

PRINCIPLES  
OF  
CHURCH  
LIFE

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# Principles of Church Life

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### Answer Key

# How to Use this Book

We are living in a day when it is absolutely critical that believers know what they believe and that what they believe is firmly rooted in the Word of God as found in the Bible. So many believers today are enlisting in the army of God without the sword of the Spirit and they find themselves unarmed when it comes to spiritual battle and at the same time open to possible deception.

This manual is designed to give every believer in Jesus a foundational understanding of the basic *Principles of Church Life*. It is designed to assist the believer in inspecting their personal foundation in the faith ensuring that none of the basic building blocks to victorious Christian living are missing in their life and experience.

It is also designed as a possible membership course for the local church where church leaders can instruct people in the basics of the faith before new people make a formal commitment to the local church.

This book may be used in two ways:

1. It can be used as a manual for personal study. By reading through the material and looking up the various Bible references the student will be built up and encouraged in their faith (an answer key for blanks can be found in the back of the book).
2. It can be used as a membership manual for local churches. By going through the material together as a class, church leaders can feed the people of God on the foundations of the faith, line upon line.

The text of this manual follows a simple question and answer format with some space given for additional notes. The key to the blanks is found in the back of this book and can be removed before distribution if the teacher decides that it is a better way to use the material in the classroom setting.

It should be noted that the last lesson on local church mission, vision and doctrine can be injected at any time throughout the course and should be amended or replaced to correspond to the vision of your own local assembly as you may see fit. Some have found it valuable to do this lesson first coupled with the testimony of the senior pastor which includes a bit of history relative to the local church.

My prayer is that God will use this manual to strengthen His Church that the local church might become all that God in Christ has intended for it to be.

Bill Scheidler

# Lesson 1

## Repentance

The only true foundation on which to begin to build the Christian life and by which to maintain it is that of repentance from everything that hinders us from becoming all that God desires for us to become.

*... The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel. Mark 1:15*

### I. WHAT IS THE FIRST WORD OF THE GOSPEL?

The first word of the Gospel is\_\_\_\_\_. The second word of the Gospel is\_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 1:15).

- A. The message John the Baptist gave to prepare the world for the coming of Jesus was\_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 3:1-8).
- B. The first message that Jesus proclaimed as a prerequisite for entering the Kingdom was\_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 4:17).
- C. The message that the disciples carried wherever they went was the message of \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 7:7-13).
- D. The call that went out on the first sermon after the outpouring of the Spirit was of \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:38, 39).
- E. Paul began his preaching with the message of \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 20:20, 21).

*Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:47*

*Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent... Acts 17:30*

Our experience of repentance is to be our initiation into the kingdom of God. It is a pre-requisite for salvation and the first step in the believer's life. God commands it. If this foundation is not properly laid, the whole structure of our lives will be shaky and unable to stand the tests and trials that come (Luke 6:46-49). The Psalmist declares, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3). We must firmly lay this "foundation of repentance from dead works" if we are to be strong (Hebrews 6:1-2).

## II. WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR A PERSON TO "REPENT"?

- A. The word "repent" means to turn around and go the other way regarding a matter. It refers to a change in \_\_\_\_\_, which results in a new direction for the whole life.
- B. Charles Finney defined repentance as an "intellectual and hearty giving up of all controversy with God upon all and every point. It implies a conviction that God is wholly right, and the sinner is wholly wrong, and a thorough and hearty abandonment of all \_\_\_\_\_ for sin."

## III. WHY IS REPENTANCE NECESSARY FOR MAN?

- A. Because of the \_\_\_\_\_, the first man into sin, there is an inborn desire in the mind of man to go his own way and rebel against the right ways of God (Ephesians 2:3, Colossians 1:21).

*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*  
Proverbs 14:12

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

- B. Because \_\_\_\_\_ has erred from the right ways of God by virtue of his own decisions in life (Romans 7:18-25).

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* Romans 3:23

- C. Because \_\_\_\_\_ man does not have the power to live a life that is pleasing to God (Hebrews 11:6).

## IV. WHAT ARE SOME WRONG CONCEPTS ABOUT REPENTANCE?

There are many concepts that have been confused with true repentance. The tragedy is that if we accept any one of these false concepts it will keep us from experiencing genuine repentance.

True repentance is not:

- A. \_\_\_\_\_. Conviction of sin will always come before genuine repentance, but not all who are convicted will truly repent (Acts 24:24, 25).
- B. \_\_\_\_\_. Worldly sorrow is simply being sorry for "getting caught" but not necessarily being sorry for the actual crime committed. Given the same set of circumstances this person would probably repeat the same sin (2 Corinthians 7:10).  
  
*For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.*
- C. \_\_\_\_\_. Reformation in this sense is simply trying to "turn over a new leaf" in the strength of the natural man. This will never be successful without a genuine heart change.
- D. \_\_\_\_\_. The Pharisees in Christ's day were very religious but they were hypocrites. It is possible to maintain a form of religion but never experience the genuine power of repentance (2 Timothy 3:5).
- E. \_\_\_\_\_ or "only believism." Mental faith is merely the mental acceptance and assent to a set of creeds or doctrines but without any real change of heart and life (James 2:19-20).

## V. WHAT ARE THE FRUITS OF GENUINE REPENTANCE?

If genuine repentance has taken place on the inside of man there will be outward signs or fruits of this inward work. Although no one can judge the heart of another, there should be external evidence that the heart has been truly changed. John the Baptist did not merely accept the Pharisee's confession that they desired a baptism unto repentance; he challenged them to also "bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Matthew 3:8).

If genuine repentance has taken place, it should be evidenced by the following:

- A. Godly sorrow for sin (2 Corinthians 7:9-11).
- B. Confession of sin and a plea for mercy (1 John 1:9; Luke 15:21; 18:13-14).  
  
*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*
- C. Turning from or forsaking of sinful ways (Proverbs 28:13; Acts 19:17-20).  
  
*He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy. Proverbs 28:13*
- D. Godly hatred for sin (Ezekiel 36:31-33).
- E. Turning unto the ways of righteousness (1 Thessalonians 1:9; Colossians 3:1-14).

F. Restitution for the wrongs done, wherever possible (Leviticus 6:1-7; Luke 19:8).

Without these fruits being manifest, there is no genuine biblical repentance.

## VI. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF GENUINE REPENTANCE?

- A. There is great joy in heaven (Luke 15:7, 10).
- B. There is a pardon and remission of sins (Isaiah 55:7).
- C. There is great refreshing from the Lord (Acts 3:19-21).
- D. There is a clearing of the conscience (2 Corinthians 7:10-11).

Repentance is something that is absolutely necessary if we are to be founded on the Rock, Christ Jesus. It begins as a one-time experience when we accept the lordship of Christ in our lives, but it continues to be important in the process of sanctification as the Holy Spirit is faithful to point out many other areas that are in need of change. Every believer needs to be prepared to respond in repentance as often as there is a need for it. In this way we will progress daily in our Christian walk toward God's ultimate will for our lives.

# Lesson 2

## Faith

The Christian life is a life of faith—not a dead faith, but a faith that is alive and active. It is a faith that responds quickly to the Word of the Lord.

*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*  
Hebrews 11:6

### I. HOW IMPORTANT IS FAITH?

- A. Faith toward God is the second principle of the “doctrine of Christ” (Hebrews 6:1).
- B. Faith and repentance are inseparably linked together. They are mutually \_\_\_\_\_ upon each other (Acts 20:21; Mark 1:15).

Ern Baxter puts it this way: “To profess to turn to God without forsaking sin in repentance ends in hypocrisy. To attempt to forsake sin without turning to God in faith ends in failure and despair.”

- C. Faith is the foundation for the entire Christian life. Nothing can be known or received from God unless man first believes in God’s existence and, secondly, that God has revealed Himself in His Word, the Bible (Hebrews 11:6).

*The just shall live by\_\_\_\_\_.* Romans 1:17

### II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF FAITH?

- A. The Bible defines faith in Hebrews 11:1, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Faith is agreeing with God’s Word through our verbal confession and by a lifestyle of obedience to it.

- B. The dictionary defines faith as a “trust, firm persuasion, assurance, firm conviction, confidence in another and another’s word.”
- C. Charles Finney put it this way: Faith is “a receiving of Christ for just what He is represented to be in His Gospel, and an unqualified surrender of the will and of the whole being to Him.”

- D. R.A. Torrey states, "To believe God is to rely upon or have unhesitating assurance of the truth of God's testimony, even though it is unsupported by any other evidence, and to rely upon or have unfaltering assurance of the fulfillment of His promises, even though everything seen seems against fulfillment."

### III. WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF TRUE FAITH?

- A. The only source of true biblical faith is the \_\_\_\_\_  
(Romans 10:4-17).

*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17*

- B. Abraham serves as an example to us of how to receive and respond to the Word of God (Hebrews 11:8-12; Romans 4:16-22).

The manner in which Abraham manifests faith is the manner in which we must manifest faith:

1. He heard the word.
2. He placed his hope in the future according to that word.
3. He refused to accept natural evidences that contradicted that word.
4. He did not waiver in his commitment to that word.
5. He rejoiced when the fulfillment of the word was realized.

Scriptural faith is a \_\_\_\_\_, not the mind. It is in the present, not the future. It produces a positive change in the behavior and experience. It is based solely in God's Word and accepts the testimony of the senses \_\_\_\_\_ when it agrees with the text of God's Word.

### IV. HOW IS TRUE FAITH EXPRESSED IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER?

There are two main ways in which faith is actively expressed in the life of the believer:

- A. It is expressed by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the mouth (Romans 10:9; Matthew 10:32).

*... for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Matthew 12:34*

- B. It is expressed by a life of \_\_\_\_\_ to the word received. Faith and works are inseparably linked (Romans 1:5; 15:18; 16:25-26; James 2:14-26).

*Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. James 2:17-18*

### V. HOW DO WE APPROPRIATE FAITH IN SPECIFIC SITUATIONS?

- A. Locate the \_\_\_\_\_ in God's Word that fits the need (Philippians 4:19).

*...For all the promises of God in Him are yes, and Amen, to the glory of God through us. 2 Corinthians 1:20*

- B. Fulfill all the \_\_\_\_\_ attached to that promise (Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 15).

*Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.*  
Psalm 37:5

- C. With patience, accept the trying of your faith and God's testing of your faith through time of \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 6:12-15; Psalm 105:19).

*...knowing that the trying of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

James 1:3-4

## VI. WHAT CAN ONE DO TO INCREASE IN FAITH?

- A. Settle in your hearts that God's Word is \_\_\_\_\_ (James 1:6-7; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Psalm 18:30).

*As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him. Psalm 18:30*

- B. Put yourself in the place of \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God (Romans 10:17; Galatians 3:2, 5).

- C. Be hearers and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word, not hearers only (Luke 8:15).

- D. \_\_\_\_\_ the faith that you have (Matthew 9:20,22; 14:25-29). Even in the physical body as we exercise our muscles, they increase.

- E. \_\_\_\_\_ natural reasoning and philosophies of man that speak contrary to the clearly revealed Word of God (1 Timothy 1:4-7; 6:20-21; 2 Timothy 2:16-18; Romans 14:1; Colossians 2:8).

*O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you.*

1 Timothy 6:20-21

Faith toward God is simply to trust God, to have confidence in Him and His Word, to believe what God has said, that His Word is true and what He has promised He will perform. GOD makes a promise, FAITH believes it, HOPE anticipates it and PATIENCE awaits it. The life of every believer in Christ is to be lived completely in this context. Faith must be the motivating factor for all that we do.

# Lesson 3

## Water Baptism

Water baptism is the first step of obedience for the new believer and symbolizes a washing away of former sins and an identification with the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This step is an essential part of the proper Christian birth.

*In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. Colossians 2:11-12*

### I. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE WORD "BAPTIZE"?

The English word "baptize" is transliterated from a Greek word, "*baptidzo*", which simply means "to dip, to overwhelm, to plunge, to submerge." It actually means "to cause something to be dipped or \_\_\_\_\_ beneath the surface of water or some other fluid."

If this word was truly translated, rather than transliterated, the command in the New Testament would read "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, immersing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

### II. WHY IS THE BELIEVER TO BE BAPTIZED?

A. Because Jesus commanded that believers be baptized (Mark 16:16; Matthew 28:19).

*If you love Me, keep My commandments... John 14:15*

B. Because the Apostles commanded it (Acts 2:37-39; 10:44-48).

*Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

*Acts 2:37-38*

- C. Because Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness (Matthew 3:13-17).
- D. Because we validate our faith by our obedience to the Word of God (James 2:17-18).

Water baptism is an essential part of obedience; it is not optional. To refuse water baptism is to live in disobedience to the revealed Word of God.

### III. WHAT ARE THE PREREQUISITES FOR WATER BAPTISM?

Baptism, in and of itself, cannot save anyone. It is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as one's Savior that brings an individual to salvation.

Therefore, baptism is only effectual for those who meet certain requirements. Those receiving baptism must have already laid the first two foundation stones in the Christian experience, namely:

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:38). This means one is not baptized merely because he wants to become part of a church group.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 8:12; 10:47). This means that one must be old enough to know what they are doing.

*He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.* Mark 16:16

### IV. WHAT TAKES PLACE IN WATER BAPTISM?

We are baptized simply because it is commanded by God to do so. However, as we respond to the Word of the Lord in faith, some very important things will take place. Every person who goes into the waters of baptism should expect to experience the following by faith:

- A. To be \_\_\_\_\_ with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5, 11; Colossians 2:12; 3:1).

In baptism, the old man is crucified. In immersion, the old man is buried. But in rising out of the water, the new man rises to walk in \_\_\_\_\_ of life.

*Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.* Romans 6:4

- B. New \_\_\_\_\_ over life-dominating sins (Romans 6:11-18).

- C. Spiritual\_\_\_\_\_and renewal (Acts 22:16).

The actual water does not cleanse us spiritually, but, as we respond in faith to the commands of Christ, the Holy Spirit works in connection with the God-ordained means.

- D. Identification with\_\_\_\_\_of the Lord (Acts 2:38; 8:12, 16; 10:48).

