciple your children. If you are a mother disciple your children with your husband. If you are single lead a person to the Lord and disciple him/her. Never disciple a person of the opposite sex unless you are engaged.

If a believer develops a discipline in these basics of holy living he will become a *disciple* of Jesus Christ. It does not happen overnight. It takes many years to become a mature *disciple*, but it starts with the daily discipline of being in prayer, in the Word and in regular fellowship with other believers.

Pray in the morning, throughout the day and before you go to sleep. Set up a daily Bible reading program. If you read 4 chapters a day you will read through the Bible in a year. Read 3 chapters in the Old Testament each day and 1 chapter in the New Testament. Buy an audio copy of the Bible, and listen to it at home and in the car. Buy DVDs of movies about the Bible and watch them often (*The Gospel of John, Peter and Paul, The Greatest Story Ever Told, King of Kings*, etc.). Memorize Scripture. If you memorize one verse a week you will have 52 verses memorized in one year. Meditate on Scripture and let the Holy Spirit teach you. Learn how to share the gospel. Ask your pastor to train you, and then share your personal testimony and the gospel as the Lord leads.

As you grow in the Lord you will pray more, and listen to, read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture more and more. You will share your gospel more often, and spend more time in fellowship with other believers.



SPIRITUAL FITNESS PROGRAM

YAHWEH commands all of His children to be spiritually fit (Ephesians 4.11-15) and He expects all of them to become teachers (Deuteronomy 6.6-7; Proverbs 6.20; Hebrews 5.12). The only way to get spiritually fit and eventually become a teacher of the Bible is to set up a Spiritual Fitness Program.

All combat soldiers go through basic training which includes a physical fitness program. Without it they could never hope to fight and win. The same is true for believers of YAHSHUA. We are all soldiers in the Army of Messiah and we need to be trained how to fight the spiritual war we are in which includes a Spiritual Fitness Program.

To order your copy of *Spiritual Fitness Program* email the DOV Book Shoppe – dovbooks@yahoo.com

STEP SEVEN

PRAYER

Teaching outline

- I. It is our spiritual duty and need to pray daily.
 - A. Prayer is one of the two basic daily activities of all believers.
 - B. Reading, hearing, studying, memorizing or meditating on Scripture is the other daily activity all believers are to engage in.

- II. Pray throughout the day.
 - A. We are commanded to pray always (1 Chronicles 16.11; Ephesians 6.18; 1 Thessalonians 5.17; 1 Timothy 5.5).
 - 1. We have the example of Paul (Colossians 1.3; 2 Timothy 1.3).
 - 2. We have the example of Timothy (Colossians 1.3).
 - B. Praying always is to be in constant communication with the Lord.
 - 1. We should make brief requests while on the go.
 - 2. We should also pray privately on our knees as the Lord and the Apostles did (Luke 5.16; 6.12; 22.41; Acts 9.40; 20.36; 21.5).

- III. We pray according to the will of God (1 John 5.14-15).
 - A. We can know His will by studying Scripture.
 - B. We can know His will by praying in the Holy Spirit (Jude 20; Ephesians 6.18).

- IV. We are to pray to:
- A. The Father (Matthew 6.8-13; John 14.13; 15.16).
 - B. The Son (John 14.14).
- V. We should pray with:
- A. Our spouse (1 Corinthians 7.5).
 - B. Our children (1 Thessalonians 5.17; Deut. 6.6-7).
 - C. The brethren (Isaiah 56.7; Acts 1.14; 4.31).
- VI. What prayer should consist of:
- A. Praise (Psalm 35.28; 51.15; Heb. 13.15; 1 Peter 2.9).
 - B. Thanksgiving.
 - 1. To God for His blessings (Ephesians 5.20; Colossians 3.17; Philippians 4.6; 1 Thess. 5.18).
 - 2. To God for people (1 Timothy 2.1).
 - C. Petitions for the brethren (Daniel 9.20; Ephesians 6.18; Philippians 1.3-4; Colossians 1.9-12; 1 Timothy 2.8).
 - D. Petitions for the lost (1 Timothy 2.1-2).
 - E. Petitions for yourself (1 Samuel 1.27; Psalm 25.4-5; Matthew 7.7-11; Matt. 26.41; John 16.24; James 5.13).
 - F. How often we should pray for a specific thing (Luke 18.1-8).
 - G. We should agonize in our prayers (Deuteronomy 9.25; 1 Samuel 15.11; Luke 22.44; Acts 10.30; 1 Corinthians 7.5; Hebrews 5.7; James 5.16).
 - H. How we get our prayers answered yes (Prov 28.9; Jer. 29.13; Mark 11.24; John 15.7; 1 John 3.22; 5.14-15).
 - I. Some prayers are answered no (2 Corinthians 12.7-10).
 - J. Keep public prayer brief (Ecclesiastes 5.2; Matthew 6.7; 23.14).

Why pray

If you do not know why prayer is important prayerfully these scriptures will help you understand the importance of prayer:

*The LORD said to him, “**I have heard your prayer** and your supplication, which you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built by putting My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.” (1 Kings 9.3)*

*“Yet have regard to the **prayer of Your servant** and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to listen to the cry and to the **prayer which Your servant prays before You** that Your eye may be open toward this house day and night, toward the place of which You have said that You would put Your name there, to **listen to the prayer which Your servant shall pray toward this place.**” (2 Chronicles 6.19-20)*

*“Also concerning the foreigner who is not from Your people Israel, when he comes from a far country for Your great name's sake and Your mighty hand and Your outstretched arm, when they come and **pray** toward this house then hear from heaven, from Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know Your name, and fear You as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by Your name.” (1 Chronicles 6.32-33)*

*“And My people who are called by My name humble themselves and **pray and seek My face** and turn from their wicked ways, then **I will hear from heaven**, will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now **My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place.** For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that **My name may be there forever**, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.” (1 Chronicles 7.14-16)*

*Then the Levitical priests arose and blessed the people; and **their voice was heard and their prayer came to His holy dwelling place, to heaven.** (2 Chronicles 30.27)*

*O You who **hear prayer**, To You all men come. (Psalm 65.2)*

*But certainly **God has heard**; He has given heed to the voice of my **prayer**. (Psalm 66.19)*

*My eye has wasted away because of affliction; **I have called upon You every day, O LORD**; I have spread out my hands to You. (Psalm 88.9)*

*He has regarded the **prayer** of the destitute And has not despised their **prayer**. (Psalm 102.17)*

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight. (Proverbs 15.8)

The LORD is far from the wicked, But **He hears the prayer of the righteous**. (Proverbs 15.29)

*“Go and say to Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of your father David, “**I have heard your prayer**, I have seen your tears; behold, I will add fifteen years to your life.’”” (Isaiah 38.5)*

*“But this kind does not go out except by **prayer** and fasting.” (Matthew 7.21)*

*“And all things you **ask in prayer**, believing, you will receive.” (Matthew 21.22)*

Jesus prayed

If Jesus needed to pray we certainly need to and much more than He did.

*It was at this time that **He** went off to the mountain to pray, and **He** spent the whole night in prayer to God.* (Luke 6.12)

*And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and **He knelt down and began to pray**, saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. And being in agony **He was praying very fervently**; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground. **When He rose from prayer**, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow, and said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not enter into temptation." (Luke 22.41-46)*

Do a detailed study of the Lord's Prayer (John 17). It is extremely edifying. You can pray 24 hours a day, but if you stop studying the Bible or spend very little time in the Word your prayers are an ABOMINATION to God:

He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, Even his prayer is an abomination. (Proverbs 28.9)

We need a balance between prayer and Bible study. It is more important to listen to God than to talk to Him. The ratio is different for everyone, but Bible study should be a minimum of 60 percent of your study/prayer time.

Types of Prayer

The three types of prayer are praise, intercession and personal requests. These three types of prayer can be short prayers or lengthy ones. We are commanded to be devoted to prayer (Romans 12.12; Colossians 4.2; 1 Peter 4.7) which means we need to spend time every day in private prayer on our knees, and in prayer on the go. We are also to pray with others (Acts 2.42; 13.3; 16.25).

Praise

Praise and thank God every day for the myriad blessings He has and will pour out on you (Ephesians 5.20; 1 Thessalonians 5.18; Hebrews 13.15). Some of the things we can praise God for are – His eternal love (John 3.16; Romans 5.8; 1 John 4.19), His grace which saved us (Ephesians 2.8), His mercy and comfort (2 Corinthians 1.3), His strength that He gives us (Ephesians 3.16; Philippians 4.13), His riches (Ephesians 3.16; Philippians 4.19), His guidance (Proverbs 3.5-6) and His discipline (Proverbs 3.11-12). These are only a few of the blessings that God pours out on us that we can thank Him for daily.

Intercession

Intercessory prayers for other believers (Ephesians 6.18; Philippians 1.4), and for the unsaved (Matthew 5.44; 1 Timothy 2.1-3) is important. Make a habit of making requests on behalf of believers that you know rather than making blanket requests for believers we do not know. Some of the things we can ask for is that God comfort, strengthen, perfect, confirm and establish them (2 Thessalonians 2.16-17; 1 Peter 5.10), increase their wisdom (James 1.5), give them greater courage and boldness in sharing the Gospel (Philippians 1.19-20) and open doors to share the Gospel (Colossians 4.3). We can also pray for the brethren who have special needs (Acts 12.5, 12).

Praying for the salvation of unsaved people we know (Romans 10.1) is vital. We can pray for family, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, employers and employees. We can also pray for the unsaved people in our life and for political leaders so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life (1 Timothy 2.1-4), in order that we will have more time to share the Gospel with the lost.

Personal Requests

After we have praised the Lord for all He has done for us, have prayed for the brothers and sisters in the Lord and for the lost, we can make personal requests (Philippians 4.6). These requests must be made in accordance with the will of God (1 John 5.14), and God will grant them in His good time (1 John 5.15). We must wait on Him to grant them (Psalm 37.7; 40.1), and not demand that He grant them immediately. We need to refrain from asking for worldly goods such as big houses, fancy cars, stylish clothing, jewelry and toys. Instead we should ask God to meet our needs – food, shelter, clothing, work (Luke 11.3), forgive us our sins, and keep and deliver us from evil (Matthew 6.12-13).

We also need to ask the Holy Spirit to teach us – give us knowledge, understanding and wisdom (Proverbs 1.1-7; 3.13) – as we study Scripture (1 John 2.20, 27). We can pray for boldness to share the gospel with the lost (Philippians 1.19-20). If Paul asked for believers to pray for him to have boldness in sharing the gospel we should also.

Disciples' Prayer

The disciples' Prayer is mistakenly called the Lord's Prayer. To study the Lord's Prayer go to John Chapter 17. We see some fundamental truths in this prayer:

“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]’

The first thing all believers should do every day when they wake up is to acknowledge that YAHWEH is Holy (v. 9) and Sovereign (v. 10), and that we should fulfill His will that day – every second of the new day (v. 10).

Next we should ask Him to meet all of our needs for that day (v. 11). Those needs are not just food, water and other physical needs. They include our spiritual needs – faith, hope, love, wisdom, understanding, knowledge, reverence of God, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control (1 Corinthians 13.13; Proverbs 2.2; 3.13, 21; 4.5; 5.1; 8.11; 11.2; 16.16; 19.8; 23.23; Proverbs 1.7; 8.10; 10.14; 15.14; 18.15; 22.17; 23.12; Galatians 5.22-23).

Another thing we need to do throughout the day is ask God to forgive us when we sin (v. 12). John wrote of the importance of this (1 John 1.8-10). We ask forgiveness of God and then of the person we sinned against. There is a caveat in forgiveness here. If we do not forgive those who sin against us God will not forgive us (v. 12).

This forgiveness is not forgiveness for salvation. It is temporal forgiveness for fellowship. As long as we do not forgive those who sin against us we do not have fellowship with the Father, Son or the Holy Spirit. We are still saved, but we are living in a backslidden condition and do not have the joy of fellowship with Them.

The statement, “*do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil*” is a bad translation. It should be “*do not lead us into trials, but deliver us from the evil one.*” We should daily ask God to not lead us into a trial or trials and to deliver us from the schemes of Satan (Ephesians 6.11). We must also do our part to be delivered from the schemes of the devil by putting on the full armor of God first thing every day (Ephesians 6.10-18).

We should verbally and silently acknowledge throughout each day that God is all sovereign, all powerful and all deserving of all glory (v.13). When we have this attitude about Them we can focus on serving Them fully and then do everything each day for Their glory:

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10.31)

Everything we do in private or public should be done to the glory to God. If you do something on a regular basis that cannot bring glory to God consider giving it up and replacing it with prayer, Bible study, fellowship, discipleship or evangelism. It may not be a “sin” but our time here is short and (James 4.14) we should make every second count.

Remember this eternal truth:

Everything you do for you will be forgotten forever.

Everything you do for God will be remembered forever and you will receive eternal rewards.

The choice is yours:

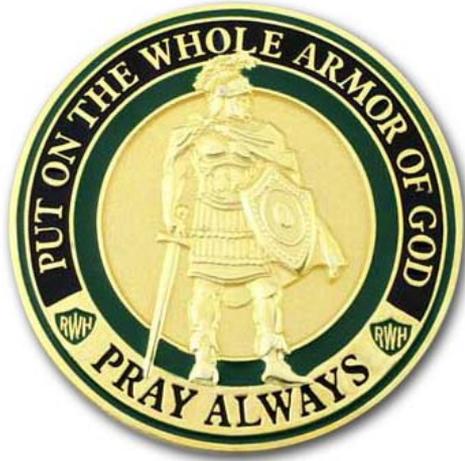
Live for all the gusto you can grab in this life and have nothing or very little in the eternal life to come.

Live for your Lord Jesus Christ and have untold eternal rewards in the life to come along with rank, status and a greater capacity to enjoy eternal life.

If you choose the first or try to do both you need to read *Faith Test* and study this passage carefully:

*“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and wealth.**” (Matthew 6.24)*

Not everyone who thinks they are saved are born from above and headed to Heaven. Billions of people will stand trial for their sins at the Great White Throne Judgment who truly believed they would be high-ranking saints in Heaven (Matthew 7.21-23; Luke 13.24). They will hear those fateful words that will ring in their ears forever, **“I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.”** (Matthew 7.23b)



STEP EIGHT

ARMOR OF GOD

Every believer is in a spiritual war that will not stop until the day you die or the Rapture. We are commanded to fight the good fight of faith:

Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Timothy 6.12-14)

All believers need to learn what the “armor of God” is and how to use it. We are in a spiritual war and every believer is a warrior. Most have been wounded and are sitting on the sidelines watching the war.

Very few pastors train the members of the congregation in the arts of spiritual warfare. This is why most churches are not alive and why many have been dead for decades. It is the solemn duty of the pastors to train their spiritual soldiers to fight just as the drill instructors in all military basic training camps train their recruits to fight. If your church does not have a basic training program study this step carefully, then put on your armor every day and go into battle with boldness.

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. **Put on the full armor of God**, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, **take up the full armor of God**, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH**, and **HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and having shod **YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.* (Ephesians 6.10-18)

As we saw in Step Eight the devil has many schemes to keep believers from serving God fully. That is why it is vitally important to know what our armor is and how to use it. Study the above passage in Ephesians and meditate on it for many hours. Memorize the passage and burn it into your mind and heart. Also study the exposition of the passage given on the following page.

Your armor

1. Gird your loins about with truth (v. 14).
2. Put on the breastplate of righteousness (v. 14).
3. Shod your feet with the Gospel (v. 15).
4. Take up the shield of faith (v. 16).
5. Put on the helmet of salvation (v. 17).
6. Take up the sword of the Spirit (v. 17).

Gird your loins about with truth

A believer clothes himself with the truth by studying Scripture. The Bible from Genesis 1.1 to Revelation 22.21 is truth. Every believer needs to study the entire Bible book-by-book, chapter-by-chapter and verse-by-verse throughout his life. Daily and methodical reading, studying, memorizing and meditating on Scripture is a must. We need the whole truth and not just part of the truth to be victorious in our spiritual battles. That is why it is extremely important to set up a Spiritual Fitness Program. You should already have set one up, but if you have not go to Appendix C and then take the time to set up one. Do not put it off for even one day.

Believers clothe themselves with the truth, but also with righteous deeds. A believer's robe of righteousness is symbolic of our righteous deeds that God has prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2.10; 2 Timothy 3.17). Each morning when a believer wakes up he puts on his robe of righteousness by praying (1 Thessalonians 5.17) that the Lord direct his steps that day and give him the strength to do the good deeds that God has prepared for him to do. He also needs to spend time in the Word. Daily Bible reading, study, memorization and meditation is necessary to prepare for spiritual battle. One must start the day with time in Scripture and then renew one's mind with It throughout the day. Taking periodic Bible breaks is a good habit to develop.

Girding your loins with the truth is symbolic of preparing your mind for battle. We do that by daily reading, studying,

memorizing and meditating on Scripture. One must be prepared to encounter problems throughout the day and respond to them in a holy, loving, joyful and considerate manner. These problems may be encounters with people seeking to harm or deceive us, accidents, illness or circumstances that prevent us from doing what we planned to do. When we fight through our daily problems with prayer and meditation on Scripture we will win the battles through the power of Jesus Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4.13).

Put on the breastplate of righteousness

To put on the breastplate of righteousness means to live a holy life. All believer's are commanded to live holy lives (Leviticus 11.44; 19.2; 20.7; Psalm 99.3, 9; 1 Peter 1.14-16) instead of continuing to live sinful lives as we did before we were saved and cleansed (Romans 6.1-2, 6-7, 12-13; Ephesians 4.17; 1 Peter 4.2-3). We are to daily not be conformed to the world but transform and cleanse our minds (Romans 12.1-2). We do this by reading, studying, memorizing and meditating on Scripture. It is the Word of God that cleanses our minds and lives (John 15.3; 17.17; Ephesians 5.26). This daily cleansing will enable us to lay aside our old nature, be renewed in our minds and put on our new nature (Ephesians 4.22-24). It will also help us abstain from fleshly lust (1 Peter 2.11) and not love the things of the world (1 John 2.15-17). As we daily read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture the Holy Spirit washes, regenerates and renews us (Titus 3.5).

Shod your feet with the Gospel

Shodding your feet (putting on footwear) means to be prepared at all times to share the Gospel. Every believer is commanded to know what the Gospel is and how to share it with everyone who asks him about his faith (1 Peter 3.15). To be able to share the Gospel in a clear manner one must

memorize the basic verses. It is also necessary to learn how to quote them in a logical order and comment on them. Memorize the basic verses in Step 2 and practice sharing the Gospel with a brother. This is another reason you need a discipleship partner (Step 5).

Take up the shield of faith

Taking up the shield of faith means to use your faith. We do that by trusting the Lord to meet our needs as He has promised (Matthew 6.25-34; Philippians 4.6). Instead of worrying about our daily needs we are to trust in the Lord. That does not mean we can watch television all day and not seek work. Everyone must work for a living (2 Thessalonians 3.10). We do what we can to meet our needs and trust the Lord for the rest.

Along with using our faith we should seek to increase it. The more we exercise our faith the more it grows. It also grows by study of Scripture for “*faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*” (Romans 10.17). The more we study Scripture the more our faith grows. This is just one more reason why every believer needs to read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture daily.

Put on the helmet of salvation

Putting on the helmet of salvation is having total assurance of your salvation (1 Thessalonians 5.8). The helmet protects the most vital part of a body and when a soldier does not wear a helmet he becomes highly vulnerable to injury and death. The same is true in spiritual warfare. When a believer does not have complete assurance that he is saved he can easily be taken out by the enemy. Doubts can sneak into one’s mind concerning his conversion and if they are not dealt with they can cause him to stop serving God or even believing in Him.

Assurance of salvation is necessary to stay in the spiritual battle. Failure to have assurance also endangers the brethren.

A believer in a position of leadership who does not have assurance can cause others to doubt their salvation resulting in the destruction of spiritual moral. Spiritual soldiers who are demoralized are ineffective and become casualties.

One can have assurance of salvation by knowing the Gospel and by making a public profession that you have trusted in Jesus Christ alone to save you by His sacrifice on the cross understanding that *“that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures”* (1 Corinthians 15.3-4). Once you make that confession fully trusting Jesus to save you apart from works, baptism, keeping the Sabbath or any other law or ordinance you can have total assurance of your salvation.

Take up the sword of the Spirit

The sword is an offensive and defensive weapon. Every believer should be an expert swordsman capable of defending his faith. Our spiritual sword is Scripture (Hebrews 4.12). Defending our faith is the ability to quote or cite Scriptures to refute those who make false charges or claims against our faith, the Bible and God. One uses Scripture in an offensive manner by using Scripture to destroy concepts, ideologies and philosophies that are opposed to Scripture (2 Corinthians 10.5). We can also defend the faith and destroy unbiblical ideologies by writing articles and books, and making audio and video presentations.

Prayer

Along with our armor we must also use prayer in our daily spiritual battles. We should wake up praying, pray throughout the day and pray as we fall asleep (1 Thessalonians 5.17). We are to pray for ourselves and our brethren (Ephesians 6.18). We cannot pray for every believer we know, but we should try to pray for as many as we can.

Appearance

Every believer is an ambassador of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5.20) and should dress as an ambassador. This does not mean we must walk around in public in our Sunday best every day of the week. For some that is appropriate for them, but not for most. We should dress well and not try to attract undue attention to ourselves. Men should wear clean slacks that are not too worn out with decent shoes and a clean shirt. Women should wear a clean dress or skirt that does not cling to her body and which hangs down to her knees or below. Mini-skirts are not modest dress. If a woman wears a skirt with a blouse the blouse should not cling to her body revealing all of her curves. It should also not be a low-cut blouse. Women should only wear slacks if a dress or skirt would be not appropriate for the chore they are doing. Women should also not doll themselves up with loads of make-up, jewelry, fancy hair-dos or anything else. They must always dress modestly without attempting to draw attention to themselves:

Your adornment must not be merely external braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. (1 Peter 3.3-4)

Single women, you do not have to look like a movie star or a model to attract the attention of a man. You attract the attention of a holy man by living a holy life, dressing modestly and serving the Lord. The kind of man women attract by wearing provocative clothing and accessories is not the type of man a true daughter of Sarah should want (1 Peter 3.6).

A true man of YAHWEH may not be exciting, funny, rich, handsome, strong or anything else that most unsaved women are looking for. Which is more important to you – a man of the world who makes you happy for a few years or a man of YAHWEH who is sold out to Him and to you?



\$4 million home of a Christian TV Network CEO

STEP NINE

SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL

The devil and his ministers have thousands of schemes to keep believers from fully serving the Lord. We are commanded to not be ignorant of those schemes and to keep from being sidetracked by them:

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the **schemes of the devil**. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6.10-12)*

Here are the top ten schemes of the devil:

1. Love of money
2. Career/Job
3. Spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, sex

4. Accumulation of stuff
5. Television, movies, music
6. Sports
7. Unsaved friends
8. Celebrity worship
9. Food
10. Alcohol and drugs

There are many other schemes that the devil and his ministers of evil (2 Corinthians 11.15) use to distract, sidetrack, confuse, deceive, and mislead believers so they cannot serve their Lord and Savior fully.



Love of money

For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (1 Timothy 6.10)

The love of money is the most powerful weapon that the rulers of darkness use to keep believers from being dedicated bond servants of Jesus Christ. Virtually everyone in the Western World has a love of money, some more than others. All believers must fight the desire of the flesh to be rich. We are commanded to replace our natural love of the world and all that is in it with the love of the Father:

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2.15-17)

We need to replace the natural (sinful) love of the world and the things in it with the love of the Father. The way to do that is by being in prayer, in the Word, in fellowship with the brethren, and by sharing the Gospel. It does not happen overnight. It takes decades to replace the love of the world with the love of the Father. It takes dedication, discipline and accountability.

Career/Job

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6.33)

Everyone must work. Paul commanded the pastors of the church in Thessalonica to compel all believers to work. If they refused to work they were not to be given food (2 Thessalonians 3.10).

Yet for too many men and women a career or job becomes the most important thing in their life. They neglect the Lord, their spouse, their children, their neighbors and strangers. Some believers neglect the Lord and others almost fully, while some neglect the Lord and others to a lesser degree. Believers must never allow their career or job to consume them and come before and between the Lord and their family. Sadly, many pastors and evangelists neglect their family.

Spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, sex

But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and his interests are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord. (1 Corinthians 7. 32-35)

It is not a sin to marry (1 Corinthians 7.28), and it is better to marry than to burn in lust (1 Corinthians 7.9). If a couple is 100% sold out to Jesus Christ marriage can increase the time they serve Him. Yet the majority of marriages are not between two sold out believers. Most couples spend more time serving each other than they do the Lord. In bad marriages couples neglect their duties to each other and the Lord. One or both become backslidden shipwrecking their faith.