Kenyon puts it this way, "Baptism in this sense is equivalent to marriage. When the wife puts on marriage she takes her husband's name and enters into her husband's possessions and has legal right to her husband's home. When the believer is baptized into the name of Christ, he puts on all that is in Christ. He not only puts on the name, but takes his legal rights and privileges in Christ."

- E. Circumcision of the\_\_\_\_\_(Colossians 2:11-12).

*When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with Him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. Colossians 2:11-12, NLT*

## V. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART IN CONNECTION WITH WATER BAPTISM?

In the Old Testament, God gave a covenant to Abraham in which He required those who were participating in the covenant to accept and experience the sign and seal of the covenant which was a natural circumcision of the flesh (Genesis 17:10-14). In the New Testament, God has taken that seal and made it a spiritual requirement. In water baptism, we receive the spiritual experience of circumcision of the heart to which the natural rite pointed. The natural rite consisted of four elements that are all symbolic of something that takes place in the circumcision of the heart:

- A. The cutting away of flesh. In baptism we\_\_\_\_\_the old man (Colossians 2:11).
- B. The shedding of blood. In baptism a death to\_\_\_\_\_is to take place (Romans 6:3).
- C. The eighth day. Natural circumcision took place on the eighth day, which is symbolic of new beginning and resurrection life (1 Peter 3:20-21). In baptism we experience a\_\_\_\_\_and newness of life.
- D. The new name given. In baptism we have\_\_\_\_\_invoked over us—the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

## VI. HOW SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

- A. Scriptural baptism is baptism by\_\_\_\_\_.

- B. Baptism is to be administered in \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus commanded that baptism was to be administered in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19-20), which name the disciples came to see, on the basis of Jesus' ascension and exaltation (Acts 2:33-36), was the Lord Jesus Christ. When they baptized, they baptized in this manner (Acts 2:36-41; 8:12-16, 35-38; 10:48).

## VII. WHAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BAPTIZED?

Even as the waters of the Red Sea served as a separation between the Egyptian life of slavery and the land of God's provision for the Israelites of old, so the waters of baptism should serve as a permanent landmark in the life of the believer. Baptism should signal three things:

- A. A \_\_\_\_\_ to the old way of life. This means a willingness to sever all connections with ungodliness and those who live in ungodliness.
- B. A \_\_\_\_\_ of living. This means that from baptism on, there will be a determination to live by the principles of God's kingdom.
- C. A \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus. This means that the person who is baptized should see himself as a follower, a student and a witness to others of all that Jesus stands for.

It is very obvious that baptism is more than just an external experience in the Christian life. God wants to do something lasting and permanent at this special time. Sad to say, many people go down into the waters of baptism dry and come up wet and that is the extent of their experience. But if each individual would respond in faith to all that God says is available in baptism, baptism will be one of the greatest experiences of their Christian walk.

# Lesson 4

## The Holy Spirit Baptism

The purpose of this lesson is to further equip the believer in Christ not only by teaching them concerning the truth of the baptism of the Holy Spirit as an experience subsequent to and distinct from salvation, but by leading them into a personal experience of this endowment with power from on high.

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8*

### I. WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE OLD TESTAMENT BELIEVERS TO THE WORK AND MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- A. The Spirit came upon various men in Old Testament times that enabled them to do special feats of strength (Judges 11:29).
- B. The Spirit of the Lord rested upon men (Numbers 11:25).
- C. Men were filled with the Spirit in a temporary fashion to perform certain God-ordained tasks (Exodus 31:3).

In Old Testament times the Holy Spirit seemed to come upon and then withdraw from certain individuals as the need arose (I Samuel 10:6, 10; 16:14). One of the signs of the Messiah is that He would be one on whom the Holy Spirit would descend and remain (John 1:33).

*And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'" John 1:32-33*

### II. HOW IS THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT SEEN IN THE LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS, THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH?

It is important to see how the Holy Spirit moved in the life of Christ, for Christ is a pattern of that which is to flow into the Church which is His Body (Ephesians 1:22-23).

A. CHRIST WAS:

Born of the Spirit (Luke 1:35)  
Filled with Spirit (John 3:34)  
Baptized with Spirit (Matthew 3:16-17)  
Led of the Spirit (Matthew 4:1)  
Sealed by Spirit (John 6:27)  
Empowered by Spirit (Luke 4:14)  
Anointed by Spirit (Acts 10:38)

B. THE CHURCH IS TO BE:

Born of the Spirit (John 3:5)  
Filled with Spirit (Ephesians 3:19)  
Baptized with Spirit (Acts 1:5)  
Led of Spirit (Romans 8:14)  
Sealed by Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)  
Empowered by Spirit (Acts 1:8)  
Anointed by Spirit (1 John 2:27)

III. IS THE "BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT" A SCRIPTURAL TERM?

\_\_\_\_\_. It was used by John the Baptist (John 1:33), by Jesus (Acts 1:5) and by Peter (Acts 11:16).

*And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Acts 1:4-5*

IV. WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP OF CHRIST TO THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- A. Jesus was baptized in the Holy Spirit after His water baptism in the Jordan (Matthew 3:16-17; John 1:19-34). The Spirit came and remained on Him.
- B. Part of Jesus' ministry is to baptize with the Holy Spirit (John 1:33). To make sure that this was not misunderstood, Jesus did not personally baptize anyone with water (John 4:2).
- C. Jesus prophesied that this would be a believer's experience given on the basis of His exaltation and glorification (John 7:38-39).

*"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. John 7:38-39*

- D. Jesus received this provision for the Church from the Father when He ascended into heaven (Acts 2:33).

*Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. Acts 2:33*

## V. WHAT IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

A. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father (Acts 1:4-5; 2:33, 39).

*"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." Luke 24:49*

B. It is the enduing with \_\_\_\_\_ to do the commands of Christ (Acts 1:8; Luke 24:49).

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8*

C. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ experience which we can know that we have or have not received (Acts 19:2).

D. It is an operation of the Spirit distinct from and \_\_\_\_\_ the conversion experience (Acts 8:12, 15-16).

E. It is something to be experienced as part of the Christian \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:38-39).

## VI. WHAT IS THE INITIAL EVIDENCE OF RECEIVING THE BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT?

The only way to arrive at a conclusive answer to this question is by examining every case where individuals or groups of people received this experience in the New Testament.

A. On the day of Pentecost, the waiting disciples were all "filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other \_\_\_\_\_ as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).

B. In Samaria, when Peter and John laid hands on those who were converted under Philip's ministry, we are told that "Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given..." (Acts 8:18). Evidently, there was a visible sign that Simon saw, which is alluded to in verse 21 when Peter informed Simon that he did not have "part nor lot in this matter (lit. \_\_\_\_\_).

C. The Gentiles experienced an outpouring of the Spirit after Peter's sermon at the house of Cornelius and everyone present knew it "for they heard them speak with \_\_\_\_\_ and magnify God" (Acts 10:44-46).

D. The disciples that Paul encountered in Ephesus "spoke with \_\_\_\_\_, and prophesied (Acts 19:1-6) when Paul laid hands on them. In every case where we

have people experiencing the Baptism of the Spirit, we find a common element. There was an immediate evidence of "\_\_\_\_\_."

Ernest Gentile in *God and His Word* puts it this way,

"The Bible does not say that you MUST speak in tongues to have the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, but it does teach us by illustration that if you have the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, you will be given the immediate evidence of speaking in tongues."

## VII. WHO MAY RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

All \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ are candidates for the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Mark 16:17).

*For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. Acts 2:38-39*

For those who believe in Christ, the actual reception of the Spirit baptism is sometimes conditioned on the believer's knowing that there is such an experience available to them and that it is for now (Acts 19:1-6).

## VIII. HOW DOES ONE RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

We do not receive the gifts of God by the works of the flesh (Galatians 3:2). All the gifts of God are of grace and are to be received by faith (Ephesians 2:8-10). There are, however, several things that will help us to release our faith in this area:

- A. Fulfill the prerequisites of repentance and faith \_\_\_\_\_ asking for this experience.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_, the baptizer, with the Holy Spirit, to give you this gift (Matthew 3:11; Luke 11:9-13).

*I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. Matthew 3:11-12*

- C. Yield your "unruly member" as an instrument of righteousness, \_\_\_\_\_ that God will give you something other than what you desire.
- D. Exercise your faith by \_\_\_\_\_ in an unknown language unto the Lord.
- E. Once you have received the gift of the Holy Ghost, use your tongue \_\_\_\_\_ as it is a key to spiritual vitality (Jude 20; 1 Corinthians 14:15, 18).

*He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself...* I Corinthians 14:4

**IX. WHAT ARE SOME BIBLICAL REASONS FOR SPEAKING IN OTHER TONGUES?**

- A. It is one of the signs of the believer (Mark 16:17).
- B. It is a way for our spirit to be built up in faith (1 Corinthians 14:4).
- C. It is a way to magnify the Lord (Acts 10:46).
- D. It is a part of our spiritual armor (Ephesians 6:18).
- E. It is spoken of as a refreshing (Isaiah 28:11-12 with 1 Corinthians 14:21).

God wants every believer who is born of the Spirit to be baptized in the Spirit as well. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary in every Christian for the service that Christ demands and expects of us. Jesus and the Apostles all waited to enter into their ministry until this "endowment with power" was experienced. Let us never see such a wonderful provision of God as an option, but let us seek and find (Matthew 7:7) and hunger and thirst (Matthew 5:6).

# Lesson 5

## Christian Discipleship

Every Christian is also to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. The salvation that comes to us in Christ is not only for the renewing of man's spirit, but also his mind, will and emotions in a process called sanctification. The goal of every believer should be to become like Christ.

*When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it." Mathew 8:34-35*

### I. WHAT IS JESUS' COMMAND CONCERNING DISCIPLESHIP?

When Jesus commissioned His disciples after the resurrection, He gave them a four-fold charge:

A. \_\_\_\_\_(Mark 16:15)

*And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."*

B. \_\_\_\_\_(Matthew 28:18-20)

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

C. \_\_\_\_\_(Acts 1:8)

*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

D. \_\_\_\_\_(John 21:17)

*Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."*

These things are to be experienced and practiced in the life of every believer.

## II. WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

A. The word "disciple" is used over 250 times in the New Testament and simply means:

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ one.
2. A learner.
3. A one who accepts or receives instruction or teaching of another.
4. A disciplined one.

B. The word "discipline", which is closely related, means:

1. Training that develops self-control or character.
2. Submission to control.
3. .
4. Treatment that corrects or adjusts.

## III. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS?

A. It means that we are willing to treat Jesus as our \_\_\_\_\_ and master (Matthew 10:24).

B. It means that we are willing to be \_\_\_\_\_ and instructed in His ways (Matthew 5:1-2).

C. It means that we must be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ His commands (Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:21).

D. It means that we must be will to be \_\_\_\_\_ and adjusted by the Word of God (Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:5-13).

## IV. WHAT DOES IT COST TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS?

We are clearly instructed in the Word of God that before we begin building, we should count the cost (Luke 14:25-33). Salvation is a free gift from God. We can do nothing to earn it or deserve it (Ephesians 2:8-9), but if we are to respond to that call of discipleship, it will cost us everything that we have (Luke 5:11).

*"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it." Matthew 10:37-39*

This means that everything in our life has to take second place to our relationship to the Lord, including:

- A. Our \_\_\_\_\_(Matthew 8:19-20; Luke 9:58).
- B. Our \_\_\_\_\_(Matthew 10:37-38).
- C. Our \_\_\_\_\_(Matthew 4:18-22).
- D. Our \_\_\_\_\_(Matthew 19:16-22).

This does not mean that the Lord will demand these things of us, but it does mean that we would \_\_\_\_\_to offer them up if He did (Matthew 16:24-26).

## V. WHAT IS THE REWARD OF THE LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP?

The only reason we can become such a disciple to the Lord Jesus Christ is that He only has our very best interest in mind. The Lord never asks us to give something up unless He plans to give us something \_\_\_\_\_in return.

*So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life." Mark 10:29-30*

*"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" John 10:10*

## VI. WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP?

There are several goals that will be achieved for those who become disciples of Jesus:

- A. To be a \_\_\_\_\_, mature Christian able to weather the storms of life (Ephesians 4:13-14).
- B. To be a true reflection of \_\_\_\_\_to the world (Ephesians 4:13; Acts 11:26).
- C. To be the kind of Christian that others can \_\_\_\_\_and pattern their lives after (I Corinthians 11:1; Titus 2:7-8).
- D. To be the kind of a Christian that God can use to \_\_\_\_\_to others (John 15:8, 12-17).

E. To ultimately receive the commendation from the Lord of a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ servant (Matthew 25:21).

*Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

1 Peter 1:10-11

The life of discipleship is really not an option for those who want to reach the above goals in their lives. Unfortunately, many believers live a life far below God's standard for them and, hence, never fully experience the great rewards and blessings that come from a life of total surrender to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. As believers, we must be willing to accept the challenge of discipleship if we are to prove "...what is that good, and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).

# Lesson 6

## Fellowship

God never intended for His people to live in isolation or separated from each other, but that they would be rightly related to one another in unity, flowing together as a harmonious whole to carry on a corporate ministry to the world.

*I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Ephesians 4:1-6*

### I. WHAT DOES THE WORD "FELLOWSHIP" MEAN?

- A. The actual meaning of the Greek word translated "fellowship" in the New Testament is "\_\_\_\_\_". It means to be a sharer or a partner in something.
- B. In relation to the people of God it describes the partnership, \_\_\_\_\_ or relationship that believers enter into by virtue of their common experience of salvation and mutual participation in the Body of Christ.

### II. WHAT ARE THE TWO ASPECTS OF FELLOWSHIP?

Fellowship for the believer is seen in \_\_\_\_\_—vertical and horizontal.

*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:3*

- A. Vertical fellowship is fellowship\_\_\_\_\_.

Fellowship with God is the foundation for all other Christian fellowship. Fellowship with God is established when we lay down our will and accept God's authority in

our lives on the basis of the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:9; Ephesians 2:12-18).