A believing couple that is not sold out to the Lord can be if they want to. The following steps will help you become a true bond slave couple of the Lord:

1. Pray together every day (1 Thessalonians 5.17).
2. Read the Bible together every day (Deut. 17.19).
3. Study the Bible together at least once a week (2 Timothy 2.15).
4. Memorize Scripture together – one verse a week (Psalm 119.11).
5. Meditate on Scripture together (Joshua 1.8; Job 23.12; Psalm 1.2).
6. Go to church together and get involved (Hebrews 10.24-25).

7. Live a holy life and share the Gospel as the Holy Spirit leads (1 Peter 3.15).
8. If you have children disciple them (Deut. 4.9-10; 6.6-9; 11.18; 32.46; Proverbs 1.8; 2.1; 3.1; 4.1; 5.1; 6.20).

For the vast majority of single believers their relationships with their boyfriends/girlfriends hinder their service to the Lord. The way to not be sidetracked while you are seeing someone is to follow the first seven steps above.

Sex is a problem for all singles. They are commanded to *“flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”* (2 Timothy 2.22). Instead of wasting time and money chasing loose women, brothers in the Lord are to spend their time serving the Lord with other Spirit led believers. They should give some of their money to the work of the Lord instead of strange women (Proverbs 29.3).

Sisters in the Lord who allow brothers or unsaved men to seduce them in hopes of getting married are fooling themselves. Most men abandon the women they seduce for another. It is always better for a brother or sister in the Lord to wait until marriage to engage in sex.

Accumulation of stuff

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’ So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” (Luke 12.20-21)

Every believer owns things. Even the apostles who had very little owned clothes, a knapsack, a walking stick and a flask or jug of some kind to drink from as they took the Gospel to the nations. Some even had homes, but none of them accumulated lots of possessions.



Rolls Royce James Young 1961

Believers should remember that everything we own is a tool to help us serve the Lord more effectively. We might consider disposing of the things that we have solely for our pleasure. Any possession, whether it is a car, motorcycle, dirt bike, ATV, RV, boat or plane, that takes more of your time than you give to God is an idol (1 John 5.21).

Every believer should spend more time in the Scriptures, prayer, fellowship with the brethren and sharing the Gospel than on their possessions and worldly activities. If you are spending five minutes a day in prayer and maybe five minutes a day reading the Bible, your possessions and your love for the things of the world are more important to you than your Savior. You need to examine your faith, your life and your desires, and then make some changes.

Put Jesus Christ first in your life. Give Him the first hour of your free time each day. Pray before you do anything for yourself and pray throughout the day. Read, study, memorize or meditate on His Word when you start each day. Eat spiritual food before you eat physical food (Deuteronomy 8.3). Then consume His Word throughout the day. Read a chapter here and a chapter there. Try to memorize one verse a week and pick a book or topic to study and study it. Get disciplined.

Another aspect in accumulating stuff is envy. Some believers accumulate stuff because they are envious of their neighbors, friends, relatives and strangers who have more stuff than they do. Believers are to not envy others (saved or unsaved) for any reason (Proverbs 23.17; 24.1, 19). We are to be content with the bare necessities as Agur was (Proverbs 30.8-9), and as Paul was (Philippians 4.11; 1 Timothy 6.8; Hebrews 13.5). We must also remember what our Lord said about possessions and necessities – that we should not accumulate wealth (Matthew 6.19-21) and should not be anxious for our daily needs (Matthew 6.25-32). Instead we are to lay up eternal treasures in Heaven (Matthew 6.20) and seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 6.33).



Television, movies, music

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10.31)

There is probably no believer in the Western World who has not become distracted from serving the Lord to some degree by secular television, movies and secular music. Far too many believers spend more time watching television and

movies than they do praying and studying the Bible. If believers in the West were to spend more time in prayer and in the Word than they do just watching television and movies there would be a revival greater than that of the first Great Awakening of the 18th century.

Television and movies are two of the most effective forms of brainwashing ever invented. Viewers are conditioned to accept what is shown through thousands of viewings. The brainwashing is very subtle and it can take decades to fully brainwash some people. Some of the behaviors that the devil's brainwashing machines have conditioned people to accept as normal are – drunkenness, getting high on drugs, smoking, pre-marital and extra-marital sex, homosexuality, abortion, cheating others, lying, stealing, cursing, gambling and doing whatever it takes to get ahead. It has also been used to push the numerous isms that plague the world – atheism, humanism, evolutionism, communism, socialism, feminism, homosexuality, hedonism and existentialism.

There is very little worth watching on secular television. Some news programs, documentaries, wildlife shows and talk shows can be worth watching, but virtually all dramas, situation comedies and soap operas are a total waste of time. Quiz and game shows and reality shows are also a waste of time. They are just trivial pursuits.

Believer television is primarily entertainment with very little serious Bible teaching and preaching. Be very careful what you watch. There are hundreds of false teachers on television who are leading believers astray.

If you need to relax read the Bible or a good book about the Bible. Talk with your spouse and children. You can also go to church. Attendance on Sunday and Wednesday night is about ten percent of the Sunday morning service for most churches in America.

Think about what believers did before radio, movies and television were invented. They spent time in fellowship with their families and each other. The devil and his minions have hindered believers from serving the Lord with the distraction of radio, television and movies.

Virtually all secular music and far too much “Christian” music are not pleasing to the Lord. Rock and Roll, Hip Hop, Rap, Blues, Jazz and Country Western music are for the most part not edifying and they are definitely not honoring to the Lord. Most “Christian” music is not edifying or honoring to the Lord either.

Be very discriminating in what music you listen to. It is a subtle form of brainwashing just as television and movies are.



Lombardy Trophy awarded to the winner of the Super Bowl

Sports

For bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.
(1 Timothy 4.8)

Professional and amateur sports are a phenomenon of the 20th century. Even though they began in the 19th century they did not appeal to the masses until the 20th century.

There is nothing wrong in participating in sports. Yet some believers spend far more time participating in all kinds of sports and it becomes an obsession. During the fitness craze of the 1970s and 80s some believers spent more time in the gym than they did in church, prayer and the Word. Some still do.

There is also nothing wrong in watching a sporting event in person or on television, but the vast majority of brothers in the Lord spend far too much time watching sporting events. If every brother who watches sports were to spend more time in prayer and the study of the Bible than watching sports there would be a revival in the West greater than the second Great Awakening of the 18th century.

Sports is the most popular subject of discussion among men in church. It is hard to believe but many churches have Super Bowl parties at church. Most men talk about sports after service or at potlucks. They rarely talk about the Bible. Why? They know everything about their favorite sport and teams, but almost nothing about the Bible. Pastors need to set the example by never talking about sports at church or church gatherings, and they should discourage men from talking about sports. Every pastor should challenge the men in the church to give up one Super Bowl. They should have an all men's prayer meeting and Bible study during the Super Bowl where the importance of spending time each day in prayer and the Bible is taught. Maybe some pastors will be able to wean their men off the worship of the idol called the Super Bowl. They can also do the same thing for the World Series, and the basketball and hockey playoffs. Imagine how happy the wives would be. It would bring husbands and wives closer together.

Unsaved friends

Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." (1 Corinthians 15.33)

Peer pressure is a big distraction among young believers. They have extreme pressure put on them in the public schools to fit in. Most give in and hang out with the unsaved. They do the things the unsaved do and far too many get dragged into the lifestyle of the wicked. By the time they graduate from high school they no longer go to church and the few who do go to make their parents happy. Once they head off to college they usually fall away entirely and live like the wicked. That is one reason why most believers marry the unsaved.

It is the duty of the pastors and the parents to teach their youth that they are not to hang with the wicked. They are not to have unsaved friends and never date an unsaved person. This does not mean they can never speak with someone who is not saved. They should do that every day and share the Gospel through word and deed. It means they are not to do worldly things with their unsaved friends.

They can have unsaved friends go to church and church events with them, but they should avoid going to places and doing things with the unsaved that is not honoring to the Lord. A possible exception might be playing pick up or organized ball. Yet if the unsaved men they play with use foul language and tell dirty jokes believers must tell them they will not tolerate it. The unsaved will comply with the wishes of a believer most of the time. If they do not they should walk away. When believers play ball with the lost they should be the leader and always take the time to say something about their faith in Jesus Christ.

Celebrity worship

Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen. (1 John 5.21)

Virtually all the unsaved and most believers worship celebrities. Believers do not consider their admiration of celebrities to be a form of worship but it is. Any time a believer spends more time following the exploits of a celebrity

than they do fellowshiping with their Savior that is celebrity worship. If you spend more time following your favorite celebrity than you do in prayer and Bible reading, study, memorization and meditation you have a problem with idol worship. That celebrity is an idol that you worship. Study the warning that John gave all of us (1 John 5.21).

Anything that a one devotes more time to than prayer, the Word, fellowship with the brethren and sharing the Gospel with the lost is an idol. The only exceptions are sleep, work and family. Examine yourself to see if you have any idols. Take the “Faith Check” in Appendix B.



Food

Whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. (Philippians 3.19)

The devil does not have to work very hard to sidetrack believers with food, but he pushes junk food with a vengeance. He knows it kills more people every year than anything else. More than one million people die every year in America alone from heart disease, diabetes, cancer and other ailments that are caused by poor diet.

Most believers overeat without much help from the forces of darkness. They do not understand that their body is a “*a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.*” (1Corinthians 3.16-17). That means if a believer destroys his body (*the temple of God*) through eating a poor diet, consuming excessive amounts of alcohol, drugs or tobacco, or a lack of proper sleep and exercise, God will destroy him.

Of these leading causes of premature death in America all are due primarily to poor diet and use of toxic substances such as alcohol, illegal drugs and tobacco. Some researchers believe diet is the main cause of Alzheimer’s. It should also be noted that the third leading cause of death in America is medical errors. In 2000 a researcher discovered that 225,000 Americans died from medical errors including overdose from prescription drugs. If you eat an unhealthy diet you will end up in the hospital and you may die due to medical incompetence.

Few believers die of old age. Most die prematurely due to myriad ailments caused from eating a poor diet. They consume far too much sugar, caffeine, meat, processed foods and milk products. These are the killer foods that cause heart disease, stroke, diabetes and Alzheimer’s disease. (There is some evidence that drinking sodas in aluminum cans is a contributing factor in Alzheimer’s disease. The aluminum leeches into the sodas and accumulates in the brain causing the dreaded disease.) The leading causes of death in America in 2007 were:

Heart disease	616,067
Cancer	562,875
Stroke (cerebrovascular diseases)	135,952
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	127,924
Alzheimer’s disease	74,632
Diabetes	71,382
Nephritis and nephrosis	46,448
Annual deaths due to poor diet	1,383,225

Pastors should set an example by eating a healthy diet and exhorting their flock to do the same. Yet many pastors set the example of gluttony and their flock follows them. Gluttony is a sin (Proverbs 23.20-21; 28.7), and no matter how many excuses a pastor or layman may make – there is NO excuse to not loose weight. It is very easy for anyone to lose weight. All one has to do is reduce their intake of calories and eat healthy foods. No matter how slow a person’s metabolism may be anyone can lose weight.

The key to losing weight and having a healthy “*temple of God*” is knowledge. Always get proper sleep and exercise. Drink pure water and replace unhealthy foods with healthy ones. Keep replacing junk foods with good foods until all you eat is healthy foods. That is the way to keep your “*temple of God*” in tip-top condition. Whenever possible buy organic foods. Below is a chart of “healthy” and “unhealthy” foods. Try to eat as many of the “healthy” foods as you can and as few of the “unhealthy” foods as possible.

Healthy Foods	Unhealthy Foods
Fruits	Alcohol
Vegetables	Sugar (raw and in food)
Raw cereals (no added sugar)	Sodas
Nuts	Caffeinated drinks
Seeds	Milk
Eggs	Ice cream
Legumes (beans)	Cheese
Grains (rice, corn, millet, rye)	Cottage cheese
Stem tubers (potatoes)	Yogurt
Root tubers (sweet potatoes/ yams)	Meat
Peppers	Fish
Herbs	Fowl
Allium (onions, scallions, garlic, shallots, leeks, chives)	Processed foods (Most foods in boxes, cans and packages.)

If you eat any of the unhealthy foods buy organic only. To learn more about the dangers of the Standard American Diet that has killed millions of Americans watch the movies *Fast Food Nation*, *Food, Inc.* and *Super Size Me*; watch the videos “*Diet for a New America*” and “*Food: The Ultimate Secret*” (www.infowars.com/food-the-ultimate-secret-exposed), read the book by Eric Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation* and *Diet for a New America* by John Robbins; and read the articles at www.naturalnews.com.

There are other dangers not only in the food we eat, but the water we drink. To learn about the dangers of fluoridated water check these links: www.radioliberty.com/nldec04.html & www.naturalnews.com. When you go to the Natural News website type in *fluoride* in its search window to see a list of articles dealing with it.

There is also a danger in vaccines. To learn about this threat visit: www.naturalnews.com. (Type *vaccines* in the search window.)

One last danger to consider is the cell phone. For articles concerning this type *cell phone* into the search window at www.naturalnews.com.

Take care of the temple of the Holy Spirit the best you can.

Alcohol, drugs, thrill seeking

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5.18)

Abuse of alcohol and drugs (legal and illegal) is one of the leading causes of crime, loss of work productivity and divorce. They will continue to be abused until the Second Advent of Jesus Christ. During the Tribulation drug addiction will be universal. Virtually everyone will be an addict of legal or illegal drugs (Revelation 9.21; 18.23).

No Christian should ever become intoxicated with alcohol or drugs. If you do not get “high” by studying the Bible there might be something wrong with you. Studying the Bible is the

most exciting thing any believer can do. There is nothing a believer can do in this life that is more exciting.

Alcoholics get “high” by drinking a few beers at the beginning, but eventually downing a six-pack is not enough. They have to move on to more powerful drinks to get “high.” Some end up drinking themselves drunk every night.

Drug addicts start with a weak drug but the “high” they get is not that big so they take more of the drug or they move on to more potent drugs. Many drug addicts get to a point that no matter how powerful a dose they take they cannot get “higher.” The only way they can get “higher” is to over-dose themselves into Hell.

There are also thrill-seekers who seek out all sorts exciting activities, but after they have done them a few dozen times the thrill is not the same. They seek something bigger, better, faster and scarier. Some of these thrill-seekers end up dying from pushing too hard.

Thrill-seekers usually run out of things to do to give them the “rush” they seek. Believers can get “high” and get a greater “rush” than anything natural man can experience by studying the Bible. Studying the infallible, holy Word of God is more thrilling than anything you can imagine. The Bible is God revealing Himself to you. The more we study His Word the more learn about Him and get to know Him.

How could any physical experience be more thrilling and exciting than communing with the Creator of the Universe? Do you really believe that fellowship with the Creator of the Universe is boring? If you do not get so excited when you study the Bible that you want to rush out and share what you learned with others you may be spiritually dead. If the infinite wisdom, understanding and knowledge of God are boring to you it is possible you may not be saved.

If studying the Bible has been boring to you try studying these books – Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Daniel, James, 1 John, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Jude and Revelation. Start with one book and read a chapter or two each day. Take notes and write down what you learn. Memorize verses that speak to you and

meditate on them. Write notes about things you do not understand and find someone who can teach you.

If that does not get you excited study the following passages – Genesis 2.6; 3.24; 6.1-4; 15.17; 20.12; 24.2-5; 28.12-17; 29.22; 32.24-32; 38.1-30; Exodus 4.24-26; 32.20; Isaiah 8.1-3; 20.1-6; Micah 1.8. Other passages to study are:

The Eternal Kingdom – Revelation 21.1-22.5

Extreme phenomenon – Joshua 10.12-13; 2 Kings 20.9-11; Joshua 10.11; Revelation 16.21; Revelation 16.18-20

Spaceships – 2 Kings 2.11; 6.17; Ps. 68.17; Isaiah 66.15; Habakkuk. 3.8

Flying horses – Revelation 19.11, 14

Guardian angels – Matthew 18.10; Acts 12.15

Forces of darkness – Daniel 10.20; John 12.31; 14.30; 16.11; 2 Corinthians 4.4; Ephesians 2.2; 6.12

Angelic weapons – Genesis 19.11; Ezek. 9.1, 2, 7; Acts 12.7, 10

Biological weapons – Job 2.7; Exodus 12.23, 29-30; Psalm 78.49-51; 2 Samuel 24.15-17; 1 Chronicles 21.14-16; Amos 4.10.

If the above passages do not give you a hunger and thirst to study the Bible you may want to examine your faith (2 Corinthians 13.5).

Schemes to blind the lost

The devil's gang has thousands of schemes which they use to blind "*the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*" (2 Corinthians 4.4). Believers should be aware

of these schemes so we can defeat them through prayer and the Word of God. The top ten blinders are:

1. Love of money
2. Career/Job
3. Spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, sex
4. Accumulation of stuff
5. Television, movies, music
6. False religions, cults, isms
7. Sports
8. Celebrity worship
9. Food
10. Alcohol and drugs

The schemes of the devil to distract believers and blind the lost are almost identical. He uses the same old tricks that have worked for thousands of years. When new technology comes along such as movies, radio, TV and the Internet he races in and uses it to deceive mankind.

The devil uses false religions, cults and the isms to deceive the lost and the saved. It is the duty of pastors to teach their flock what the false religions and cults are and train them how to resist being seduced by them. Pastors should also train them how to lead cultists to the Lord. It is important for them to show their flock from the Scriptures that the leading isms plaguing the world are of the devil. They are:

Atheism	Liberalism
Evolutionism	Socialism
Humanism	Communism
Hedonism	Existentialism

These isms are taught in all public schools in the West and the students are thoroughly brainwashed into accepting them. This is a major reason why believing parents should not send their children to the devil's indoctrination centers (day-care centers, public schools and public universities). Every church should do what it can to train parents to home school their children or to have a school.

STEP TEN

STUDY QUESTIONS

Remember to study the teaching outline on page 83. Study it carefully reading every passage before answering these questions.

Introduction

1. In the First Century what names were people called who trusted in Jesus Christ? (John 21.23; Acts 6.3 – Acts 5.14; 1 Timothy 4.12 – Acts 11.26; 26.28; 1 Peter 4.16 – Matthew 27.52; Acts 26.10; Romans 1.7; 8.27; 1 Thessalonians 3.13 – Acts 6.1-2, 7; 9.1, 10, 19, 25-26, 36, 38; 11.26, 29; 13.52; 14.20, 22; 15.10; 16.1; 18.23, 27; 19.1, 9, 30; 20.1, 7, 30; 21.4, 16)

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.

2. In the First Century what was the name of the believer Faith? (Acts 9.2; 19.9, 23; 22.4; 24.14, 22)

3. Is every true believer in Jesus Christ a disciple?

4. What activities should a disciple of Jesus do on a regular basis? (Romans 10.17; Revelation 1.3; 2 Timothy 2.15; Psalm 119.11; Psalm 1.2; Ephesians 6.18; Hebrews 10.24-25; 1 Peter 3.15; 2 Timothy 2.2)

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

H.

I.

5. Should a true believer be an active member of a church? (Romans 12.1-16; 1 Corinthians 12.4-31)

6. Should every believer know how to study the Bible? (Acts 17.11; 2 Timothy 2.15)

7. Should every believer know how to teach the Bible? (Deuteronomy 6.6-7; Proverbs 6.20)

8. Was the Great Commission given to all believers? (Matthew 28.19-20)

9. Should every believer be able to share the gospel in a clear and concise manner? (1 Peter 3.15)

10. Should every believer eventually know how to make a disciple? (Matthew 28.19-20)

Sin and Judgment

1. Does everyone have a need to be saved? (Romans 3.23)

2. Is there a spark of divinity in everyone? (Psalm 14.1-3; 51.5; 53.1-4; 143.2; Ecclesiastes 3.18; Isaiah 64.6; Romans 3.10-12)

3. At what age does everyone go astray – follow the path of sin? (Psalm 58.3)

4. What is the end result of living a life of sin? (Proverbs 12.15; 14.12; 16.25; Romans 6.23)

5. Will those who die in their sins be judged for every sin they committed? (Psalm 62.12; Proverbs 24.12; Jeremiah 17.10; 32.19; Matthew 12.36; 16.27; Luke 8.17; Romans 2.6, 16; 1 Peter 1.17; Revelation 2.23; 20.12)

6. Will there be varying degrees of punishment in Hell and the Lake of Fire? (Matthew 11.22; Mark 6.11; Luke 12.46-48; 20.47)

7. Where do those who die in their sins go? (Luke 16.19-31; Revelation 20.11-15)

A.

B.

8. How long will the wicked remain in the Lake of Fire? (Matthew 25.41, 48; Revelation 14.11; 20.10)

9. Are the descriptions of Hell and the Lake of Fire literal or symbolic? (Psalm 11.6; 140.10; Proverbs 25.22; Luke 16.19-31; Romans 12.20; Revelation 14.9-11; 20.10; 21.8)

10. Where is Hell located? (Psalm 63.9; Isaiah 44.23; Ezekiel 26.20; Matthew 12.40)

11. Where is the Lake of Fire located? (Matthew 8.12; 22.13; 25.30; 2 Peter 2.17; Jude 13)

Salvation

1. What must you do to be saved? (Acts 16.30-31; Romans 10.9-11)

A. What does believing in Jesus Christ mean? (John 3.16)

B. What does faithing in Jesus mean? (Romans 4.5)

C. What does trusting in Jesus mean? (Matthew 12.21; 2 Corinthians 1.9; 1 Timothy 4.10)

D. What does receiving Jesus mean? (John 1.12)

2. What is the gospel of Jesus Christ? (I Corinthians 15.3-5)

A.

B.

C.

D.

3. A person is saved by _____ through _____ in Jesus Christ alone (Ephesians 2.8).

4. Is there anything we need to do to be saved other than trust in Jesus? (Romans 4.1-8; Ephesians 2.9)

5. Can a person be saved apart from Jesus? (John 14.6; 15.23)

A. Can members of religions that do not believe that Jesus Christ is God be saved and go to Heaven?

B. Can people be saved and go to Heaven if they are faithful Jews, Buddhists, Hindus or Muslims?

6. What happens to people who die without hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ? (Romans 1.18-20)

7. What happens to those who die before they are able to understand the gospel such as unborn babies, infants, toddlers and the retarded? (2 Samuel 12.23)

8. Do those who die without believing in Jesus Christ get a second chance to be saved? (Hebrews 9.27)

9. Should there be noticeable changes in your life after you trust Jesus to save you? (2 Corinthians 5.17)

10. What are some changes you have seen in your life since being saved?

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

H.

I.

11. If there is no visible change in a person's life could it mean their confession of faith in Jesus Christ was not sincere?

12. Does saying a salvation prayer save you?

13. Can a person think he is saved, and not be born from above? (Matthew 7.21-23; Luke 13.24; 1 Corinthians 15.2)

14. What things can an unsaved person do in the name of Jesus Christ? (Matthew 7.21-23)

A.

B.

C.

15. Can a person lose, forfeit, give up or walk away from his salvation? (John 3.16; 5.24; 6.37-40; 10.28-29; 1 John 5.10-13).

16. If a person stops abiding in Christ could he lose his salvation? (Proverbs 3.11-12; Hebrews 12.5-6; John 15.1-6; 1 Corinthians 5.5)

17. Can a person have his salvation stolen from him by another person or by the forces of darkness? (Romans 8.37-39)

18. Is eternal life eternal or temporary? (Matthew 25.46; John 3.16; 5.24; 6.40; 10.28-29; Romans 6.23; 1 John 5.11-13)

Santification

1. Why should we live sanctified (holy) lives? (Leviticus 11.44; 19.2; 20.7; 2 Corinthians. 7.1; 1 Peter 1.15-16; 4.1-2; Hebrews 11.6)

A.

B.

1.

2.

2. How are we sanctified? (Psalm 119.9-11; John 15.3; 17.17; Ephesians 5.26 – Proverbs 15.29; Revelation 5.8; 8.3 – Deuteronomy 6.13; Psalm 95.6; Matthew 4.10; Acts 2.47 – Hebrews 3.13; 10.24-25; 1 Peter 4.7)

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

3. How often should we read the Bible? (Deuteronomy 17.19)

4. How often should we study Scripture? (Acts 2.42, 46; 17.11)

5. Should all believers memorize Scripture throughout their life?

6. Why should we memorize Scripture? (Deuteronomy 6.6; 11.18; 30.14; Psalm 37.31; 40.8; 119.9-11; Proverbs 22.18; Isaiah 51.7; Romans 10.8; Colossians 3.16)

7. How often should we meditate on Scripture (Joshua 1.8; Psalm 1.2; 63.6; 119.97, 148)

8. Why should we meditate on Scripture? (Joshua 1.8; Psalm 1.2; Psalm 119.99; 1 Timothy 4.15; 1 John 2.27)

A.

B.

C.

D.

9. How often should we pray? (1 Chronicles 16.11; Luke 18.1; Ephesians 6.18; 1 Thessalonians 5.17)

10. When are the best times to pray? (Mark 1.35; 6.46)

A.