This fellowship is cultivated in prayer, praise and worship in Spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).

B. Horizontal fellowship is fellowship\_\_\_\_\_.

Once fellowship with God has been established, we can have proper fellowship with one another. When God is truly our first love and our desire is to please Him, then the way is open for the Lord to break down all barriers that separate us from one another.

This fellowship is cultivated in our inter-relating with one another in the Body of Christ (Acts 2:42).

### III. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE WAYS IN WHICH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP IS EXPRESSED?

Christian fellowship is expressed in spiritual ways, as well as in practical ways.

A. Some spiritual avenues of fellowship include:

1. Praying for one another (James 5:16)
2. Exhorting one another (Hebrews 3:13; 10:25)
3. Edifying one another (Romans 14:19)
4. Bearing one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2, 5)
5. Singing, praising and worshipping together (Colossians 3:16)
6. Comforting one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
7. Forgiving one another (Ephesians 4:32)

B. Some practical avenues of fellowship include:

1. Receiving one another into friendship (Romans 15:7)
2. Serving one another in practical ways (Galatians 5:13)
3. House-to-house fellowship (Acts 2:46)
4. Showing hospitality to those in need (Romans 12:13)
5. Being considerate one of another (Ephesians 4:32)
6. Helping the needy financially (1 John 3:16-18)
7. Getting to know and appreciate each other

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this \_\_\_\_\_ that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34-35*

#### IV. WITH WHAT ARE WE FORBIDDEN TO FELLOWSHIP?

When we enter into the Kingdom of God there should be an immediate \_\_\_\_\_ from certain things that are totally inconsistent with the Christian lifestyle.

- A. The unregenerate world system (Ephesians 5:11; Psalm 94:20)

*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. Ephesians 5:11-12*

- B. Satanic spirits and cults (I Corinthians 10:20)

- C. Unrighteous living (2 Corinthians 6:14)

*Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

- D. False religion (2 Peter 2; Jude 4)

- E. False doctrine or teachings (2 John 1:9-11; Galatians 1:7-9)

It is important that we do not interpret these admonitions regarding fellowship as an encouragement to break ties and relationship with lost people. But when it comes to fellowship and intimate relationships, these deeper involvements should be reserved for the people of God who are on the same pathway (1 Corinthians 15:33).

#### V. WHAT LIMITATIONS DOES GOD PLACE ON OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS WHO PROFESS TO BE BELIEVERS?

While we are to endeavor to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace until we all come to the unity of faith (Ephesians 4:2, 13), there are limitations that God places on our fellowship even with others who profess to be Christian. These limitations include both areas of doctrine and practice.

- A. \_\_\_\_\_. Any doctrine which attacks the fundamental steps of the process of redemption should not be fellowshiped. This would include such things as the deity of Christ, the virgin birth, the humanity of Christ, the physical death, burial and resurrection of Christ, the depravity of man outside of Christ and the power of the blood of Christ to cleanse from sin (Titus 3:9-11; Romans 16:17).

*Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. Romans 16:17*

- B. \_\_\_\_\_. Those who claim to be Christians, but who live in a way that is a reproach to His name, are not to be fellowshiped (Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 5:7, 10-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6). These things include:

1. Covetous – Inordinately desirous or greedy.
2. Idolatrous – Inordinately fond of a person or things above the Lord.

3. Railer – Abusive and scornful language.
4. Drunkenness – Habitually drinking to excess.
5. Extortion – Obtaining gain by dishonest means.
6. Fornication – Illicit sexual relationships.
7. Hardness of Heart – Refusing to reconcile an offense with a brother.

With individuals who fall into these categories we are instructed “do not \_\_\_\_\_ with them” and “do not \_\_\_\_\_ with them” (1 Corinthians 5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:14).

*But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us. 2 Thessalonians 3:6*

## VI. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BEST WAYS TO CULTIVATE POSITIVE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP IN THIS LOCAL CHURCH?

Some of the best ways to cultivate godly Christian fellowship in the local church is to:

- A. Come to the services early and stay afterward to fellowship.
- B. Invite another single, couple or family out to dinner with you after the church service.
- C. Have other members of local church into your home for fellowship.
- D. Attend one of the many small groups sponsored by the local church.

God is very much concerned that all who belong to Him live in proper relationship to Him and to each other in His Body. This is why, in the New Testament, those who were added to the Lord (Acts 5:14) were also added to the Church (Acts 2:41, 47). When we were saved we became part of a great family – the family of God! God is our Father and all those who know Him are brothers and sisters. God is very concerned that His children love and accept one another and that they are united to do His work. God has a beautiful work for His family here on earth to do and has a structure to follow and to be a part of while doing it.

# Lesson 7

## Evangelism

The purpose of this lesson is to help believers to understand their personal responsibility to be witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ and to be equipped with a basic knowledge of the Gospel message, that they might be able to share it with others.

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen. Matthew 28:19-20*

### I. WHAT DOES THE WORD "EVANGELISM" MEAN?

The Greek word from which we get our English word "evangelism" simply means "to tell" or "to announce\_\_\_\_\_." In Christian circles, this word refers to the "good news" or the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

*"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, for He has anointed Me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD's favor has come. " Luke 4:18-19, NLT*

### II. WHY IS THE "GOOD NEWS" NECESSARY?

- A. God, who is absolutely righteous and holy, created man in His own likeness and image (Genesis 1:26-28).
- B. The first man, Adam, fell into sin and out of fellowship with God, thus marring the image in which he was created (Genesis 3:1-21).
- C. Because we are all offspring of Adam and we were made in the image of our father Adam (Genesis 5:3), every man born into the world is born \_\_\_\_\_ and "brought forth in iniquity" (Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:9-12; 5:12).
  1. All are children of \_\_\_\_\_(Ephesians 2:3).
  2. All are under \_\_\_\_\_(Romans 3:19).

3. All have a rendezvous with \_\_\_\_\_(Hebrews 9:27; Romans 5:12).
4. All are \_\_\_\_\_ in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1).
5. All are \_\_\_\_\_ from the life of God (Ephesians 4:18).
6. All are \_\_\_\_\_ to the law of God (Romans 8:7).

*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...*

Ephesians 2:1-6

- D. Man has been separated from God for so long that he has become used to the unnatural and he actually loves \_\_\_\_\_ rather than light (John 3:19).
- E. There is no possible way for a sinful, disobedient man to dwell or have intimate fellowship with a holy and absolutely righteous God.

### III. WHAT IS THE "GOOD NEWS"?

- A. God took the initiative in bringing man back into fellowship with Himself by sending Jesus Christ to be the head of a new race (Galatians 3:26-29).
  1. Christ was also the image of God (Hebrews 1:3).
  2. Christ did not fall into sin as Adam did (Hebrews 4:15).
  3. Though undeserving, Christ received the full penalty for sin in Himself (Romans 5:8).

*For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 5:6-8

- B. All who receive Christ as Savior, accept the finished work of Calvary as the only way to salvation, repent of their sins and acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ receive the new birth experience and are born into Christ (John 3:1-5; Acts 2:38-39; John 14:6).
  1. In Christ we are made \_\_\_\_\_(Romans 4:5, 22-25).
  2. In Christ there is \_\_\_\_\_condemnation (Romans 8:1-2).

3. In Christ we are conformed to the \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 8:28-30).
  4. In Christ we have \_\_\_\_\_ with God (Romans 5:1).
  5. In Christ we have \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father (Romans 5:2).
- C. Man is ultimately restored to a place of full fellowship with the Father and becomes a partaker of the riches of His glory (Ephesians 1:18; Colossians 1:27; Romans 9:23).
  - D. God has provided one way of salvation for all men, whether Jew or Gentile (John 3:16; Romans 6:23; 10:9-10, 13).

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:16-17*

#### IV. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE TO TELL THE "GOOD NEWS"?

- A. God's way of salvation is not discovered by man; it comes to him by revelation and must be \_\_\_\_\_ to him from the revealed Word of God (Romans 10:17-18; 16:25-26).
- B. The Gospel message has been entrusted to the \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 3:9-11).
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ are responsible to respond to the command of Jesus, for the Church is comprised of people (Mark 16:5-20; Acts 1:8).

#### V. WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACH ABOUT OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO TELL THE "GOOD NEWS"?

- A. The primary ministry of Jesus was to evangelize (Luke 4:18; Matthew 11:5; Luke 8:1).
- B. The ministry of those whom Jesus sent out was evangelism (Luke 9:6).
- C. Paul was ready to preach the gospel everywhere (Romans 1:15).
- D. The early church recognized its responsibility in evangelism (Acts 5:42; 8:4, 12, 25, 36, 40; 13:1-5; 14:7, 21; 16:10, etc.).
- E. The good news must be shared, for this is the only way it is spread (Romans 10:12-18).

*How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? Romans 10:14*

- F. There is a necessity that we all be involved in this area (I Corinthians 9:16).
- G. Paul gives special commendation to the churches at Rome and Thessalonica for their efforts in evangelizing in their communities and beyond their borders (Romans 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 1:8).

The Kingdom of God is a kingdom of light, as opposed to the darkness of Satan's kingdom. God is Light (1 John 1:5) and so is His Kingdom. The very nature of light is that it is outgoing. Light is diffusive, penetrating, searching. Light spreads itself all over space and fills all things. God's Kingdom is also like this. It is the very nature of God and His Kingdom to spread itself and expose all areas of darkness.

Since this is the case, it is not at all strange that the Church of Jesus Christ, which is God's vehicle and instrument of the Kingdom of God, would be involved in evangelism. The only "good news" in this world of darkness is the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As members of the Body of Christ we are responsible to get the word out.

# Lesson 8

## Prayer and Fasting

The purpose of this lesson is to develop an understanding of the basic Christian disciplines of prayer and fasting, to help believers to see the importance of these disciplines and to challenge believers in regard to the regular and systematic practices of these disciplines in their lives.

*Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord. Jeremiah 29:12-14*

### I. WHAT IS PRAYER?

- A. Prayer is spending time in conversation with God.
- B. Prayer is the act of beseeching God earnestly for someone or something.
- C. Prayer involves communion with God and a recognition of His presence.
- D. Prayer involves listening to what God wants to say.

### II. WHAT IS FASTING?

- A. Fasting involves denying the body natural food and drink so that we may intensify our sensitivity and openness to the Lord.
- B. Fasting is a time of placing the desires of the flesh under the desires of the spirit or, as it is sometimes called, "chastening of the soul" (Psalm 69:10-11).
- C. Fasting was a regular practice of the Early Church.
  - 1. It was practiced individually (2 Corinthians 11:27).
  - 2. It was practiced corporately (Acts 13:2).

### III. WHO PROVIDES THE GREATEST EXAMPLE OF PRAYER AND FASTING?

Jesus.

Jesus Christ, who was the only perfect man, gave us a perfect example of communion with the Heavenly Father and, in doing so, demonstrated His absolute dependence on the Father (Luke 3:21; 4:1-2; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18; 11:1).

*Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there he prayed. Mark 1:35*

#### IV. WHAT ATTITUDES SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN PRAYER AND FASTING?

- A. We should pray in\_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 11:6).
- B. We should come\_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord (Psalms 35:13).
- C. We should come desiring God's\_\_\_\_\_ (2 John 5:14-16).
- D. We should come with\_\_\_\_\_ motivation (Psalms 24:3-4; Isaiah 58:6-7).
- E. We should come without\_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 6:5-18).

#### V. WHAT ARE SOME BIBLICAL GUIDELINES GOVERNING PRAYER?

- A. Believers should have an attitude of prayer or open communion with God at \_\_\_\_\_ times (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Romans 1:9).
- B. Believers should have a specific time set aside for\_\_\_\_\_ prayer (Psalm 5:1-3; 55:16-17).
- C. Believers should spend time\_\_\_\_\_ to God in prayer times, realizing that prayer is two-way communication (Psalm 143:8; Isaiah 30:31).

#### VI. WHAT ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF PRAYER FOUND IN THE BIBLE?

There are many kinds of prayer mentioned in the Bible. All the different forms are valid and are to be found operating at various times in the life of the believer.

- A. Persevering, or Fervent Prayer (James 5:16; Luke 11:5-13)
- B. Intercessory Prayer (1 Timothy 2:1)
- C. Giving of Thanks (1 Timothy 2:1; Philippians 4:6)
- D. Prayer in the Spirit (1 Corinthians 14:14)
- E. Prayer and Fasting (Matthew 17:21)
- F. Supplication (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

#### VII. IN WHAT REALMS SHOULD OUR PRAYER LIFE BE PRACTICED?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_. Much of our prayer life will be in secret on a daily basis (Matthew 6:5-7).

- B. \_\_\_\_\_. Often we will solicit the prayer support of others to see special needs met (Matthew 18:19-20).
- C. \_\_\_\_\_. The whole church will also have a corporate life together in prayer (Acts 2:42; 4:24; 13:1-3).
1. The house of the Lord is to be a house of prayer (Matthew 21:13).
  2. The house of the Lord is a place where the voices of God's people will be heard in prayer, praise and thanksgiving (Psalm 64:1; 66:19; 18:6).

### VIII. IS PRAYER AND FASTING ONLY A RELIGIOUS FORMALITY?

No. Absolutely not!

Prayer and fasting are much more than an external form. God promises to respond to our prayers (2 Chronicles 7:14). Prayer definitely changes things (Psalm 91:14-15).

*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. 1 John 5:14-15*

Prayer and fasting are not optional disciplines in the life of the believer. Every believer must make a place for these practices in their life in order to maintain and ever deepen their personal relationship to God. The corporate prayer life of the church is vital and necessary and should be entered into by all, but it is no substitute for the personal prayer life of the individual. God is willing to give us all the grace to lay these foundations properly in our life.

# Lesson 9

## God's Word

### I. WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD OF GOD IN OUR LIVES?

The word of God is the food that gives life to and sustains believers in their earthly walk. The word of God is the believer's food for their journey.

- A. Jesus indicated that the word of God was the \_\_\_\_\_ to Him (Matthew 4:4).

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:1-4*

- B. Jesus encouraged us to \_\_\_\_\_ and to feed on the food of the word (John 6:22-27).

*Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." John 6:26-27*

1. Jesus spoke of a bread that when you eat you never \_\_\_\_\_ (John 6:35).

*And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."*

2. Jesus spoke of a water that when you drink you will never \_\_\_\_\_ (John 4:13-14).

*Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*

3. However, the responsibility is on the \_\_\_\_\_ to hunger and thirst and to eat and to drink (Matthew 5:6; Isaiah 55:1-2).

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.* Matthew 5:6

*Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink--even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk—it's all free! Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen, and I will tell you where to get food that is good for the soul!*

Isaiah 55:1-2, NLT

## II. WHAT ARE SOME SYMBOLS THAT ARE CONNECTED WITH THE WORD OF GOD AND WHAT DO THEY TELL US?

- A. The Word of God is a \_\_\_\_\_(Jeremiah 23:29).

It is able to break up and make an impression on hard hearts.

*"Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"*

- B. The Word of God is a \_\_\_\_\_(James 1:23-25).

It reveals to man his true spiritual condition.

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*

- C. The Word of God is a \_\_\_\_\_(Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12).

It works for us to bring victory to our lives. It works on us to convict and divide (2 Timothy 3:16; James 1:23-24).

*For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner [lit. judge or critic] of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

Hebrews 4:12

- D. The Word of God is a \_\_\_\_\_(Hebrews 4:12).

In the Greek, the word for "discerner" literally means "critic" or "judge." The Word of God passes right judgment on the innermost nature of man. It is like an umpire or the one who calls the shots.

- E. The Word of God is \_\_\_\_\_(John 15:3; Ephesians 5:26).

It refreshes, cleanses and purifies the soul from the defilements of sin.

- F. The Word of God is \_\_\_\_\_(Luke 8:11; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

It is sown in the heart to bring forth a spiritual harvest.

*Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever. 1 Peter 1:22-23*

G. The Word of God is \_\_\_\_\_ (Jeremiah 15:16).

It is that which imparts strength to the spiritual man (Deuteronomy 8:3; Psalm 119:103; Job 23:12).

*Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.*  
Jeremiah 15:16

1. It is \_\_\_\_\_ for babes (1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-13).

*Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*  
1 Peter 2:1-3

2. It is \_\_\_\_\_ for the mature (Isaiah 55:1-2; Mt. 4:4).

*So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. Deuteronomy 8:3*

3. It is strong \_\_\_\_\_ or solid food for the adult (1 Corinthians 3:2; Hebrews 5:12-14).

4. It is as sweet and delightful as \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 19:10; 119:103).

*How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.*  
Psalm 119:103

H. The Word of God is a \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 6:23; 2 Peter 1:19).

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105*

1. It imparts life and light to darkened man (John 6:63; 2 Corinthians 3:18).

2. It exposes areas of sin in our lives (Hebrews 4:12-13).

3. It gives direction and guidance (Proverbs 6:22-23).

I. The Word of God is true \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 19:10; 119:72).

It makes the possessor rich and wise.

*The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver.*  
Psalm 119:72

- J. The Word of God is a \_\_\_\_\_(Jeremiah 20:9; 23:29).

*Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name."  
But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones, I was weary  
of holding it back, and I could not. Jeremiah 20:9*

1. It warms the heart.
2. It gives zeal for service.
3. It exposes the wood, hay and stubble in our lives (1 Corinthians 3:12-15).

### III. HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO GET A WORD FROM THE LORD ON A DAILY BASIS?

- A. Jesus indicated that we need \_\_\_\_\_(Matthew 6:11).

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

- B. God has indicated that we need His word to keep us \_\_\_\_\_(Matthew 4:4b).

*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the  
mouth of God.*

### IV. HOW CAN I GROW IN THE WORD?

Constant growth is something we devote our lives to. It involves the following habits  
(Adapted from *The Word of the King* by Tendai Chitsike):

- A. I grow in His Word by \_\_\_\_\_it.

*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the  
breaking of bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:42*

*These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received  
the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether  
these things were so. Acts 17:11*

- B. I grow in His Word by \_\_\_\_\_it.

*...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow  
thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 1 Peter 2:2-3*

- C. I grow in His Word by \_\_\_\_\_it.

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to  
be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15*

D. I grow in His Word by \_\_\_\_\_ on it.

*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Joshua 1:8*

E. I grow in His Word by \_\_\_\_\_ it.

*Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.*  
Psalm 119:11

F. I grow in His Word by \_\_\_\_\_ it.

*Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. Matthew 4:10-11*

G. I grow in His Word by \_\_\_\_\_ it.

*But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" Luke 11:28*

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*  
James 1:22

# Lesson 10

## Worship and Praise

The purpose of this lesson is to give every believer an understanding concerning his or her God-given responsibility as a priest unto God to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God in praise, worship and thanksgiving and to inspire the believer toward a more intelligent expression of that worship.

*Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Hebrews 13:15-16*

### I. WHAT IS WORSHIP?

The word "worship" literally means, "to bow down" or "to extend oneself toward." It carries with it the idea of adoration, admiration and intense love.

Every individual in the world worships someone or something and their entire lifestyle is an expression and an outworking of that worship. Every individual is bowing down to and extending themselves toward someone or something. If it is not God that they are worshipping, the focus of their whole life will be improper.

### II. WHAT FORM OF WORSHIP IS PRESCRIBED FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH?

Some people will say that it does not matter how you worship as long as you are sincere. The Bible seems to indicate, however, that God is very much concerned about both the sincerity of our hearts and the actual form in which our worship is expressed.

A. New Testament worship is to be worship in \_\_\_\_\_(John 4:21-24).

*But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*

John 4:23-24

B. New Testament worship is to be worship in \_\_\_\_\_(John 4:21-24; Isaiah 29:13).

- C. New Testament worship is according to the pattern of David's tabernacle (Acts 15:15-17). There are several reasons why this is the case:
1. Paul quotes from the Psalms describing the worship expression of those who will be saved (Romans 15:9-11).
  2. The Psalms of David were a vital part of the New Testament worship expression (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19).  
  
*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Colossians 3:16*
  3. Many New Testament passages imply a similar expression in worship (Acts 2:47; 3:8; 16:25; 24:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-21; 1 Timothy 2:8; Hebrews 13:15-16; 1 Peter 2:9).
  4. This is also the form of worship in heaven (Revelation 4:9-11; 5:9-11; 7:11-12; 11:16-17; 15:3-4; 19:1-6).

### III. WHAT CHARACTERIZED THE WORSHIP IN DAVID'S TABERNACLE?

- A. It was \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Chronicles 29:25-29). In other words, they did not repeat the same formula over and over again; nor was there necessarily a prescribed order of worship that became a set form.
- B. It was from the \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 86:12; 111:1). This is the only kind of worship God has ever desired.
- C. It was expressed out of personal \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 51:15-17).
- D. It was regular and \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 34:1; 72:15; 119:164; 145:2).
- E. It was \_\_\_\_\_ with some opportunity for individual expression (1 Chronicles 6:31-32; 15:16-18).
- F. It had a strong emphasis on verbal \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 148-150).

### IV. WHAT FORMS DID WORSHIP TAKE IN DAVID'S TABERNACLE?

Since God has made man to be a three-part being (spirit, soul and body), He has given to man various ways to get himself totally involved in expressing worship to God (Luke 10:27). In the Psalms David outlines at least nine ways to worship God.

- A. We worship God with our \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. With audible praise (Psalm 3:1; 40:16; 42:4; 66:8)
  2. With singing (Psalm 47:6; 61:8; 68:4; 104:33)
  3. With shouting (Psalm 5:11; 32:11; 35:27)

- B. We worship God with our\_\_\_\_\_.
1. By lifting hands (Psalm 63:4; 119:48; 134:2; 141:2)
  2. By clapping hands (Psalm 47:1; 98:8)
  3. By playing musical instruments (Psalm 33:2-3; 57:8; 150:3-6)
- C. We worship God with our very\_\_\_\_\_.
1. By standing (Psalm 135:2; 134:1)
  2. By dancing (Psalm 30:11; 149:3; 150:4)
  3. By bowing or kneeling (Psalm 95:6)

## V. WHY IS THERE SUCH AN EMPHASIS ON WORSHIP?

- A. Because worship is commanded by God (Psalm 22:23).
- I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You. You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel! Psalm 22:22-23*
- B. Because God is worthy of our worship and praise (Psalm 18:3).
- C. Because worship glorifies God (Psalm 50:23).
- D. Because it helps us to develop our love relationship with God (Mark 12:30).
- E. Because it releases the power of God's presence (Psalm 22:3).
- F. Because we become like what we worship (Psalm 106:19-20; 2 Corinthians 3:18).
- G. Because it is the proper way to come before God (Psalm 100:1-4).
- H. Because it helps us to become God-centered instead of self-centered (Isaiah 26:3).
- I. Because it is part of our priestly ministry unto the Lord (1 Peter 2:5-9).
- J. Because it is a definite sign of life (Psalm 115:17; Isaiah 38:19).

*The dead do not praise the LORD, nor any who go down into silence. But we will bless the LORD From this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!*

Psalm 115:17-18

## VI. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE WORSHIP?

Whenever we respond in obedience to the Lord, by our faith we put certain spiritual laws into operation. Therefore, we can expect certain results in spiritual realms.

We can expect:

- A. Victory over our enemies (2 Chronicles 20:1-30).
- B. Release from bondages (Acts 16:16-34; Jonah 1:17-2:10).
- C. Inner peace and joy (1 Samuel 16:14-23).
- D. The breaking up of large problems (Joshua 6:1-20).
- E. Special protection from enemies (Isaiah 4:5-6).
- F. A special manifestation of God's presence (2 Chronicles 5:12-14).

## VII. WHAT MAIN GUIDELINES SHOULD GOVERN OUR CORPORATE WORSHIP TIMES?

While there should be spontaneity to our worship there are still certain guidelines that make worship most beneficial to all.

- A. Total involvement (Psalm 134:1; 113:1). Worship is not meant for only a few, but all of God's people.
- B. Unity of expression (Psalm 133). While there is a proper place for individual expression, public worship is a corporate expression and all should follow the designated worship leader.
- C. Orderliness (1 Corinthians 14:40). The guidelines established by the leadership should be carefully observed.
- D. Edification (1 Corinthians 14:26). All things done in the corporate gathering should be done to build up the people of God.

God's people were created to be a people of worship and praise. Worship and praise help us to keep all of life in proper perspective and serve to remind us that we are first and foremost the servants of the King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 4:10-11).

# Lesson 11

## Communion

The purpose of this lesson is to help us understand the importance of communion as one of the main ordinances of the church and to grow in our appreciation of what is available to every Christian at the "Table of the Lord."

*For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

### I. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE NAMES AND TITLES THAT ARE HISTORICALLY GIVEN TO THIS ORDINANCE?

There are many names and titles that are associated with this ordinance; some of them are biblical, some historical, some traditional. All of them have an aspect of truth in them.

- A. The Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 11:20). It is referred to in this way because it was at Christ's last supper with the disciples, prior to his crucifixion, that Jesus established this ordinance (Matthew 26:26-29) and it points to a future supper that all believers of all ages will once again eat with Christ (Revelation 19:9, 17).
- B. The Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ or the Table of the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:21). A table speaks to us of a place of feasting, love, and fellowship. The Lord has provided a place for us to sup with Him in an intimate way.
- C. The \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 10:16). The word "communion" means an intimate sharing of one person with another. Communion is to be a time of intimacy with the Lord and His Body.
- D. Breaking \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 20:7). This title refers back to when Jesus initiated communion and He took the bread, broke it, and blessed it (Matthew 26:26).

*"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread..." Acts 20:7*

E. Other (non-biblical) terms:

1. Eucharist. This word comes from the Greek word which means "giving thanks" (1 Corinthians 14:16). Certainly, as we remember the Lord, thanksgiving should fill our hearts.
2. Sacrament. This word comes from a Latin word meaning "holy" or "set apart." The Communion Table should certainly be hallowed and revered by all.

## II. WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION FOR THIS ORDINANCE IN THE BIBLE?

- A. From the first chapters (Genesis 3:8) to the last chapters (Revelation 21:1-3) of the Bible, God has revealed Himself as one who delights in and desires to have intimate fellowship and relationship with His creation.
- B. Even though sin separated man from God, God has always provided a means whereby this intimate relationship could be experienced in His house.

*"And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them."*

Exodus 25:8

- C. In the Old Testament, at different times, God provided different avenues through which this desire could be manifest. Two such avenues include:
  1. The Altar of Sacrifice (Exodus 20:24)
  2. The Table of Shewbread (Leviticus 24:5-9)
- D. Under the New Covenant, the table of the Lord's presence is the Communion Table. The table is the only piece of furniture taken into the New Covenant celebration or service.

## III. WHAT SYMBOLS DID JESUS USE IN ESTABLISHING COMMUNION?

A. Bread (Luke 22:19)

1. The bread speaks of the body of Christ broken for sinful man.
2. The bread which Jesus provided is necessary for spiritual life (John 6:58).

B. Fruit of the Vine (Matthew 26:29)

*And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day*

*when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Matthew 26:26-30*

1. The fruit of the vine speaks of the blood of Christ that was shed for sinful man for cleansing sin (Matthew 26:28).
2. Only the blood of Jesus has the power to cleanse from sin (1 John 1:7).

#### IV. WHAT SPIRITUAL REALITIES ARE DEMONSTRATED AND EXPERIENCED AT THE LORD'S TABLE?

Everything that we experience in the Christian life we experience as we exercise faith in the Word of God. The simple act of going through a certain formality does not accomplish anything in the spiritual realm. However, as we exercise faith in the Word of God we should expect communion to be a very meaningful time.

- A. It should be a time of \_\_\_\_\_(Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25). As Christians, we should continually remember the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and what it provided for us.

*And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." Luke 22:19*

- B. It should be a time of \_\_\_\_\_(1 Corinthians 10:16). All believers need to renew and maintain a communion relationship with the Lord.

*The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*

- C. It should be a time of \_\_\_\_\_(1 Corinthians 10:17). At the Table believers should be united around the Lord and recognize their interdependence and need for the spiritual Body of Christ.