B.

11. Who should we pray to? (John 14.13-14; 15.16; 16.23)

A.

B.

12. Why should we pray? (Matthew 26.41; Luke 11.9; John 16.24)

A.

B.

13. Who should we pray with? (Luke 5.16; Matthew 18.19; Luke 1.10; Acts 1.14; 4.24; 12.12; Acts 21.5; 1 Corinthians 7.5)

A.

B.

C.

14. What should our attitude be when we pray? (2 Chronicles 7.14; Jeremiah 29.13; Mark 11.24; James 1.6)

15. What should we not do when we pray? (Matthew 6.5-7)

16. What should we pray for? (1 Kings 3.9; Matthew 6.8-13; Acts 12.5; Ephesians 6.18; 1 Timothy 2.1-2; James 1.5; 5.13-15)

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

H.

I.

J.

K.

17. What must we do to have our prayers answered? (Proverbs 29.9; John 15.7; James 1.6; 1 John 3.22; 5.14-15)

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

18. How often should we pray for a specific thing? (Luke 18.1-8)

19. Will our prayers always be answered?

20. Should we be careful what we pray for? (Numbers 11.15; 1 Kings 19.4; Jonah 4.3)

21. Does the Lord answer some of our prayers to teach us a lesson?

22. What can keep our prayers from being answered? (Psalm 66.18; Proverbs 21.13; 28.9; Isaiah 59.2; Micah 3.4; Zechariah 7.13; James 1.6-7; James 4.3)

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

H.

23. Are there times we should agonize when we pray? (Deuteronomy 9.18, 25; 1 Samuel 15.11; Daniel 10.2-3, 11-12; Luke 6.12; 22.44; James 5.17)

24. What posture should we take when we pray? (Luke 22.41; John 17.1)

25. Should every Christian family have regular Bible study and times of worship? (Deuteronomy 6.7, 13)

26. What are the four basic acts involved in worship? (Deuteronomy 8.10; Psalm 9.11; 33.2; 67.3; 100.4; 107.22; Luke 2.13-14; 24.53; Acts 2.47; Hebrews 13.15 – Acts 1.14; 3.1 – John 7.14; 1 Timothy 4.13; 1 Peter 2.9 – Matthew 2.11; 1 Corinthians 16.1-2; 2 Corinthians 9.7)

A.

B.

C.

D.

27. Should all believers set aside one day each week to delight themselves in the Lord and honor Him? (Isaiah 58.13-14)

28. Should a disciple avoid fellowship or hanging out with a brother in the Lord who is backslidden? (Matthew 18.17; Romans 16.17; 1 Corinthians 5.11; 2 Thessalonians 3.6, 10, 14)

29. List some reasons why we should avoid being with a backslidden brother in the Lord (1 Corinthians 5.11; 15.33; 2 Thessalonians 3.6, 14). Come up with some of your own reasons.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

30. Should we actively kill our carnal desires and why? (Romans 6.1-6, 11-12, 18, 21-22; Galatians 2.20; 5.24)

31. Should we have a healthy hatred of evil and avoid the way of the world? (Job 28.28; Psalm 34.13-14; Proverbs 4.27; 8.13; 14.14, 16; Galatians 6.14; 2 Timothy 2.19-22; 1 Peter 3.10-11; 4.1-4; 1 John 2.15-17)

32. Explain why we should refrain from living like the unsaved? (1 Peter 2.12)

33. Should we watch television shows, movies and videos that glorify the sin nature or listen to worldly music that is dishonoring to the Lord?

34. Why should we not watch worldly television shows, movies, videos and not listen to worldly music that are dishonoring to YAHWEH? (Romans 1.2)

35. Should we fellowship and hang out with the unsaved? (Exodus 23.2; 34.12; Psalm 1.1; Proverbs 1.10-19; 4.14; 22.24; 23.6; 24.1; 2 Corinthians 6.14-18; Ephesians 5.11)

36. Why should we not fellowship with the unsaved? (1 Corinthians 15.33)

37. Should we actively look for the return of the Lord and if so why? (1 Corinthians 1.7; 1 Thessalonians 4.16-18; James 5.7-8; 1 John 2.28; 3.2-3)

38. How do we look for the Lord's return?

39. Is a true believer backslidden if he does not fellowship with the brethren? (Hebrews 3.13; 10.24-25)

40. Is a believer backslidden if he loves the world? (1 Timothy 6.10; 2 Timothy 4.10; 1 John 2.15-17)

41. What will the Lord do to a believer who is backslidden? (Psalm 39.11; 119.75; Proverbs 3.11-12; Hebrews 12.5-6; Revelation 3.19)

42. If a believer remains backslidden long enough could the Lord terminate his life? (John 15.1-6; 1 Corinthians 5.5)

Service

1. What are our spiritual weapons? (Ephesians 6.10-18)

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

2. Should we love those whom we serve? (John 13.35; 15.12; Romans 12.9; Galatians 3.12; 4.9; Hebrews 13.1-2; 1 Peter 1.22; 1 John 3.23)

3. Is humility an important attribute of a servant? (Proverbs 3.34; Isaiah 66.2; Micah 6.8; Luke 22.26; Romans 12.3, 16; Philippians 2.1-9; James 1.9-11; 4.6, 10; 1 Peter 5.5-6)

4. Should every believer be a servant to the brethren? (Mark 10.42-45)

5. Should we eagerly share with the brethren? (1 Timothy 6.18; James 2.15-18; 1 John 3.17-18)

6. List a few things we can share with each other.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

7. Should we bear the burdens of our fellow believers?
(Galatians 6.2)

8. List a few ways we bear each others burdens.

A.

B.

C.

D.

9. Does every believer have at least one spiritual gift?
(Romans 12.4-8; 1 Corinthians 12.4-11; 1 Peter 4.10)

10. How do we determine what our spiritual gifts are?

11. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? If so list them.

A.

B.

C.

12. Are you using your spiritual gifts?

Maturity

1. How do we grow in grace and in knowledge of the Lord? (1 Peter 2.2; 2 Peter 3.18)

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

2. What does a disciple do on a regular basis? (see page 220)

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

H.

I.

3. What is a bonds slave and should all Christians live as a bonds slave of Christ? (see page 221)

4. List men who were bonds slaves (see page 221).

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

5. Will all Christians who live holy lives suffer persecution?
(2 Timothy 3.12)

6. What does suffering result in if a disciple trusts in God?
(Romans 5.3-4)

A.

B.

C.

7. By our experience in suffering for the Lord we can help
_____. (Hebrews 4.15)

8. Should all believers be willing to die for the Lord and for
other believers? (John 15.13; 1 John 3.16)

9. Why should we increase our faith? (Hebrews 11.6; James
1.12; Revelation 3.11)

A.

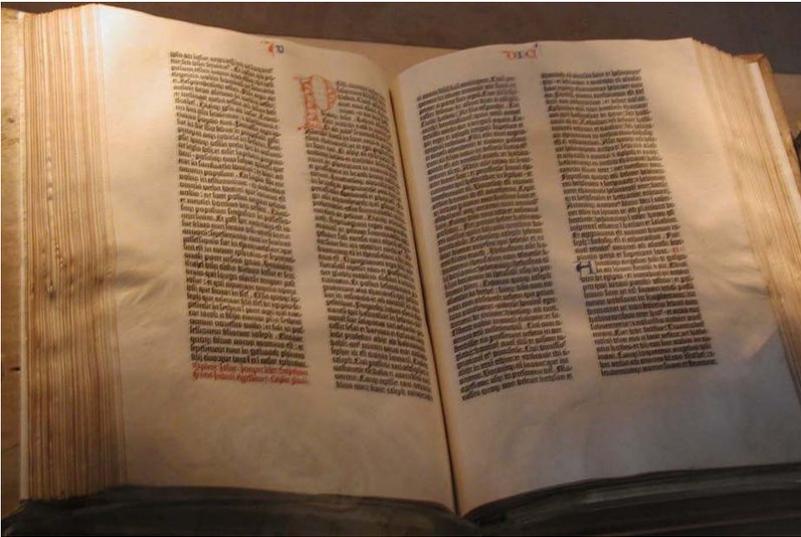
B.

10. How do we increase our faith? (Romans 10.17; Acts 2.42;
Acts 2.42; 5.42; Hebrews 10.24-25)

A.

B.

C.



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TEACHING OUTLINE

I. Introduction

- A. Every true believer in Jesus Christ is a disciple of His (Isaiah 8.16; Acts 9.1, 10, 19, 25-26, 36, 38; 11.26, 29; 13.52; 14.20, 22, 28; 15.10; 16.1; 18.23, 27; 19.1, 9, 30; 20.1, 7, 30; 21.4, 16).
- B. All believers should become teachers of the Bible (Hebrews 5.12).
- C. All believers are commanded to make disciples (Matthew 28.19-20).
- D. All fathers are commanded to disciple their children (Deuteronomy 4.9-10; 6.6-7; 11.18-19; 32.46-47).
- E. Before one can make a disciple he must be discipled (2 Timothy 2.2).

II. Sin and Judgment

- A. The need for salvation.
 - 1. Everyone is a sinner.
 - a. Everyone is conceived and born in sin (Psalm 51.5).
 - b. Everyone goes astray from birth (Psalm 58.3).
 - c. No one is righteous and no one seeks God (Psalm 14.1-3; 53.1-3; 143.2; Ecclesiastes 3.18; Isaiah 53.6; 64.6; Romans 3.10-12, 23).
 - 2. Everyone will die because of sin.
 - a. The result of sin is physical death (Proverbs 12.15; 14.12; 16.25; Romans 6.23).
 - b. The result of sin is spiritual death (Ephesians 2.1, 5; Colossians 2.13).

3. Everyone will be judged for every sin (Psalm 62.12; Proverbs 24.12; Jeremiah 17.10; 32.19; Matthew 12.36; 16.27; Luke 8.17; Romans 2.6, 16; 1 Peter 1.17; Revelation 2.23; 20.12).

B. Punishment of sin.

1. Everyone who dies in their sins goes to Hell (Luke 16.19-31).
2. Everyone who dies in their sins will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment for each sin, be found guilty and given a corresponding degree of punishment (Matthew 11.22; Mark 6.11; Luke 12.46-48; 20.47).
3. Everyone who dies in their sins will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20.11-15).
4. Punishment will be eternal – it will never end (Matthew 25.41, 46; Revelation 14.11; 20.10).
5. The descriptions of Hell and the Lake of Fire are literal (Psalm 11.6; 140.10; Proverbs 25.22; Luke 16.19-31; Romans 12.20; Rev 14.9-11; 20.10; 21.8).
6. The location of Hell (Psalm 63.9; Isaiah 44.23; Ezekiel 26.20; Matthew 12.40).
7. The location of the Lake of Fire (Matthew 8.12; 22.13; 25.30; 2 Peter 2.17; Jude 13; Rev. 14.10).

III. Salvation

A. The act of conversion.

1. How to be saved (Luke 18.13; 23.42; Acts 16.30-31; Romans 10.9-11, 13).
2. What it means to believe, trust, have faith in and receive Jesus Christ (John. 3.16; 5.24; 20.31; Romans 4.5; John 1.12).
3. The Gospel (1 Corinthians 15.3-5).
 - a. Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures (Isaiah 53.4-6, 8, 10-12).

- b. He was buried according to the Scriptures (Isaiah 53.9).
 - c. He rose from the dead according to the Scriptures (Isaiah 53.10, 12; Matthew 17.22-23; 20.18-19; Mark 8.31; Luke 9.22; 18.32-33; 22.37; John 2.19 and Isaiah 63.1-6; 66.15-16; Habakkuk 3.3-15).
- B. There is only one way to be saved.
 - 1. Salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and in Him alone (Ephesians 2.8).
 - 2. There is salvation in no one else .
 - a. There is no salvation in other religions (John 14.6; 15.23; Acts 4.12).
 - b. Some who die young are saved (2 Samuel 12.23).
 - c. Some who never hear the Gospel are saved (Isaiah 52.10; Romans 1.18-23).
 - 3. We cannot add to the work of Jesus (Romans 4.1-8; Ephesians 2.9; Titus 3.5).
 - 4. No one gets a second chance after death to be saved (Hebrews 9.27).
- C. The results of conversion.
 - 1. There will be noticeable changes in your life (Romans 6.4; 2 Corinthians 5.17; Colossians 3.10).
 - a. There will be a desire to know Jesus (Jeremiah 9.24; Ephesians 3.14-19; Colossians 1.10).
 - b. There will be a desire to fellowship with the Brethren (Micah 3.16; Acts 2.46-47; Hebrews 10.24-25).
 - c. There will be a desire to share Jesus with the lost (Psalm 26.7; 119.72; Jeremiah 20.9; Daniel 4.2; Matthew 9.31; Acts 2.4; 4.13-20; 26.22-24; 5.27-32; 2 Corinthians 4.13; 1 Peter 3.15).
 - d. There will be obedience to Jesus (1 Samuel 15.22; Matthew 7.24; 12.50; John 15.10; Acts 5.29; Ephesians 4.24; James.1.25).
 - e. There will be an abandonment of the life of sin (Psalm 34.13-14; Isaiah 1.16; John 8.11;

- Romans 6.11-12; 1 Corinthians 15.34; 2 Corinthians 5.15; Galatians 5.24; Ephesians 4.22; 2 Timothy 2.19, 22; Titus 2.12; Hebrews 12.1; James 4.4; 1 Peter 1.14; 2.11; 3.11; 4.1-4)
2. No noticeable change means there was no conversion.
 - a. Reciting a salvation prayer does not save you
 - b. Many can think they are saved when they are not (Matthew 7.21-23; Luke 13.24; 2 Corinthians 13.5).
- D. Eternal life.
1. Everyone who believes in Jesus is promised eternal life (John 3.16; 5.24; 10.28-29; Romans 6.23; 1 John 5.11-13).
 2. A true believer cannot lose, forfeit, give up or walk away from his salvation (John 3.16; 5.24; 6.37-40; 10.28-29; 1 John 5.10-13).
 3. If a believer stops abiding in Christ he is in danger of being punished and even being taken home (Proverbs 3.11-12; Hebrews 12.5-6; John 15.1-6; 1 Corinthians 5.5).
 4. A believer cannot have his salvation stolen from him by another person or by the forces of darkness (Romans 8.37-39).
 5. Eternal life is eternal. It is not a temporal thing that a person can have for a few years and then no longer have it (Matthew 25.46; John 3.16; 5.24; 6.40; 10.28-29; Romans 6.23; 1 John 5.11-13).

IV. Sanctification

- A. Definition of sanctify (*hagiazō*) is “make holy, purify or consecrate.”
- B. It is commanded (Matthew 5.48; 1 Peter 1.15-16; Leviticus 11.44-45; 19.2; 20.7).
- C. We should want to be holy.
 1. To please God (Hebrews 11.6).

2. To receive rewards (1 Corinthians 3.12-15; 2 Corinthians 5.10; Hebrews 11.6) (God knows every thought and motive – 1 Chron. 28.9; Jeremiah 17.10; Romans 2.16; Hebrews 4.12).
- D. Methods of sanctification (Proverbs 15.9).
1. Scripture (Psalm 25.4-5, 9; Proverbs 8.32-35; 22.17-21; Hosea 4.6, 14; 6.3; John 15.3; 17.17; Micah Romans 12.2; 1 Corinthians 3.2; Ephesians 5.26; Hebrews 5.12-14; 1 Peter 2.2).
 - a. Hear (Deuteronomy 4.9-10; Proverbs 8.34; Luke 18.15, 21; 11.28; James 1.22; Rev. 1.3).
 1. Radio, TV, recordings.
 2. Sermons/teaching at church (Nehemiah 8.1-8; 1 Timothy 4.13; 2 Timothy 4.2; Titus 1.9; 2.15).
 - b. Read (Deuteronomy 17.19; Revelation 1.5).
 - c. Study (Psalm 1.2).
 1. Personal (Proverbs 8.34; John 5.39; Acts 17.11; Romans 15.4; 2 Timothy 2.15).
 2. Family (Deuteronomy 4.9-10; 6.6-9; 11.19; 32.46-47; Proverbs 1.8; 2.1; 3.1; 4.1; 5.1; 6.20-23; 2 Timothy 3.15).
 3. Church (Nehemiah 8.7-8; 1 Timothy 4.11, 13; 2 Timothy 4.2; Titus 1.9; 2.15).
 - d. Memorize (Deuteronomy 6.6; 11.18; 30.14; Psalm 37.31; 40.8; 119.11; Proverbs 2.1; 3.1, 3; 4.1, 21; 6.21; 22.18; Isaiah 51.7; Ezekiel 3.10; Rom. 10.8).
 - e. Meditate (Joshua 1.8; Psalm 1.2; 4.4; 19.14; 63.6; 77.12; 104.34; 119.15, 23, 27, 48, 78, 97, 99, 148; 143.5; 1 Timothy 4.15).
 1. Father teaches us (Psalm 119.64).
 2. Son teaches us (1 Corinthians 2.16).
 3. Holy Spirit teaches us (John 14.26; 1 Cor. 2.13; 1 John 2.20, 27).
 2. Prayer (Proverbs 15.29; 28.9; Revelation 5.8; 8.3).
 - a. Who we should pray to?

1. Father (Matt. 6.8-13; John 14.13; 15.16).
 2. Son (John 14.14).
- b. Who we should pray with?
1. Spouse (I Corinthians 7.5; 1 Peter 3.7).
 2. Children (1 Thess. 5.17; Deut. 6.6-7).
 3. Brethren (Isaiah 56.7; Acts 1.14; 2.42; 4.31; 1 Timothy 2.1).
- c. How often we should pray? (1 Chronicles 16.11; Luke 11.5-10; 18.1-8; Ephesians 6.18; 1 Thess. 5.17; 1 Timothy 5.5).
- d. What prayer should consist of:
1. Praise (Psalm 35.28; 51.15; Hebrews 13.15; 1 Peter 2.9).
 2. Thanksgiving.
 - a. To God for His blessings (Ephesians 5.20; Col. 3.17; Phil. 4.6; 1 Thes. 5.18)
 - b. To God for people (1 Timothy 2.1).
 3. Petitions for the brethren (Daniel 9.20; Eph. 6.18; Phil. 1.3-4; Col. 1.9-12; 1 Tim. 2.8)
 4. Petitions for the lost (1 Timothy 2.1-2).
 5. Petitions for yourself (1 Samuel 1.27; Psalm 25.4-5; Jeremiah 33.3; Matthew 7.7-11; 26.41; Mark 11.24; John 16.24; Ephesians 3.20; James 5.13).
- e. How often we should pray for a specific thing? (Luke 11.5-10; 18.1-8)
1. Things we can pray for ourselves.
 - a. Wisdom, knowledge, understanding (Proverbs 2.6; James 1.5).
 - b. Boldness to share the Gospel (Eph. 6.19).
 - c. People to share the Gospel with (Acts 1.8).
 - d. Others to go with you to share the Gospel (Matthew 9.37-38).
 - e. An accountability partner (2 Timothy 3.16-17).

- f. A church that has dedicated pastors and that has a dynamic discipleship program (Matthew 28.19-20; 2 Timothy 2.15).
- g. Brethren to make disciples of (Matthew 28.19-20; 2 Timothy 2.15).
- f. We should agonize in our prayers (Deuteronomy 9.25-26; 1 Samuel 15.11; Luke 22.44; Acts 10.30; 1 Corinthians 7.5; Hebrews 5.7; James 5.16).
- g. How to get our prayers answered yes (Proverbs 28.9; Jeremiah 29.13; Mark 11.24; John 15.7; 1 John 3.22; 5.14-15).
- h. Some prayers are answered no (2 Corinthians 12.7-10).
- i. Keep public prayer brief (Ecclesiastes 5.2; Matthew 6.7).
- j. Examples of prayer:
 1. Jesus (Luke 22.41-46; 23.34, 46; John 17.1-26).
 2. Moses (Deuteronomy 9.25-29)
 3. Hannah (I Samuel 1.27).
 4. Solomon (I Kings 3.7-9).
 5. Elijah (I Kings 18.37-38).
 6. Ezra (Ezekiel 8.23).
 7. Daniel (Daniel 2.19-23; 9.3-19).
 8. Paul (Ephesians 3.14-21).
 9. Publican (Luke 18.13).
 10. Thief on the cross (Luke 23.42).
 11. Stephen (Acts 7.60).
- 3. Worship (1 Chronicles 16.29; Psalm 27.4; 84.10; 95.6; 96.9; Matthew 4.10; Revelation 14.7).
 - a. Who we should worship with?
 1. By yourself (Psalm 35.28; 51.15; 119.164; Matthew 4.10; John 4.24).
 2. Family (Deuteronomy 6.13).
 3. Brethren (1 Chronicles 16.29; Psalm 95.6; 149.1; Luke 19.37; 24.53; Acts 2.47; 16.25; Ephesians 5.19; Col.16).

- b. What the worship service consists of:
 - 1. Praise (Psalm 9.11; 33.2; 67.3; Luke 2.13-14; 24.53; John 7.14; Acts 2.46; 3.1; Hebrews 13.15; 1 Peter 2.9).
 - 2. Adoration (Matthew 2.11).
 - 3. Thanksgiving (Deuteronomy 8.10; Ps. 100.4; 107.22; Colossians 1.12; Hebrews 13.15).
 - 4. Giving (Matthew 2.11)
- 4. Delighting yourself and honoring the Lord one day each week (Isaiah 58.13-14).
- 5. Fellowship.
 - a. Family (Deut. 4.9-10; 6.6-9, 11.18-19; 32.46-47).
 - b. Brethren (Zechariah 7.9-10; Hebrews 3.13; 10.24-25; 1 Peter 4.7).
 - 1. Worship (Psalm 122.1).
 - 2. Prayer (Acts 4.31).
 - 3. Teaching (1 Tim. 4.13; 2 Tim. 4.2; Titus 1.9; 2.15).
 - c. Avoid fellowship with backsliders (Matthew 18.17; Romans 16.17; 1 Corinthians 5.11; 2 Thessalonians 3.6, 10, 14).
 - 5. Sharing the gospel (Matthew 28.19-20; 1 Peter 3.15).
 - a. With your family and relatives.
 - b. With your neighbors.
 - c. With your friends.
 - d. With those at work
 - e. With strangers.
 - 6. Walk and Run.
 - a. By the Spirit (Galatians 5.16, 18, 25)
 - b. By faith (2 Corinthians 5.7).
 - c. As Christ walked (1 John 2.6).
 - d. In love (Ephesians 5.2)
 - e. In the light (1 John 1.7)
 - f. In truth (Psalm 26.3; 86.11; 2 John 4; 3 John 3).
 - g. In newness of life (Romans 8.1).

- h. Worthy of our vocation (Ephesians 4.1)
- i. Circumspectly/wisely (Colossians 2.6).
- j. Not in the council of the wicked (Psalm 1.1).
- k. Run with endurance (Hebrews 12.1).
- l. Run to win (1 Corinthians 9.24).
 - 7. Keep your behavior perfect (Matt. 5.48; Phil. 1.27; 1 Peter 2.12)
 - 8. Lead a disciplined life (1 Cor. 9.24-27; Hebrews 12.1-2; 1 Peter 1.13).
 - 9. Hate evil and avoid the way of the world (Job 28.28; Psalm 34.13-14; Prov. 4.27; 8.13; 14.16; Galatians 6.14; 1 Thess. 4.3; 2 Timothy 2.19-22; 1 Peter 3.11; 4.1-4; 1 John 2.15-17).
 - 10. Have no fellowship with the world (Exodus 23.2; 34.12; Psalm 1.1; Proverbs 4.14; 21.1; 2 Cor. 6.14-18; Ephesians 5.11; James 4.4-5).
 - 11. Resist the Devil (Ephesians 4.26-27; 6.10-18; James 4.7; 1 Peter 5.8-9).
 - 12. Kill your carnal desires (Romans 6.1-6, 11-12, 18, 21-22; Galatians 2.20; 5.24).
 - 13. Look for the return of the Lord (1 Cor. 1.7; 1 Thess. 4.16-18; 2 Timothy 4.8; Titus 2.13; James 5.7-8; 1 John 2.28; 3.2-3).
- E. Backsliders (Prov. 14.14; Luke 9.62; Hebrews 10.38)
 - 1. Forms of backsliding:
 - a. Not abiding in Christ (John 15.1-6).
 - b. Indulging in immoral behavior (1 Cor. 5.11-13) 2 Thessalonians 3.6).
 - c. Avoid fellowship (Hebrews 10.24-25).
 - d. Become indifferent and without love (Luke 8.13-14; Revelation 2.4).
 - e. Love the world (1 Timothy 6.10; 2 Timothy 4.10)
 - f. Set up idols in one's heart (Ezekiel 14.3-4, 7).
 - g. Associate with cultists (1 Kings 11.4; 2 Chron. 25.14).