*For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.*

- D. It should be a time of \_\_\_\_\_(Luke 22:15). Christ's death was the highest expression of His love for us. The Table of the Lord is a feast of His love.

*Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you..."*

- E. It should be a time of \_\_\_\_\_(1 Corinthians 11:28-30). The truths found at the Table of the Lord should have healing effects on relationships among believers and bring health to the physical body.

*But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.*

- F. It should be a time of \_\_\_\_\_(1 Corinthians 11:28-32). Every believer should examine his heart to make sure it is free from enmity toward God and enmity toward our fellowman (Luke 22:21; 1 Corinthians 11:29).
- G. It should be a time of \_\_\_\_\_(Matthew 26:27). As we remember Christ's work, a new spirit of thanksgiving should be ours.
- H. It should be a time of \_\_\_\_\_(1 Corinthians 10:16). God's desire is to bless His people through the blessed bread and the blessed cup.
- I. It should be a time of \_\_\_\_\_or proclamation (1 Corinthians 11:26). Up to the Second Coming of Christ, the practice of communion in the Church is a visible sign and witness to the death of Christ.

*For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*

## V. HOW CAN A SINFUL MAN FIND A PLACE AT THE KING'S TABLE?

It is only on the basis of God's infinite love, mercy, and grace that we can sit and feast at the Table of the Lord. Gratitude should fill our hearts every time we share this meal together. The magnitude of Christ's love is symbolized in the Old Testament account of Mephibosheth who was extended grace and found a place at the table of the king (2 Samuel 9:1-13).

- A. Mephibosheth was under a death sentence.
  - 1. He was slated for death.
  - 2. He was lame and could not walk properly.
  - 3. He saw himself as a "dead dog."
- B. Mephibosheth received grace from the King.
  - 1. The King searched for him and found him.
  - 2. The King extended grace and unmerited favor to him.
  - 3. The King restored his lost inheritance to him.
  - 4. The King treated him as a son.
  - 5. The King gave him a place at his table forever.

Paul the Apostle had a great love and appreciation for the Table of the Lord. His understanding did not come because he was familiar with the procedure, because he read about it in a book, or because he was told by a church leader. Paul's understanding came to him by a personal revelation by the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 11:23). As you read and meditate on the Scriptures in this lesson, ask God to give you a personal revelation of the love of God expressed to you in the Table of the Lord.

# Lesson 12

## Stewardship of Finances

Every believer is accountable to God in the area of personal finances. God's way to financial prosperity and blessing is different and higher than man's way of success.

*But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

### I. IS IT SPIRITUAL TO TALK ABOUT MONEY?

Yes.

- A. The Gospels contain more warnings concerning the misuse of money than any other singular subject. One in every four verses in Matthew, Mark, and Luke deal with money.
- B. One in every six verses in the whole of the New Testament makes some reference to financial resources or their use.
- C. Almost one half of the parables of Jesus make reference to money and its misuse, particularly the area of covetousness.
- D. The only one of the twelve apostles to fall (Judas), fell over the issue of money (John 12:4-8; 13:27; Acts 1:25; Matthew 26:14-16; John 12:4-6).
- E. The first sin recorded in the Early Church concerned hypocrisy in the giving of money to the Lord (Acts 5:1-10).
- F. Many a man in the Bible shipwrecked spiritually because of the improper use of or desire for money.
  - 1. Balaam used his spiritual gift for personal gain (Numbers 22-24).

2. Achan brought judgment on all Israel when he yielded to covetousness (Joshua 7).
3. Gehazi tried to take material advantage of another's ministry (2 Kings 5).

## II. WHAT ARE SOME WARNINGS THE NEW TESTAMENT GIVES US CONCERNING MONEY?

The Bible clearly teaches us that money is not evil in and of itself. It is our love for money more than our love for God that will cause us to stumble in the area of covetousness. For this reason, the Bible gives strong warnings.

- A. We are warned not to make the accumulation of wealth our main ambition in life (Luke 12:16-21; 1 Timothy 6:9).
- B. We are warned not to value material gain above spiritual gain (1 Timothy 6:6, 11).
- C. We are warned that a love for money will bring us to destruction (1 Timothy 6:9-11).

*But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.*

I Timothy 6:9-11

## III. WHAT IS A "TITHE"?

The tithe was a form of giving that God prescribed for His people in the Old Testament age for the purpose of supporting the service of the Tabernacle/Temple. This practice was confirmed and enhanced in the New Testament age.

- A. The word "tithe" comes from a Hebrew word which means\_\_\_\_\_.

A tithe of one's income (or increase) is one-tenth (ten percent). Tithing refers to the practice of systematically giving ten percent of one's gross income back to the Lord for His work.

- B. Tithing was the common practice of holy men of God in Old Testament days.
  1. Prior to the giving of the law, God's people tithed voluntarily.
    - a. Abraham gave a tenth to Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20).

- b. Jacob gave a tenth at Bethel (Genesis 28:22).
- 2. When God gave the law to Moses, tithing was a major part of His overall financial system (Leviticus 27:30-33; Numbers 18:20-32).
- 3. Jesus confirmed tithing in His teaching and practice (Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42; 18:12; Hebrews 7:1-21).
- C. Tithing is to serve as a reminder that \_\_\_\_\_ comes from and belongs to the Lord (Deuteronomy 8:11, 17-18).
- D. Tithing and giving is God's cure for \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 6:19-21; Ephesians 4:28).
- E. Tithing is to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of our giving (Deuteronomy 12:6). Freewill offerings and giving to the poor should also be part of our regular giving (Galatians 2:10).

#### IV. WHAT ARE SOME MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT TITHING?

There are many people who have unscriptural views of tithing.

- A. Some say you can give money wherever you want....BUT God says there is a designated place (Deuteronomy 12:5-6; 13-14).
- B. Some say that you can designate on your envelope where the tithe is to be used...BUT God says the tithe is to go for the service of His house (Numbers 18:21-24).
- C. Some say that you can borrow your tithes and pay them back later...BUT God says if you do borrow them, when you pay them back, you must add a fifth more (20%) to the initial tithe (Leviticus 27:31).
- D. Some say that God doesn't care what we give, only how we give...BUT God says that He is concerned with both (Mark 12:41-44; Matthew 5:20).

*"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts..." Malachi 3:8-11*

#### V. WHAT ARE SOME CLEAR NEW TESTAMENT PRINCIPLES THAT SHOULD GOVERN OUR GIVING?

The New Testament, in every case, elevates the Old Testament practices to a higher and more spiritual level. Rather than giving merely because we have to, there are other factors that New Testament believers need to consider.

As committed New Testament believers, we should:

- A. Give \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord first (2 Corinthians 8:5).
- B. Give \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 8:3, 12).
- C. Give \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 9:7).
- D. Give \_\_\_\_\_ or liberally (2 Corinthians 8:2; 9:13).
- E. Give \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 9:6; 8:14-15).
- F. Give \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
- G. Give \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- H. Give \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 8:24).
- I. Give \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 9:11-12).
- J. Give \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 13:16).
- K. Give as a \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord and His saints (2 Corinthians 9:12-13).

## VI. HOW DOES FAITH OPERATE IN THE AREA OF GIVING?

Paul outlines principles of New Testament giving in 2 Corinthians 8-9. In this passage we see that giving in faith involves the following:

Giving in faith:

1. Giving in faith requires a grace from God to give (2 Cor. 8:1-2).

*And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. –NIV*

2. Giving in faith requires having a desire to excel in the area of giving (2 Corinthians 8:6-7).

*So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us -- see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 2 Corinthians 8:6-7, NIV*

3. Giving in faith involves making commitments of faith and then following through with those commitments (2 Corinthians 8:10-11).

*And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. 2 Corinthians 8:10-11, NIV*

4. Giving in faith requires a willingness to stretch out in faith believing that God will supply what we need in the future (2 Corinthians 8:13-15).

*Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little." 2 Corinthians 8:13-15, NIV*

5. Giving in faith involves a generous sowing of seed realizing that unless there is a significant deposit there can be no significant return (2 Corinthians 9:6).

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 2 Corinthians 9:6, NIV*

6. Giving in faith recognizes that God is a debtor to no one and that He will be generous with us beyond our generosity to Him (2 Corinthians 9:8-11).

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." 10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:8-11, NIV*

7. Giving in faith is a testimony to others of the grace of God in our lives that will not only inspire faith in them but will cause them to praise God in greater ways (2 Corinthians 9:12-13). In other words, generous faith is contagious.

*This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 2 Corinthians 9:12-13, NIV*

# Lesson 13

## Divine Healing

The purpose of this lesson is to give us an appreciation for what God has provided for us in the atonement, to inspire faith in the heart of God's people to respond to Him as their healer, to remove doubts as to whether or not this provision is for the church today and to motivate the people of God to begin to look to the Lord with expectancy in the area of healing for the body.

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities: Who heals all your diseases...* Psalm 103:2-4

### I. WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF SICKNESS AND DISEASE?

- A. Sickness was unknown on the earth until man fell into sin. Sin and sickness came upon the human race because of Adam's disobedience.

*Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned...* Romans 5:12

- B. Sickness and disease are part of the curse of disobedience (Deuteronomy 28:15-61).

- C. Christ, who redeemed us from the curse of the law, bore our sins and our sickness on the cross (Galatians 3:13).

*When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirit with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "he Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."* Matthew 8:16-17

### II. ARE THERE DIFFERENT CAUSES FOR SICKNESS AND DISEASE?

Yes! "... the curse causeless shall not come." Proverbs 26:2

- A. There are causes in the \_\_\_\_\_ realm such as carelessness in observing natural laws, eating poorly, getting an improper amount of rest and exercise and contracting a virus (I Corinthians 6:12-15; Philippians 2:25-30).
- B. There are causes in the \_\_\_\_\_ realm, such as worry, anxiety, fear, stress and lack of forgiveness (bitterness).
- C. There are causes in the \_\_\_\_\_ realm where sickness can be associated with judgment for sin (Deuteronomy 28:15-61) or a period of spiritual testing (Job 2:5-8).

### III. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO DISCERN THE CAUSE FOR OUR SICKNESS?

It is important to discern the cause because permanent healing can only be obtained if the true cause is dealt with and removed.

- A. A person may need to begin to take better care of his or her physical body.
- B. The things that are causing the stress, fear or anxiety must be removed.
- C. The sin that is leading to judgment must be repented of and forsaken.
- D. True patience and faith must be cultivated during special dealings of God.

### IV. HOW DO WE KNOW IT IS GOD'S WILL TO HEAL?

We know it is God's will to heal because:

- A. God refers to Himself as our doctor (Exodus 15:26).

*...and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you [lit. your doctor]."*

- B. God's restoration and sanctification involves the whole man—spirit, soul and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- C. Jesus healed all who came to Him (Luke 4:40).
- D. Healing is part of the message of the Kingdom (Luke 9:1-2).

*Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

- E. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (Acts 10:38; 1 John 3:8).

*...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. Acts 10:38*

- F. Healing is one of the signs that follow true believers (Mark 16:17-18).

*Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. 3 John 2*

## V. WHAT ARE SOME SPIRITUAL HINDRANCES TO RECEIVING HEALING?

There are many reasons why healing may not come to us. At times it is totally beyond man's ability to know (Deuteronomy 29:29). Nevertheless, it is always good to examine our hearts to see if there is any trace of things that the Bible indicates may hinder divine healing.

- A. An unforgiving spirit (Matthew 18:23-35)
- B. Unconfessed sin (James 5:14-16)
- C. Persistent unbelief (Mark 6:5-6; Matthew 9:29)
- D. Not discerning the Lord's Body (1 Corinthians 11:29-33)
- E. Purposeful disobedience and rebellion (Exodus 15:26; Proverbs 4:20-22)
- F. A sharp tongue (Proverbs 12:18)
- G. Improper marital relationships (1 Peter 3:1-7)
- H. Satanic resistance (Daniel 10:12-13)

## VI. WHAT ARE SOME MEANS BY WHICH HEALING CAN BE RECEIVED?

- A. There are natural means, including diet, exercise and disciplined living (Proverbs 17:22; 1 Timothy 4:8).
- B. There is the medical profession, which is certainly used of God (Matthew 9:12).
- C. In addition, there are spiritual avenues of healing that God put in the church. These include the following:
  - 1. Simple \_\_\_\_\_ to God by the sick person (James 5:13; Hebrews 11:6).
  - 2. Laying on of believers' \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 16:18).
  - 3. Anointing with \_\_\_\_\_ by elders of the church (James 5:14).

4. Through the \_\_\_\_\_(Matthew 8:5-13; Psalm 107:20).
5. Through the \_\_\_\_\_of the Lord (1 Corinthians 11:23-32).
6. Being ministered to by someone operating the \_\_\_\_\_of healing (1 Corinthians 12:28).
7. Being ministered to by someone with the \_\_\_\_\_of healing (1 Corinthians 12:28).
8. Through special and miraculous means (Mark 7:31-37; 8:22-26; John 9:1-7; Acts 19:11-12; 5:15-16).

Divine healing is one of Christ's ornaments for the Church, which is his bride. It is the children's bread (Matthew 15:21-28). Many times we fail to experience what is rightfully ours because we do not give God the chance to prove Himself in these areas. As Christians, we ought to determine to go to the Lord, our Maker, first when we need healing and strength. As we do, we will experience the Lord in a new way: "... the Lord that heals you."

# Lesson 14

## Gifts of the Spirit

The purpose of this lesson is to bring understanding, to remove any fear or misunderstanding and to give the believer guidelines for the expression of the gifts of the Spirit in the local church.

*There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles. To another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. 1 Corinthians 12:4, 7-11*

### I. WHAT IS MEANT BY "GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT"?

There are many gifts that are part of the experience of the believer. All of God's gifts are free, unearned and unmerited by man, but graciously given by God. The "gifts of the Spirit" outlined in 1 Corinthians 12 are to be distinguished from other gifts of God in the following ways:

- A. These gifts are distinctly attributed to the Holy Spirit as the source (1 Corinthians 12:4, 7-11).