2. The Consequences of backsliding:
 - a. Discipline by the Lord (Psalm 39.11; Proverbs 3.11-12; Hebrews 12.5-6; Revelation 3.19).
 - b. Physical and spiritual ruin (Luke 15.11-32; 1 Timothy 1.19-20).
 - c. Physical death (John 15.2, 6).
3. Reconciliation (Luke 15.11-32).

V. Service

- A. Commands to serve God (Exodus 23.25; Deuteronomy 6.13; 10.12; 1 Samuel 7.3; 2 Chronicles 15.15; Psalm 2.11; 40.8; 100.2; Matthew 6.24; Luke 16.13; John 12.26; Acts 20.19; Romans 12.1-2; 1 Corinthians 7.20-24; 15.58; Colossians 3.24; Hebrews 12.28).
- B. Commands to serve man (Matthew 5.16; 10.42; Mark 10.43-44; Luke 10.30-37; John 12.3; 13.34; Romans 12.4-21; Galatians 6.2, 10; Ephesians 6.7; Colossians 3.23-24; 1 Timothy 6.18; Titus 2.7; 3.14, 18; James 2.15-16; 1 Peter 4.10; 1 John 3.16-18).
- C. Equip yourself with the armor of God (Eph. 6.10-18; Daniel 10.1-21).
 1. Gird your loins with truth (Know how to use Scripture defensively – Prov. 4.5-6, 10-13; 20-22)
 2. Shod your feet with the Gospel (Know how to share it – 1 Peter 3.15).
 3. Put on the breastplate of righteousness (Live a holy life – 1 Peter 1.15-16).
 4. Take up the shield of faith (We strengthen our faith by studying Scripture (Romans 10.17); by prayer (Acts 2.42); and by fellowship (Acts 2.42; 5.42; Hebrews 3.13; 10.24-25).
 5. Put on the helmet of Salvation (Have an assurance of your salvation – John 10.27-30; 1 John 5.11-13)
 6. Take up the sword (Know how to use Scripture in an offensive manner – Hebrews 4.12).
- D. Gird your minds for action (1 Peter 1.13).
- E. Love (1 Corinthians 13).

1. Love of the brethren (John 13.35; 15.12; Romans 12.9; Galatians 5.14; Ephesians 3.17-19; 5.2; Colossians 3.1; 1 Thess. 3.12; 4.9; Hebrews 13.1; 1 Peter 1.22; 1 John 3.23).
 2. Love of all men (Proverbs 25.21; Matthew 5.44-48; Romans 12.20; Galatians 5.6; 1 Thessalonians 3.12; Hebrews 13.2).
- F. Humility (Proverbs 3.34; Isaiah 66.2; Micah 6.8; Luke 22.26; Romans 12.3, 16; Philippians 2.1-9; James 1.9-11; 4.6, 10; 1 Peter 3.8; 5.5-6).
- G. Serve God by serving man (Romans 12.1-2; Gal 5.13).
1. Be a servant to all (Mark 9.35; 10.42-44).
 2. Bear each others burdens (Romans 15.1; Gal. 6.2).
 3. Do good to all men, especially the brethren (Galatians 6.10; Titus 2.7, 14; 3.8; 1 Peter 2.12).
 4. Share with all (1 Tim. 6.18 James 2.15-18; 1 John 3.17-18).
 5. Use your spiritual gifts (1 Peter 4.10).
 - a. Prophecy (Romans 12.6).
 - b. Service (Romans 12.7).
 - c. Teaching (Romans 12.7).
 - d. Exhortation (Romans 12.8).
 - e. Giving (Romans 12.8).
 - f. Leading (Romans 12.8).
 - g. Show mercy (Romans 12.8).
 - h. Word of wisdom (I Corinthians 12.8).
 - i. Word of knowledge (I Corinthians 12.8).
 - j. Faith (1 Corinthians 12.9).
 - k. Distinguishing of spirits (1 Corinthians 12.10).
- H. Serve for rewards (Exodus 23.25; Psalm 19.11; 58.11; Isaiah 40.10; 62.11; 1 Cor. 9.17; Hebrews 10.35; 11.6; 2 John 8; Revelation 22.12) .

VI. Evangelism

- A. Commands to evangelize the world (1 Chronicles 16.8; Psalm 67.2; 96.2; 105.1-3; Matt. 28.19-20; Acts 1.8).
- B. Learn how to share the Gospel (1 Peter 3.15).

- C. Pray for more soul winners (Matthew 9.37-38).
- D. Pray for the salvation of all kinds of people (1 Timothy 2.1-4).
- E. Follow Jesus (Matthew 4.19; John 12.26).
- F. Start sharing the Gospel (1 Chronicles 16.8; Psalm 9.1; 26.7; 35.28; 71.15; 96.2; 105.1-3; 145.6, 11-12; Proverbs 11.30; Daniel 12.3; Mark 16.15; 1 Corinthians 9.19-20; Jude 23).
- G. Some sow and some reap (John 4.35-36).
- H. Disciple those you lead to the Lord (Matthew 28.19-20).
- I. Disciple your children (Deut. 4.9-10; 6.5-7; 32.46; Psalm 78.3-7).

VII. Maturity

- A. Grow in the Word and in grace in the knowledge of the Lord (Ephesians 4.11-15; 1 Peter 2.2; 2 Peter 3.18).
- B. Seek wisdom, knowledge, understanding and discernment (Proverbs 1.1-7, 2.1-11; 3.1-4, 13, 21; 4.1, 5-7; 5.1-2; 7.1-4; 8.11; 9.6, 10-11; 10.14; 12.1; 13.16; 14.33; 15.14; 16.16; 18.15; 19.2, 8, 27; 22.17-19; 23.12, 23; 24.5, 13-14; 28.6; 30.3).
 - 1. Hearing Scripture daily (Deut. 4.9-10; Prov. 8.34; Luke 8.15, 21; 11.28; James 1.22; Revelation 1.3).
 - 2. Reading Scripture daily (Deuteronomy 17.19; Psalm 42.1-2; 63.1; 143.6; Revelation 1.3).
 - 3. Studying the Bible (Deut. 8.3; Proverbs 2.1-5; 8.34; 22.17; John 5.39; Matt. 4.4; Acts 17.11; Romans 15.4; 2 Timothy 2.15; 3.15).
 - 4. Memorizing Scripture (Deuteronomy 6.6; 11.18; 30.14; Psalm 37.31; 40.8; 119.11; Proverbs 2.1; 3.1, 3; 4.1, 21; 6.21; 22.18; Isaiah 51.7; Ezekiel 3.10; Romans 10.8).
 - 5. Meditating on Scripture (Joshua 1.8; Job 22.22; 23.12; Psalm 1.2; 4.4; 19.14; 63.6; 77.12; 104.34; 119.15, 23, 27, 48, 78, 97, 99, 148; 143.5).
- C. Be a disciple (Matthew 28.19-20; Acts 11.26).

1. Deny self (Matthew 16.24; John 12.24-26).
 2. Love the Lord more than all else (Luke 14.26).
 3. Follow the Lord (Luke 14.27; John 12.26).
 4. Seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6.33).
 5. Be willing to give up all you have (Luke 14.33; Acts 5.4).
 6. Know Scripture (Psalm 25.4-5; Proverbs 1.5; 2.1-7; 3.1-4; 7.1-4; 8.10-11; 19.2; 22.17-21; Hosea 4.6, 14; 6.32; Acts 17.11; 2 Timothy 2.15; Hebrews 5.11-6.3).
 7. Endure (John 8.31; Galatians 6.6, 9; 1 Corinthians 15.58; Philippians 1.27; 3.14; 4.1; James 5.11; Heb. 12.1-4; 1 Peter 5.9; 2 Peter 3.17; Rev. 3.11).
 8. Be fruitful (John 15.5, 8, 16; Colossians 1.10).
 9. Make disciples (Matthew 28.19-20; 2 Timothy 2.2)
- D. Be a bonds slave (1 Peter 2.16; Revelation 1.1).
1. What a bonds slave is?
 - a. A slave who can go free but decides to remain a slave for life due to his love for his master
 - b. All Christians should live as a bonds slave of Messiah.
 2. Examples:
 - a. Paul (Romans 1.1; Philippians 1.1; Titus 1.1).
 - b. Timothy (Philippians 1.1).
 - c. James (1.1).
 - d. Peter (2 Peter 1.1).
 - e. Jude (v. 1).
 - f. John (Revelation 1.1).
- E. Suffer and endure persecution (Matthew 5.11; John 15.20; 16.33; Acts 5.40-42; 14.22; Romans 5.3-5; 8.17; 2 Corinthians 1.5; 12.10; Ephesians 2.21; 4.1, 13; Philippians 1.29; 3.10; 1 Thessalonians 3.3; 2 Thessalonians 1.5; 2 Timothy 1.8; 2.3-6, 9, 12; 3.12; James 1.2-4; 1 Peter 2.20-21; 3.9, 14-17; 4.1-2, 12-14, 19; 5.10).
1. Suffering and persecution result in:
 - a. Perseverance/endurance (Rom.5.3; James 1.3).
 - b. Proven character (Romans 5.4).

- c. Hope (Romans 5.4).
- d. Perfection/completion (James 1.4).
- 2. By our experience we can help others (Heb. 4.15).
- 3. We should be willing to die for the Lord and fellow believers (Daniel 3.17-18; John 15.13; Heb. 12.4; 1 John 3.16).
 - a. Examples of saints who were persecuted and martyred:
 - 1. Abel (Genesis 4.4-8) (martyr).
 - 2. Joseph (Genesis 37.18-28; 39.7-20).
 - 3. Moses (Exodus 16.2-3).
 - 4. David was persecuted by Saul for years.
 - 5. Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah (Daniel 3.19-27).
 - 6. Daniel (Daniel 6.3-24).
 - 7. Most of the prophets (Hebrews 11.32-40).
 - 8. John the Baptizer (Matthew 14.1-12) (martyr).
 - 9. John and Peter (Acts 4.13-22; 5.17-29).
 - 10. Peter (John 21.18-19) (martyr).
 - 11. Paul (Acts 9.16; 2 Corinthians 11.23-33).
 - 12. All of the apostles (John 16.2).
 - 13. Stephen (Acts 7.54-60) (martyr).
 - 14. James (Acts 12.1-2) (martyr).
 - 15. Barnabas (martyr).
 - 16. James, the son of Mary (martyr).
 - 17. Dr. Luke (martyr).
 - 18. Mark (martyr).
 - 19. Antipas (martyr).
 - 20. Polycarp (martyr).
 - 21. Justin Martyr (martyr).
 - 22. John Huss (martyr).
 - 23. William Tyndale (martyr).
 - 24. Hugh Latimer (martyr).
 - 25. Nicholas Ridley (martyr).
 - 26. Thomas Cranmer (martyr).
- F. Increase faith (Luke 17.5).
 - 1. To please God (Hebrews 11.6).

2. To endure and not lose our reward (James 1.12; Revelation 3.11).
 3. We increase it by the Word (Romans 10.17), prayer (Acts 2.42), fellowship (Acts 2.42; 5.42; Hebrews 3.13; 10.24-25) and worship (John 4.23-24).
- G. Guard yourself from idols (1 John 5.21).
1. Do not set up idols in your heart (Ezekiel 14.3-4, 7)
 2. Repent and turn away from the idols in your heart and turn away from all of your abomination (Ezekiel 14.6).



DISCIPLESHIP 301

The third book in the *Discipleship* series will motivate you to memorize Scripture and show you how to do exegetical studies so you can study to show yourself approved to God (2 Timothy 2.15). To order your copy of *Discipleship 301* email the DOV Book Shoppe – dovbooks@yahoo.com

APPENDIX A

THE GOSPEL

The most important thing any person can ever do is know where he/she will spend eternity. The Creator of the universe said there are only two places where a person can go when he dies – Heaven or Hell.

Everyone is a sinner in need of salvation:

For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God.
(Romans 3.23)

Those who die in their sins will be judged and suffer punishment in the Lake of Fire for all eternity:

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment. (Hebrews 9.27)

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal. (Matthew 25.46)

He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him. (John 3.36)

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20.15)

All the riches and pleasures of the world are not worth eternal punishment:

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mark 8.36-37)

Yet even though all have sinned, one can escape eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire, and have eternal life through Jesus Christ:

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in **Christ Jesus** our Lord. (Romans 6.23)*

Salvation is available to all because:

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, **Christ** died for us. (Romans 5.8)*

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. (Eph.1.7)

Belief in Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved:

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." (John 14.6)

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4.12)

Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone:

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. (Ephesians 2.8-9)

What must one do to be saved?

*That if you confess with your mouth **Jesus** as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved: for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. (Romans 10.9-10)*

If you believe God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, call upon Jesus Christ to save you right now:

*For “**WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.**” (Romans 10.13)*

Today is your day of salvation:

*Behold, now is “**THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,**” behold, now is “**THE DAY OF SALVATION.**” (2 Corinthians 6.2b)*

Receive Jesus today for you do not know what tomorrow may bring:

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. (John 1.12)

SHORT GOSPEL PRESENTATION

Everyone is a sinner in need of salvation:

For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3.23)

Those who die in their sins will be judged:

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment. (Hebrews 9.27)

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If you believe God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, call upon Jesus Christ to save you right now:

*For “**WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.**” (Romans 10.13)*

APPENDIX B

FAITH CHECK

Take a few minutes and examine your daily walk.

Spiritual Activities	Average time spent weekly
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Prayer	_____
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Reading and studying the Bible	_____
--------------------------------	-------

Memorization & Meditation	_____
---------------------------	-------

Worship/devotions with family	_____
-------------------------------	-------

Fellowship with believers	_____
---------------------------	-------

Helping others	_____
----------------	-------

Being disciplined/discipling others	_____
-------------------------------------	-------

Sharing the Gospel	_____
--------------------	-------

Total time serving Jesus	_____
---------------------------------	-------

Worldly activities	Average time spent weekly
---------------------------	----------------------------------

Watching TV & movies	_____
----------------------	-------

Internet	_____
----------	-------

Reading (secular books/magazines)	_____
-----------------------------------	-------

Hobbies and Recreation	_____
------------------------	-------

Attending sporting events	_____
---------------------------	-------

Socializing (in person or by phone)	_____
-------------------------------------	-------

Other non-spiritual activities	_____
--------------------------------	-------

Total time serving yourself	_____
------------------------------------	-------



TREASURE HUNT

Everyone dreams of finding hidden treasure and millions have search for it throughout the last 6,000 years with thousands finding it. Yet every true believer in YAHSHUA Messiah has the incredible privilege of spending their entire life searching for hidden treasure that is much more valuable than all the hidden treasure on the Earth! In fact the unimaginable hidden treasure that we are commanded to search for is far more valuable than all the minerals, oil, gas, water, gold, silver, precious gems, art, stocks, bonds, corporations, buildings and land on Earth! It is more valuable than the entire planet and even the entire universe!

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APPENDIX C

BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

And be not drunk with wine in which is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5.18)

Believers in Jesus Christ are not to be intoxicated (drunk) with wine and in like manner to not get “high” with drugs (legal or illegal). Instead we are to “*be filled with the Spirit.*” What does it mean to “*be filled with the Spirit*”? Does it mean we must have a “second blessing” in which the Holy Spirit empowers us to do the work of the Lord?

Scripture does not say that before we can be “*filled*” or empowered with and by the Holy Spirit we must have a special “second blessing.” Instead it is a daily activity. It is something we must do when we first awake and then throughout the day.

The first thing we should do when we wake up is ask the Holy Spirit to fill us and lead us that day. Prayer at the beginning of a day makes it go by much more smoothly. Prayer gets us in the proper attitude so we can let our light shine throughout the entire day. The second thing one should consider is spending time in the Word. A quiet time in the Word when one first gets up fills us with the Word. Being filled with the Word and the Holy Spirit is the same thing because the words that Jesus spoke are “*spirit*” and “*life*” (John 6.63). Not only are the words that He spoke “*spirit*” and “*life*” but all Scripture is:

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3.16)

Prayer throughout the day (1 Thessalonians 5.17) is a spiritual habit that keeps our mind set on the things above and not the things of this sin-filled world (Colossians 3.2). Being filled with the Word several times throughout the day is another spiritual habit that will conform us to the image of Jesus (Romans 8.29). Taking Bible breaks is vital to be continually “*filled*” with the Holy Spirit. Take a Bible or New Testament with you when you leave home and read a few chapters during the day. If you cannot take a Bible with you to work or when you are out meditate on Scripture that you have memorized. When you hide the Word of God in your heart you always have it with you to meditate on.

By praying several times throughout the day and taking Bible breaks one can continually be “*filled*” with the Holy Spirit. The more often one feeds on Scripture and prays the more he will grow. Babies would die within a few days if they were not given food. The same is true of newborn believers. If they are not given spiritual food they quickly die spiritually. The more spiritual food they receive the faster and stronger they grow. One or two twenty minute sermons each week may keep a believer alive spiritually, but that is life-support nourishment. To grow into a strong, mature and vital disciple one must feed on Scripture several times each day. All believers need to listen to, read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture daily and wash the Word down with prayer. If you do that faithfully every day God will bless you with myriad spiritual blessings, not physical blessings.

If you want to be a disciplined and dedicated disciple of Jesus you must be a spiritual glutton, feeding on the holy Word of God throughout each day and praying always. Instead of being a glutton of physical food and pleasures of the world be a glutton of spiritual food.

APPENDIX D

HUMILITY

Humility is a spiritual trait that few believers in Jesus Christ have because it is impossible to obtain it through the flesh. Humility only comes when a believer surrenders his life to the Lord every day. Surrender is daily obedience to God and dying to oneself, the flesh and the world.

One obeys God by praying throughout the day from morning to night (1 Thessalonians 5.17); by daily reading, studying, memorizing and meditating on Scripture; by regular fellowship with the brethren (Acts 2.42, 46-47; Hebrews 3.13; 10.24-25); by continual sharing of the Gospel (Psalm 96.2; Acts 2.47; 1 Peter 3.15) and by making disciples (Matthew 28.19-20; 1 Timothy 2.15).

One dies daily to self by not doing things that feed the ego. Instead of spending time seeking to have your ego built up by the approval, attention, love, respect and honor from others, and seeking fame, glory and riches we need to seek how we can build others up by giving approval to their good deeds, and by giving them attention, love, respect and honor (Philippians 2.1-9). The road to humility is travelled by building others up in the faith, not demanding others build us up in the faith or build up our egos.

A believer also dies to the flesh daily by not engaging in things that the sinful flesh desires and which are sins. Two of the most prevalent sins of the flesh are gluttony and intoxication (by alcohol or drugs). Excessive indulgence in some other activities of the flesh that are not a sin, which most believers should consider reducing, are: sex (with spouse), partying, sports, hobbies, vacationing and chit-chatting.

The way to die to yourself is to spend more time in spiritual activities than of the flesh which are not necessary for survival. Everyone must eat to live, but gluttony is a sin. Everyone needs bodily exercise, but excessive exercise is a misuse of the Lord's time. The same is true of partying, sports, hobbies, vacationing and chit-chatting. These things are not sins, but excessive indulgence in them is.

A believer dies to the world by reducing his involvement in worldly activities or by cutting them out altogether. Some other worldly activities that most believers spend far too much time in are: television, movies, music, Internet, politics, non-spiritual books and magazines, and seeking after wealth and possessions. Every believer who desires to die to himself and live a holy life for the glory of God will spend more time each day in prayer, Scripture, fellowship and soul-winning than in activities of the world.

We know we are growing in the Lord and dying to ourselves, the flesh and the world when our self love, our love of the flesh and our love of the world diminishes as it should:

Love not the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away, and also its lusts, but the one who does the will of God abides forever. (1 John 2.15-17)

The more these sinful desires diminish the more humble one will be. Pride is the opposite of humility. Pride is the root of every sin. There is no sin a person can commit that does not spring from pride. That is why the key to holy living is humility which replaces pride, and when pride is vanquished so is sin. No one can ever eliminate all traces of pride and sin, but it should be the goal of every true believer.

Humility is a spiritual trait that every believer should not only desire, but actively seek after. God does not use His children to bring Him glory until they are humble. A believer

who humbles himself before God will be looked upon by God with grace (Isaiah 66.2; Proverbs 3.34; James 4.6) and He will have regard for him (Psalm 138.6). When we humble ourselves before God and those around us He will exalt us (James 4.10). We must never forget that all believers are commanded to “*humble*” themselves before God (1 Peter 5.6), “*walk humbly with*” God (Micah 6.8), be “*humble in spirit*” (1 Peter 3.8), clothe themselves “*with humility*” (1 Peter 5.5) and to not be proud (Romans 12.16).

Humility is always better than pride (Proverbs 16.19) and it is the only way to obtain true riches, honor and life (Proverbs 22.4). Pride will bring a person down while humility will bring him honor (Proverbs 11.2; 16.18; 29.23). We must also remember that there are numerous warnings against pride (Psalm 10.2; 40.4; 73.6; 119.78; Proverbs 3.7; 26.12; 28.25; Isaiah 5.21; 13.11; John 9.41; Revelation 3.17). Pride is a sin (Proverbs 21.4), one of the seven things that YAHWEH hates and that is an abomination to Him (Proverbs 6.17; 8.13).

Humility is one of the most difficult traits for anyone to obtain. No one can be humble in his own power. We must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to impart humility to us. Yet there are specific things we must do on a daily and regular basis before He will give us humility. The daily things we should do as noted previously are pray, read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture. The things one should do on a regular basis are fellowship with the brethren and share the Gospel with the lost as the Holy Spirit leads. These are the basics, but there are many other things a dedicated believer should do on a daily basis:

Seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6.33)

Put on the armor of God (Ephesians 6.10-18)

Fight the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6.12)

Transform your mind (Romans 12.2)

Take up your cross (Matthew 10.38-39; 16.24-26)

Deny yourself (Romans 12.1)

Be content in your circumstances (Phil. 4.3; 1 Tim. 6.6-8; Hebrews 13.5)

Give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5.18)
Continually offer praise to God (Hebrews 13.15)
Forsake the world and all that is in it (Romans 12.2;
Galatians 6.14; 1 Peter 1.14; 1 John 2.15-17)
Flee from seeking after riches (1 Timothy 6.9-11)
Submit to others (Ephesians 5.21)
Obey your spiritual leaders (Hebrews 13.17)
Love the brethren (John 13.34-35; James 2.15-16; 1 John
3.16-18)
Love the lost and your enemies (Prov. 25.21; Matthew
5.43-48)
Be rich in good works (1 Timothy 6.18; Galatians 6.10;
Ephesians 2.10; 2 Timothy 3.17; Hebrews 13.16)
Do not grow weary in doing good works (2 Thess. 3.13)
Give to those in need (Leviticus 25.35; Deuteronomy 15.7;
Proverbs 11.24-25; 19.17; 21.13; 22.9; 28.27; Ecclesiastes
11.1; Isaiah 58.7; Matthew 5.42; Luke 6.38; 12.33; Acts
11.29; Romans 12.13; Hebrews 13.1-2; James 1.27; 1 Peter
4.9)
Lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity
(1 Timothy 2.1).

As we do these things day-by-day we will grow more humble and be used by God for His glory (1 Corinthians 10.31) more each day. Others will see the Lord working through us and may be encouraged to follow our example. Pastors must set an example for the flock (1 Peter 5.3) by engaging in the spiritual activities above and they should also encourage others to do the same. They and all believers should be the servant of all (Matthew 20.26-27; Mark 9.35; Luke 22.26).

Negativity Factor

Very few believers understand the Negativity Factor. Understanding of this is the key to gaining humility and ridding oneself of pride.

Everyone is conceived and born in sin and goes astray from birth (Psalm 51.5; 58.3). We struggle with sin our entire lives even after we are born from above (Galatians 5.17). It is our sin nature and our submission to it that hinders the work that God seeks to do through us. This is the Negativity Factor. We do not add to the work of God in any way, we only hinder it. God performs great works through us in spite of us. We hinder His work we do not help it. The only thing we can do is lessen our Negativity Factor by obeying God every second of every day of our lives.

Christians who think they help God perform good deeds or great works are delusional. We can never help God. All we can do is empty ourselves of all of our desires and make ourselves available to Him every day. We must daily do what John the Baptist said about Jesus the Messiah, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3.30). The more we rid ourselves of us the more God can work through us for His glory.

The way to diminish ourselves is to spend every spare moment we have in prayer, worshipping God, Bible reading, study, memorization and meditation, fellowship with the brethren, sharing the Gospel and making disciples. Every minute we spend enjoying the pleasures of the world – watching TV, movies and sports, shopping, partying, reading meaningless fiction books, eating pleasure foods, hobbies, worrying over investments – is a minute wasted forever. Everyone needs down time, recreation and relaxation, but there are good ways of getting R&R and bad ways. Make sure your methods of R&R are honoring to the Lord and do not over do it. Three of the best forms of relaxation are praying, reading the Bible and listening to hymns. When you need to chill out pray, read the Bible and or listen to hymns. If these activities do not relax and energize you something is wrong.



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