*There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit... But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all... But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

1 Corinthians 12:4, 7, 12

- B. These gifts are a manifestation or "shining forth" of the Spirit who dwells within the believer (1 Corinthians 12:7).
- C. These gifts are supernatural in character, not simply an extension or refinement of natural abilities or powers.
- D. These gifts are distributed at the direction of the Holy Spirit to meet specific needs at specific times (1 Corinthians 12:11).

- E. The “gifts of the Spirit”, therefore, are supernatural endowments given to the believer at the direction of the Holy Spirit to meet particular needs at particular times.

## II. WHAT ARE THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT?

### A. Gifts of Revelation – God communicating His mind to the Church.

1. The Word of Wisdom. The gift of the word of wisdom is the God-given ability to perceive supernatural wisdom from God when it is needed (Matthew 22:15-22).
2. The Word of Knowledge. The gift of the word of knowledge is the God-given ability to receive from God, by revelation, facts and information which are humanly impossible to know (John 4:17-19).
3. The Discerning of Spirits. The gift of discerning of spirits is the God-given ability to recognize what spirit is behind different manifestations or activities. The gift also includes the God-given ability to challenge or deal with spirits (Acts 16:16-18).

### B. Gifts of Inspiration – God speaking to the Church.

1. Tongues. The gift of tongues is a God-given ability which enables a believer to speak in a language which he does not know (Acts 2:1-17).
2. Interpretation of Tongues. The gift of interpretation of tongues is the God-given ability to bring forth, in a known tongue, a message which is given in an unknown tongue (Daniel 5:25-28).
3. Prophecy. Prophecy is the ability to speak forth a message from God which is received from the Holy Spirit as it is brought forth (Acts 11:28; 21:10-11).

### C. Gifts of Demonstration – God doing or acting in the Church.

1. Faith. The gift of faith is a God-given ability to believe God for the impossible (Acts 3:11, 13-16).
2. Healing. The gift of healing is the God-given ability to impart healing for the physical body at certain, specific times (Acts 28:8-10).
3. Miracles. The gift of miracles is a God-given ability to perform the impossible (Acts 20:9-12; 13:8-12).

## III. HOW DO THESE GIFTS OPERATE?

When it comes to the gifts of the Spirit, we see the Spirit of God and man working together as co-laborers.

- A. There is the Spirit's part relative to the gifts.
  - 1. The Spirit takes the initiative as the giver (1 Corinthians 12:11, 18, 28).
  - 2. The Spirit will always do His part.
  
- B. There is man's part relative to the gifts.
  - 1. We should be totally \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord (Romans 6:1-2, 13).
  - 2. We should \_\_\_\_\_ to be used in this realm (1 Corinthians 14:1; 12:31).
  - 3. We should \_\_\_\_\_ all we can about the gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1; Hosea 4:6).
  - 4. We should \_\_\_\_\_ to be used in the gifts (1 Corinthians 14:13; Matthew 7:11).
  - 5. We should maintain \_\_\_\_\_ and dispel unbelief (Romans 12:6; Mark 6:5-6).
  - 6. We should not neglect, but \_\_\_\_\_ the gifts (1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6).

#### IV. WHAT GUIDELINES SHOULD GOVERN THE OPERATION OF THE GIFTS?

God gives many principles that anyone wanting to operate in the gifts should follow, realizing the vessel is responsible for the manner in which the gifts are exercised.

- A. The gifts must be used for the purpose of edifying or \_\_\_\_\_ the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 14:3-5, 12, 17-26).
 

*Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel. I Corinthians 14:12*

  - 1. Will this strengthen the Body of Christ?
  - 2. Will this bring comfort?
  
- B. The gifts must be operated decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:27, 29, 33, 40).
  - 1. Is this \_\_\_\_\_ flowing with what God is saying?
  - 2. Is this the best \_\_\_\_\_ to function in this gift?
  - 3. Does my \_\_\_\_\_ of presentation add or detract from the message?

C. The gifts of the Spirit are to be balanced by the fruit of the Spirit.

The gifts of the Spirit bring to us the ability of God. The fruit of the Spirit brings the character of God. We must have both the ability and the character of God in balance to bring life.

1. Love. Are you interested in the well-being of others (1 Corinthians 13)?
2. Joy – Do you find your joy in building up others (2 Corinthians 7:4)?
3. Peace – Are you at peace with the family of God (Matthew 5:22-24)?
4. Longsuffering – Are you willing to wait for the right time (2 Timothy 4:2)?
5. Gentleness – Does it flow or interrupt? Is it pushy or gentle (James 3:17)?
6. Meekness – Are you ministering in true humility (1 Peter 5:5)?
7. Goodness – Is your personal life in accord with God’s Word (Isaiah 52:11)?
8. Self-Control – Are you willing to limit yourself to the prescribed guidelines (1 Corinthians 14:32)?
9. Faith – Has God told you to say or do this (Galatians 3:2, 5)?

D. A summary guideline to follow is:

When operating the gifts of the Spirit, obey the moving of the Spirit which operates according to the Word of God on the basis of love and edification.

V. WHAT ARE SOME MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT?

- A. Some feel that the gifts of the Spirit are an indication of God’s approval on a life or a church assembly. However, the gifts of God are not earned or deserved; God gives gifts to meet the needs of His people and they can be misused and abused by man (Matthew 7:21-23).
- B. Some feel that the gifts of the Spirit are an indication of spiritual maturity. However, the gifts are not to be seen as things that are only available to the “super spiritual”, but these signs should follow all those who believe (Mark 16:17-20).

The gifts of the Spirit are part of the equipment given to the Church by the Spirit so that the Church might be a supernatural influence in the world today. Believers should not be afraid of these realms but should look to the Lord each day for the supernatural enablement of the Spirit to face the individual and unique challenges that are a part of our everyday life and experiences.

# Lesson 15

## The Church

The purpose of this lesson is to help every believer understand the importance of the Church as it relates to God's overall purpose, to see how God wants to use the Church as His vehicle to accomplish this purpose and to appreciate the great restoration that God is effecting in the Church these days to make His purpose a reality.

*And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Matthew 16:18*

### I. WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- A. The word "church" literally means, "the called out ones".

The church is not a \_\_\_\_\_ but it consists of all those people who have been " \_\_\_\_\_ " from the world, who have \_\_\_\_\_ themselves unto God and have \_\_\_\_\_ unto the Lord Jesus Christ for worship and fellowship (I Peter 2:4-10).

- B. The Church is God's present instrument or vehicle in the earth through which God desires to extend His kingdom and fulfill His purpose (Matthew 21:43; Ephesians 1:3-14; 3:9-11).

*I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning. God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display His wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was His eternal plan, which He carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 3:9-11, NLT*

- C. The Church has two main aspects—the universal church and the local church.

1. The universal church consists of that company of believers in Christ in all ages, living and dead, who are distinct from the world by virtue of their calling in God (Ephesians 1:22; 3:21; 5:25-32).

2. The local church consists of groups of believers in given localities which are marked out by:
  - a. confession of faith,
  - b. discipline of life,
  - c. obedience in baptism,
  - d. gathering to the person of Jesus Christ,
  - e. having gifted ministries from Christ,
  - f. and keeping the memorial of the Lord.

They are always spoken of as complete units within themselves, which may voluntarily cooperate and fellowship with other local bodies (Acts 13:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2).

## II. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNIVERSAL OR INVISIBLE CHURCH?

It is important to understand the concept of the universal church so that:

- A. We can see our connection and mystical union with all believers of past ages who have run before us, realizing that they are counting on us to finish the race (Hebrews 12:1-2).
- B. We can see that all believers in the world are really one in Christ. When one suffers, we all suffer and when one rejoices, we all rejoice (Acts 11:27-30; 1 Corinthians 12:26).
- C. We can see that what God is doing is bigger than one local church, sect, denomination or people, but includes every nation, kindred, tribe and tongue in each and every generation (II Peter 3:9; Revelation 5:9-10; 14:6-7).

## III. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE LOCAL CHURCH?

It is extremely important not to exalt the universal church above the local church in our practical living. The Bible uses the word "church" some 114 times, and 96 references are clearly to the local church. We must put the emphasis where God puts it for the following reasons:

- A. It is in the local church that we are going to put our \_\_\_\_\_ into practice (Matthew 18:15-20).
- B. It is in the local church that we are going to find the dynamics to bring us to maturity (Ephesians 4:11-16).
- C. It is in the local church that our ministry and function is going to be realized (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:18-28).

- D. It is in the local church we are going to find protection from deception (Psalm 91).

#### IV. WHAT ARE SOME OTHER NAMES AND TITLES GIVEN TO THE CHURCH?

- A. The Israel of God (Galatians 6:16)
- B. The Pillar and Ground of Truth (1 Timothy 3:15)
- C. The Temple of God (Ephesians 2:21-22)
- D. The House of the Lord (Hebrews 3:1-4; 1 Timothy 3:15)
- E. The Family of God (Ephesians 3:14-15)
- F. The Household of Faith (Galatians 6:10)
- G. The Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:20-23)
- H. The Army of God (Ephesians 6:10-13; 2 Timothy 2:3-4)
- I. The Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:28-32; Revelation 19:6-9)

#### V. WHAT ARE THE MAIN DYNAMICS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH?

*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers... Acts 2:40-47*

The first generation Christian church is a biblical pattern for today's churches. It is to be a guide for our present day strategies and structure.

##### 14 Dynamics of the First Generation Church:

1. The Apostle's \_\_\_\_\_ -- The Authoritative Teaching of the Word of God
2. \_\_\_\_\_ -- The Cultivation of Relationship in the Family of God
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Bread -- The Communion of the Body of Christ
4. \_\_\_\_\_ -- The Supernatural Influence of Prayer and Intercession
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord -- The Awesome Respect of Almighty God
6. Wonders and \_\_\_\_\_ -- The Miraculous works of the Holy Spirit
7. Together in One \_\_\_\_\_ -- The Unity of True Believers
8. All Things in \_\_\_\_\_ -- The Adventure of Liberal Giving
9. In the \_\_\_\_\_ -- The Dynamics of Corporate Gatherings
10. From House to \_\_\_\_\_ -- The Ministry in Small Groups

11. \_\_\_\_\_ of Heart -- The Joy of the Christ-like Lifestyle
12. \_\_\_\_\_ God -- The Spiritual Impact of Worship
13. \_\_\_\_\_ with People -- The Influence of Righteousness in a City
14. \_\_\_\_\_ to the Church -- The Making of Disciples in the Local Church

## VI. WHAT IS THE LORD'S PURPOSE AND MISSION FOR HIS CHURCH?

- A. The Church is God's instrument to extend His kingdom and fulfill His eternal purpose (Matthew 4:17; 24:14; 1 Corinthians 15:24; Ephesians 3:10-11).

The ultimate intention of God is to establish His rule and authority in the hearts and lives of people and throughout His entire universe. This happens when people believe the gospel and repent. The born again experience brings people out of darkness and into the light of the Lord and into submission to Christ's authority and lordship over their lives.

- B. The Church is the final or ultimate instrument of God in the earth and will continue to function as such right up to the return of the Lord (Luke 9:1-2; 10:19; Matthew 28:18-20).

1. Throughout history, God's instrument has changed but His purpose has remained the same.

God has used different instruments over the centuries of time to accomplish His plan and purpose. He used the patriarchs (i.e. Adam and Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Etc.), the nation of Israel, and even Gentile kings at times. He used Jesus as the instrument of His kingdom.

2. The Church is God's instrument to foster the four main aspects of His Eternal Purpose.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_: To worship and glorify God (Genesis 3:8; Ephesians 3:20-21; Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:9)
- b. \_\_\_\_\_: To be conformed to the image of Christ (Genesis 1:26; Romans 8:28-29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 2:7)
- c. \_\_\_\_\_: To do the works of Jesus (Genesis 1:26,28; Romans 16:20; Matthew 10:7-8; Mark 3:14-15; 1 John 3:8; Acts 10:38)
- d. \_\_\_\_\_: To make disciples of all nationalities (Genesis 1:28; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:46-49; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 4:12; Acts 20:28; Colossians 1:28)

- C. The Church is God's instrument to extend the Kingdom message (Acts 1:8)

1. \_\_\_\_\_: Witness in Jerusalem
2. \_\_\_\_\_: Witness in Judea

3. \_\_\_\_\_: Witness to Samaria
4. \_\_\_\_\_: Witness to the ends of the Earth

# Lesson 16

## Church Government

The purpose of this lesson is to help every believer to understand the need for government, structure and order in the Church, to understand God's plan for that government and to rightly relate to that God-given authority in their lives.

*Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Hebrews 13:17*

### I. WHAT AREAS OF GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY GOD?

The Bible identifies clearly three main areas of government in society—the home, civil government and local church authority (see 1 Corinthians 11:1-3; Romans 13: Hebrews 13:17). In this lesson we will deal with local church government.

### II. WHAT ARE THREE MAIN BIBLE FACTS CONCERNING LOCAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT?

A. The first fact that the Bible makes very clear is that God has established \_\_\_\_\_ in His House, the Church.

1. Without government, structure or order there is the strong potential for chaos, lawlessness and disorder (Judges 17:6; 21:25; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; 2 Peter 2:10; 1 Corinthians 14:22, 40).
2. There are those that \_\_\_\_\_ in the House of God (Romans 12:8).

*Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Hebrews 13:17*

*Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.*

Hebrews 13:7

B. The second fact clearly revealed in the Scripture is that God identifies the rulers in His House as \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 5:17).

1. God could have chosen any form of government for His House, including dictatorship (one-man rule), democracy (rule by majority), central control (rule by headquarters) or many others.
  2. God clearly chose that His House be governed by\_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. Plurality of elders means more than \_\_\_\_\_(Acts 14:23; 20:17; James 5:14).
    - b. Plurality of elders includes the idea of a \_\_\_\_\_or senior pastor (Acts 12:17; 21:18).  3. Another term that was applied to elders in the New Testament was the word "\_\_\_\_\_". The word bishop simply means, "overseer" and describes the function that an elder has (Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1).
- C. The third main fact concerning local church government is that God determines the kind of individuals that are to be the rulers in His House (1 Timothy 3:1-9; Titus 1:5-9).
1. They must have proven\_\_\_\_\_. They must be blameless, temperate, sober, of good behavior, not given to wine, not greedy of money, not covetous, not self-willed, a lover of good.
  2. They must have\_\_\_\_\_. They must not be a novice, just, holy, having a good report among the unsaved, able to teach, holding fast the faithful word, patient, able to convince with sound doctrine.
  3. They must have their \_\_\_\_\_. They must be the husband of one wife, above reproach, children in submission, hospitable, ruling own house well (Note: This does not mean that elders must be married, but if they are they should have a model marriage).
  4. They must be\_\_\_\_\_for an equipping ministry by the Holy Spirit. They should be able to teach and able to exhort and convince with sound doctrine.

### III. WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ELDERS TOWARD THE PEOPLE?

The responsibilities of the elders fall into three main categories:

- A. \_\_\_\_\_(1 Thessalonians 5:12-14).

This involves the general oversight of the ongoing affairs of the church. To rule means "to preside over, to superintend, to care for, to give attention to." The elders are to the church what parents are to the home. As rulers, therefore, they stand accountable before God for the state of the assembly (Hebrews 13:17). God expects elders to rule with a spirit of humility and gentleness (1 Peter 5:2-3).

- B. \_\_\_\_\_(Acts 20:28-35).

This involves feeding the flock, watching out for wolves, helping the weak, ministering to the sick and being an example for the sheep to follow.

C. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9).

By teaching sound doctrine, the elders are going to help bring stability to the church and maturity to the saints so that all the members of the local assembly might become responsible with the use of their gifts, talents and ministries.

#### IV. WHAT ARE THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PEOPLE TOWARD THE ELDERS?

God gives responsibilities both ways. If leaders are not righteous, the people groan; but if the people do not respond properly to their leaders, the leaders are grieved.

*Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Hebrews 13:17*

- A. The people are to esteem elders highly (1 Thessalonians 5:13).
- B. The people are to submit themselves to godly leadership (Hebrews 13:17).
- C. The people are to be willing to financially support the elders (1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 Corinthians 9:11-14).
- D. The people are to be careful about hastily charging an elder with wrongdoing (1 Timothy 5:1, 19-20).
- E. The people are to pray for their leaders (1 Thessalonians 5:25).

It is not God's intention that the relationship between elders and the people be forced or strained. God wants His Church to be a family where all are able to enjoy the warmth of His presence in their midst. But God is a God of order and wants His family to reflect His nature. The structure is not intended to stifle the Body but to give it the strength and stability necessary to face the challenges of the coming days. May God grant us all the grace that we need to flow together to the goodness of the Lord in the place where He has put us.

# Lesson 17

## Church Membership

Believers need to see that membership in a specific local church is not to be feared but something that will be beneficial to them in walking out their commitment to the Lord and other members of the Body of Christ.

*Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them. Matthew 18:19-20*

### I. IS THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST MEANT TO BE AN EXCLUSIVE GROUP?

*When properly understood, it is true that the Church is meant to be exclusive.*

A. The word "church" in the Greek language means "called out ones".

The Church of Jesus Christ is to consist of only those who are called out of the world by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It consists of those whose citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20).

B. Church membership is exclusive; however, it is also clear that church attendance is to be open to all (1 Corinthians 14:23; James 2:2-4).

### II. WAS THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH CONSCIOUS OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WERE ADDED TO THEM?

Yes.

It is very clear in the Gospels and the Book of Acts that the disciples and the early believers were actually numbered and accounted for.

A. Jesus chose 12 apostles who were named and numbered (Luke 9:1, 12).

B. Jesus later chose 70 others as His ambassadors (Luke 10:1-2).

C. Over 500 brethren saw Jesus in His ascension (1 Corinthians 15:3-8).

D. Before Pentecost, 120 disciples gathered in the upper room (Acts 1:15).

- E. There were added unto them (the 120) about 3000 souls (Acts 2:41, 47).
- F. About 5000 believed and were added to the church (Acts 4:4).
- G. The number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem (Acts 6:7).

### III. IS IT SCRIPTURAL TO HAVE SOME KIND OF CHURCH ROLL OR RECORDS?

Yes!

The Old Testament and New Testament refer to books where the names of God's people were kept for records. It would be impossible to fully take care of God's sheep if no one knew where they were or if they really belonged to a particular local church.

#### A. Old Testament

1. The Israelites had their names in the Books of Genealogy of the Nation. They were numbered before the Lord (Numbers 1-2).
2. The Levites were also numbered before the Lord before they could minister in the priestly offices (Numbers 3).
3. Everyone numbered in Israel had to be redeemed with silver (Exodus 30:11-16).
4. The remnant from Babylon had to be registered in the book in order to minister in the priesthood (Ezra 2:62-63; Nehemiah 7).

#### B. New Testament

1. The Church of the Firstborn have their names written in heaven (Hebrews 12:22-24).
2. The redeemed of all ages have their names written in the Book of Life (Philippians 4:3; Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 20:12-15; 21:27).

God keeps the records! God keeps the names and numbers of the saints in His roll! If God Himself does this, then there should be no problem if man does likewise! God knows who is in His book and who is not.

### IV. HOW DOES ONE BECOME A MEMBER OF CHRIST'S CHURCH?

There are two aspects to Church membership in the book of Acts.

#### A. Spiritual membership.

You do not become a member by signing up, taking a pledge or subscribing to a

particular set of doctrines. In the Early Church, you had to be added to the Lord, which involved a spiritual experience of coming into right relationship with and under the lordship of Jesus Christ as personal Savior (Acts 5:14; 11:24). Spiritual membership is foundational to all other experiences in God.

B. Practical membership

There must also be a visible and practical expression of Church membership as seen in the Book of Acts. This is seen in belonging to "the church local." Believers that were added to the Lord were also added to the local church (Acts 2:41, 47).

In the New Testament, all members of the universal church were also members of the local church. Any idea of enjoying salvation or being a Christian in isolation is foreign to the New Testament. Fellowship with Christ includes fellowship with His Body (1 John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 1:9).

V. WHY DO SOME PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS WITH CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

There are many reasons why some people have rejected the concept of church membership.

- A. Some have a fear of\_\_\_\_\_. Because they have been hurt in the past by a misuse or abuse of membership, they are now very cautious about such commitments.
- B. Some do not want to be\_\_\_\_\_. Because they want the freedom to move and operate without accountability to human authority, they do not see church membership fitting into their plan for life.
- C. Some do not believe it is\_\_\_\_\_. Because there are no direct commands concerning membership, they feel that God must be opposed to official membership.

VI. WHAT ARE SOME ADVANTAGES OF PRACTICAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_(Colossians 2:2). Deeper levels of fellowship and family relationship are able to be developed.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_(1 Corinthians 12:12-27). A greater sense of belonging and worth can develop among members.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_(Ephesians 4:16). We have a greater productivity and impact in the lives of other members.
- D. \_\_\_\_\_(Galatians 6:1-2). There is a greater sense of accountability and responsibility among members.

- E. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thessalonians 5:12). There is greater opportunity to receive consistent pastoral care and oversight.
- F. \_\_\_\_\_ (Deuteronomy 32:30). There is a greater release of power as believers bind themselves together for a common goal.
- G. \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 18:19-20). God promises a greater release of His presence in the corporate assembly.

## VII. WHAT IMPORTANT QUESTIONS SHOULD EVERY BELIEVER ANSWER IN REGARD TO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Anyone who is a Christian and claims to be part of Christ needs to face the following questions realistically.

- A. Who is over me in the Lord (Hebrews 13:17)?
- B. When I was added to the Lord, in what way was I added to the Church (Acts 2:41-42)?
- C. When I gather together with the disciples, with whom do I gather (Acts 20:7)?
- D. With whom am I allowing God to perfectly join me (1 Corinthians 1:10)?

Every true believer in Christ must consider the question of church membership. All of the dynamics of the Christian life must be worked out in the context of others of like faith. The local church is God's vehicle through which He would strengthen and equip His people. To reject the local church is to resist God's plans and elevate ourselves above God. We need the Lord, but we also need each other if we are going to become all that God desires of us.

# Lesson 18

## Local Church Commitment

The purpose of this lesson is to help the believer see the need to be committed to and actively involved in a specific local church if they are to realize their full potential in Christ, become mature in their personal growth and development and find full release and expression in the ministry that has been given to them by Christ.

*"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."* Ephesians 2:19-22

### I. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE WORD "COMMITMENT"?

The English word "commitment" itself does not occur in the King James Version of the Bible, but when we understand the meaning of this word, we find that it is a concept that occurs throughout the Bible and is the basis for the entering into and maintaining of all covenants.

- A. To be committed to someone is to cleave to, to adhere to, to be attached to, to join oneself closely to or to stick to the side of another.
- B. In the Greek language, the concept of commitment implied a gluing together, a firm fastening and a giving of oneself steadfastly to another.

### II. IN WHAT AREAS DOES GOD TEACH US COMMITMENT?

- A. God wants us to be committed, firmly attached and joined closely to \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 11:23; 1 Corinthians 6:17).
- B. God wants everyone to be committed to the \_\_\_\_\_ as a foundation for our life (Psalm 119:31).
- C. God wants \_\_\_\_\_ to be bound together closely in a strong covenant relationship (Genesis 2:24).

- D. God wants believers in Christ to be committed to \_\_\_\_\_ in the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:1-6, 16).

### III. WHAT ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE CHURCH DOES GOD GIVE US TO HELP US UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR COMMITMENT?

God uses many means to teach us commitment. There are three main concepts that God links with the church to help us understand how we fit in with one another.

- A. The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_ composed of living stones that are built or fitly framed together (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5).

As stones in a building, we are to stand along the side of some stones, come under the authority of other stones and provide covering and protection for others. If any stone is out of place, the walls of the temple will be incomplete and vulnerable.

- B. The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_ composed of individual members that are interlocked and vitally linked to each other (Ephesians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 12:20, 27).

As members of the body we must be in our place and functioning in harmony and peace with other members of the body if the body is to fulfill its purpose and perform effectively.

- C. The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_ made up of many brothers and sisters (Ephesians 3:15; Galatians 6:10).

Each member of that family has a responsibility to watch and care for other members of the family to see others fulfilled and growing in their relationship to the Heavenly Father.

### IV. WHAT WAYS DO WE DEMONSTRATE COMMITMENT TO ONE ANOTHER?

The Bible lists many responsibilities that Christians have one to another. Every believer must measure their relationships according to these guidelines.

- A. There are many things Christians do toward one another because of this commitment.
1. They love one another (1 Peter 1:22).
  2. They comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18).
  3. They exhort one another (Hebrews 10:25).
  4. They build up one another (Romans 14:19).
  5. They admonish one another (Colossians 3:16).
  6. They serve one another (1 Peter 4:10).

7. They forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32).
  8. They submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21).
  9. In addition, they pray for one another, bear one another's burdens, have compassion one to another and are kindly affectionate one to another.
- B. There are many things Christians do not do to each other because of this commitment.
1. They do not condemn or criticize each other (Romans 14:13).
  2. They do not go to law with each other (Romans 14:13).
  3. They do not speak evil of one another (James 4:11).
  4. They do not envy one another (Galatians 5:26).
  5. They do not hurt or do anything that would harm another (Galatians 5:15).

## V. HOW IS OUR COMMITMENT EXPRESSED IN A LOCAL CHURCH?

God not only wants us to relate these truths to our relationship to the worldwide Body of Christ, but He wants us to demonstrate a commitment to a local family or body of believers. When a person is committed to a local assembly it means several things.

What does local church commitment mean in a practical sense?

1. Commitment means that I will work through difficulties when they arise instead of running away from them.
2. Commitment means that I will blend my personal giftings and ministry goals with the vision of that local assembly.
3. Commitment means that I will give myself faithfully to the members of that church in fellowship and service.
4. Commitment means that I will invest my time, talents and financial resources to see the vision of my local church become a reality.
5. Commitment means that I will faithfully gather with my brothers and sisters at the corporate assembly times.
6. Commitment means that I will take the preached word seriously and make every effort to put it into practice in my life.
7. Commitment means that I will only do those things that will edify and build up the saints to whom I am joined.
8. Commitment means that I will honor and respond to those who have oversight in my life as they speak into my life.
9. Commitment means that I will still support church leadership when policies do not keep to my opinions.

10. Commitment means that I will utilize personal resources to minister to the needs in the local church that God puts in front of me.

## VI. IS THERE A NEED TO VERBALIZE OUR COMMITMENTS?

Yes! Verbalizing commitments actually confirms them or renders them more firm.

A. This is true in marriage in the exchanging of vows.

B. This has always been true in various relational commitments in the Bible.

1. Joshua before Israel

*...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve,... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15*

2. Ruth unto Naomi

*For wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Ruth 1:16*

God is showing His people the need for being committed in these days. Every general commitment to Christ and His Church, however, must manifest itself in a specific commitment to a place or it is a false commitment. To say you are committed to what God is doing in a general way and not identify with a local church in a specific way is to dwell carelessly and it could lead to deception. For a child to do this in the natural – to say that he belonged to the great family of mankind but refused to identify with a specific natural family – would seem ridiculous. Yet, how many of God's people desiring to identify with the universal Body of Christ and Family of God have refused to identify and commit themselves to a specific local assembly? May God help us to have the courage to make steadfast commitments in these days.

# Lesson 19

## Christian Stewardship

The purpose of this lesson is to demonstrate to believers their responsibility before God regarding the use of their lives so that they will be equipped to make decisions in life that are consistent with this knowledge.

*Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

### I. WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

- A. The dictionary defines a steward as "a person who is entrusted with the management of estates or affairs not his own; an administrator."
- B. The New Testament word that is translated "steward" means "the manager of a household or household affairs; a manager" (1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 1 Peter 4:10).
- C. A steward is an individual who has been delegated with authority by an owner to oversee his possessions, property and household affairs.
- D. Stewards were common in the biblical culture. Most wealthy people and rulers had stewards to whom they entrusted the oversight of their personal property.
  - 5. Abraham had Eliezer (Genesis 15:2) who proved to be very faithful to his master (Genesis 24:1-9).
  - 6. Elisha had Gehazi (2 Kings 4:12) who proved to be an unwise steward (2 Kings 5:20-27).

### II. HOW IS THE CONCEPT OF STEWARDSHIP SEEN IN THE BELIEVER'S RELATIONSHIP TO GOD?

- A. God is the owner of all things (Genesis 14:19, 22; Psalm 24:1; 50:1-12; 68:19; 89:11; Haggai 2:8).

As the owner of all things, God is:

- 1. The giver or the source (James 1:17).

2. The One to whom account is given (Romans 14:12).  
*So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.*
  3. The One who rewards those who serve Him faithfully (Hebrews 11:6).
- B. The believer is to be God's steward (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-26).

As a steward, the believer is:

1. The receiver (1 Corinthians 4:7).
2. The one who is responsible and accountable to the owner (Romans 14:12; Luke 16:2).
3. The one who is rewarded for faithfulness (Matthew 25:21, 23).

### III. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT REALMS IN WHICH STEWARDSHIP IS TO BE RECOGNIZED AND PRACTICED?

- A. Stewardship involves, first of all and most importantly, the giving of one's \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 12:1-2; Acts 17:25).
- B. Stewardship involves a wise and honorable use of one's \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 90:12; Proverbs 24:30-34).
- C. Stewardship involves a wise investment and cultivation of individual \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 25:14-30).
- D. Stewardship involves a proper understanding and use of one's \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 6:19-21; Colossians 3:1-2).
- E. Stewardship involves a careful and purposeful use of all \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

### IV. WHAT IS A GOOD DEFINITION OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, abilities and material possessions based on the conviction that these are a trust from God to be used in His service for the benefit of His Kingdom. It is divine/human partnership with God as the senior partner. It is a way of living; the recognition of God's ownership of one's person, powers and possessions and the faithful use of these for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom in this world.

### V. WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY QUALITIES OF A GOOD STEWARD?

- A. Faithfulness and loyalty (1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Matthew 21:40-41).
- B. Industriousness (Matthew 25:26; Romans 12:11).
- C. Discipline and obedience (Colossians 3:22; Titus 2:9).

- D. Fruitfulness and productivity (Matthew 25:20).
- E. Humility and a servant heart (1 Corinthians 4:7).

**VI. WHAT TRUTHS DID JESUS EMPHASIZE IN THIS TEACHING ON STEWARDSHIP?**

Jesus' main teaching on stewardship is found in two primary parables in Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 16:1-13. These accounts emphasize the following truths:

- A. If we do not use what God has given to us we will\_\_\_\_\_.
- B. God expects us to use our talents to bring\_\_\_\_\_to His kingdom.
- C. God expects us to use great\_\_\_\_\_as we use our talents.
- D. Even though God does not appear to be giving direct oversight to what we are doing, yet there is a day of\_\_\_\_\_coming.
- E. The\_\_\_\_\_ will be rewarded by the Lord.
- F. The wicked and\_\_\_\_\_will be judged by the Lord.
- G. \_\_\_\_\_over natural, material things will qualify us for being entrusted with true spiritual riches.

**VII. WHAT KINDS OF QUESTIONS SHOULD BELIEVERS ASK THEMSELVES IN THE AREA OF STEWARDSHIP?**

- A. Do I daily acknowledge that all I have belongs to God?
- B. Do I seek God's approval above man's approval in the lifestyle I lead?
- C. Do I use my time, talents, abilities and finances in a way that will bring glory to God?
- D. Am I contributing to the extension of the Kingdom of God by the use of all that I have?
- E. Am I managing the affairs of my life in such a way that it will be easy for God to say to me, "Well done, you good and faithful servant"?

Christian stewardship describes the position and responsibility of the believers to manage or administrate as a steward for God the things which God has placed in their hands. We are not our own. Jesus Christ has paid for us at an infinite cost. We belong completely to Him. Everything we do in life should reflect this fact. People are endowed with a free will and can choose to return to God that which belongs to Him or they can withhold from Him that which is rightfully His. Let us all prove to be good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10).

# Lesson 20

## Discovering Your Place

The Church of Jesus Christ is composed of people who make up a team. No one person can fulfill the demands that Christ placed on His Church. It is as each individual part does its share that the local body grows, matures and fulfills its mission to the world.

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ- from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:11-16*

### I. HOW IS THE CHURCH INTENDED TO WORK?

A. The church works when the pastors focus on what they are supposed to do.

1. \_\_\_\_\_. Pastors are to give themselves to prayer and the Word.

*... but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the Word. Acts 6:4*

2. \_\_\_\_\_. Pastors are to equip, build up and train the saints for ministry.

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ... Ephesians 4:11-12*

3. \_\_\_\_\_. Pastors are to preach, teach and feed the church.

*Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd (feed) the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. Acts 20:28*

4. \_\_\_\_\_ . Pastors are to watch over and care for the people.

*Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Hebrews 13:17*

5. \_\_\_\_\_ . Pastors are to confront and admonish people in error or sin.

*Warn those who are unruly. Comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak...  
1 Thessalonians 5:14*

*...convince, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and teaching...  
2 Timothy 4:2*

*...a bishop must... hold fast the faithful word... that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict... Titus 1:9*

- B. The church works when church partners focus on what they are to do.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ . Partners demonstrate faithfulness to the Lord.

*Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. 1 Corinthians 16:13*

*Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment." Matthew 22:37-39*

*...knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:24*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ . Partners demonstrate love for one another.

*Above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8*

*And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."  
Matthew 22:37-39*

*If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well... James 2:8*

*We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. John 3:14*

3. \_\_\_\_\_ . Partners demonstrate proper esteem for church leaders.

*And we urge you brethren, to recognize those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake... Be at peace among yourselves. Brethren, pray for us. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, 25*

*That you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us.*  
1 Corinthians 16:16

*Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Hebrews 13:17*

4. \_\_\_\_\_ . Partners demonstrate faithful attendance at Sunday gatherings

*So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.*  
Luke 4:16

*Now it happened on another Sabbath, also, that He entered the synagogue and taught. Luke 6:6*

*But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, and rulers of the synagogue sent to them saying, "Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on." Acts 13:14-15*

*Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths, reasoned with them from the Scriptures. Acts 17:1-3*

*Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. Mark 16:2*

*Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning... they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Luke 24:1-2*

*Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper...*  
1 Corinthians 16:1-2

*Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. Acts 20:7*

*Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled,... Jesus came and stood in the midst... John 20:19*

*And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day*

*approaching.* Hebrews 10:24-25

5. \_\_\_\_\_. Partners are faithful in tithes and financial giving to support their local church.

6. \_\_\_\_\_. Partners deal compassionately with differences between other members of the body.

*One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike... Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.* Romans 14:5, 7

*Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.*

Romans 14:13

*We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.* Romans 15:12

*Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.* Romans 15:7

*And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ, forgave you.* Ephesians 4:32

7. \_\_\_\_\_. Partners work to maintain the spirit of unity in the church.

*Now I plead with you, brethren, but the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.* 1 Corinthians 1:10

*...endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace... till we all come to the unity of the faith.* Ephesians 4:3, 13

8. \_\_\_\_\_. Partners get involved in ministry and helping to shoulder the load.

*...for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ... from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

Ephesians 4:12, 16

*As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.* 1 Peter 4:10

If we would fulfill the simplest of the Bible's commands, we would have great lives, great families and great churches.

## II. HOW DOES SOMEONE GET INVOLVED IN MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH?

In this local church there are some basic steps that help prepare people for ministry involvement.

### A. Step One: Understand what it means to be a partner.

"Partner" is a term we use to describe a member or a person who is being added to and joined in the Spirit to this local church who wants to be more than a spectator – who wants instead to be a participator! God intends for all of His people to be in the ministry and involved in serving, ministering and laying down their lives for others.

The concept of a PARTNER is taken from several key passages of Scripture:

*Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; ...Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me. Nehemiah 4:13-18*

*Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain. Psalm 127:1*

*...from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:16*

As partners in this local church, we are building together. We are cooperating and flowing with one another to fulfill the wonderful task God has given us to accomplish in our city.

### B. Step Two: Participate in the weekly service schedule of the church.

Attend church service, worship God with all your heart, join in prayer sessions and give liberally.

### C. Step Three: Complete your first ministry to build the local church.

1. Make a list of people you can contact and invite to services in the next several weeks. Invite them to sit with you and share with them the vision of God for their lives.
2. Hand out our Touch Cards to everyone you meet and invite people to visit the church.
3. Greet new people and make them feel welcome.
4. Serve the Lord as opportunities arise in the local church.
5. Share your faith with unbelievers, lead people to Jesus and make disciples.

D. Step Four: Take the steps required to become a partner of this local church.

1. Partnership Considerations

You should not become a partner of this local church if:

- a. You are not a born-again Christian.
- b. You are living in unholy lifestyle with no desire to change.
- c. You are not committed to tithing to this local church.
- d. You disagree with the theology and philosophy of the church or its overseers.
- e. You have unresolved conflicts with a former pastor or church or are still a member of another church.

2. Partnership Procedures

- a. Attend a live PARTNERSHIP COURSE.

It is vital that all sessions be attended and all material covered, since it would be inadvisable for you to consider joining the church when you may not have all the facts regarding our vision and direction.

- b. Complete and turn in an official Partnership Application Form.

This will be our only notification that it is your desire to formally join the church.

- c. Have a partnership interview with a member of the pastoral staff.
- d. Attend the designated Sunday morning service when you will be formally introduced to the congregation and received into partnership.

E. Step Five: Fulfill the commitments of a partner.

1. The commitment to pray.
2. The commitment to attend.
3. The commitment to give.
4. The commitment to serve.

# Lesson 21

## Our Mission, Vision & Doctrine

Every local church should have a sense of destiny and mission given to it by God. At the heart of that call are the commands of Christ Himself to every church. But each local expression of the Body of Christ has a specific role to play in extending the kingdom of God in their city, their region and around the world. This focused perspective of ministry is what we mean by our vision and mission.

### I. GOD GIVES A SPECIFIC MISSION AND CALL FOR EVERY LOCAL CHURCH.

Notice that God had a specific word and challenge for each of the seven local churches of Asia in Revelation 1-3.

#### A. To Ephesus

*To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand... I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. ...He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'*

#### B. To Smyrna

*And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, "These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

#### C. To Pergamos

*And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, "These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: "I know your works, and where you dwell, ...He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

#### D. To Thyatira

*And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, "These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are*

*more than the first. ... But hold fast what you have till I come. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

E. To Sardis

*And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, "These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: 'I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.' Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

F. To Philadelphia

*And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, "These things says He who is holy, He who is true, 'He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens': I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; ...Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. ...He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

G. To Laodicea

*And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, "These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 'I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ...Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.' ...He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

II. THE SCRIPTURE HAS MUCH TO SAY ABOUT VISION AND MISSION.

*Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Habakkuk 2:2-3*

*And the Lord answered me and said, Write the vision and engrave it so plainly upon tablets that everyone who passes may [be able to] read [it easily and quickly] as he hastens by. —Amp*

*Where there is no vision, the people perish... Proverbs 29:18a, KJV*

*Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint... —NKJV When*

*people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. —NLT*

*Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14*

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let*

*us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us... Hebrews 12:1*

### III. A MISSION STATEMENT IS TO HELP A LOCAL CHURCH KEEP FOCUS.

The following quotes highlight the importance of a mission statement.

"Outstanding people have one thing in common: an absolute sense of mission."  
--Zig Ziglar

"This one step – choosing a goal and sticking to it – changes everything."  
--Scott Reed

"Goals are dreams we convert to plans and take action to fulfill." --Anonymous

Once we understand God's general mission for His church and God's specific mission for our local church, we must view everything we do, every ministry we launch in light of that perspective and interpret our every decision through that spiritual filter!

### IV. THE VISION AND MISSION AT THIS LOCAL CHURCH

#### *Mission Statement*

*This local church exists for the purpose of reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, raising leaders for all areas of church and society and releasing ministry to extend the Kingdom of God in all spheres of influence.*

The qualities of such a church include the following:

#### 1. A Pure Church

We desire to build a local church that holds personal character over ability, holiness over charisma and spiritual strength over natural strength (Leviticus 19:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:9).

#### 2. A Servant Church

We desire to build a local church that fully embraces the teaching of Jesus requiring all of His followers, especially leaders, to posture themselves as servants

and to lay their lives down for others so that the people of God can become successful in reaching their God-ordained destiny (Matthew 10:44-45; Mark 9:35).

3. A Word-Based Church

We desire to build a local church that accurately interprets the word of God, preaches and teaches the word of God without compromise and seeks at all times to align itself with the pattern of living reflected in the word of God (1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

4. An Evangelistic Church

We desire to build a local church that takes the commission of Christ seriously in preaching the gospel and reaching out to those who have not entered into the Kingdom of God through the new birth experience (Matthew 28:18-20).

5. An Authentic Community Church

We desire to build a local church that is composed of people who have entered into a place of authentic community, deep fellowship and caring relationships that translates into a caring and compassionate body of believers (Acts 2:44-47).

6. A Family Church

We desire to build a local church that recognizes and celebrates the sanctity of marriage, the value and importance of children and the indispensable contribution that the natural family has to the fulfillment of God's purpose in the church and in society.

7. A Multi-Ethnic Church

We desire to build a local church that has no "walls" separating people culturally, racially, economically, educationally or generationally believing that our expression of the Body of Christ on earth should reflect God's heart for every nation, kindred, tribe and tongue (Revelation 5:9; 14:6).

8. A Worshipping Church

We desire to build a local church that understands its priestly ministry to God in offering to Him the spiritual sacrifices of praise and worship according to the biblical prescription for worship reflected in Psalms (John 4:23-24; Hebrews 13:15).

9. A Praying Church

We desire to build a local church that demonstrates its utter dependence on God, its passion to hear His voice and its recognition that God is the head of the local church by emphasizing an individual and corporate life that is saturated by prayer (Matthew 21:13; Acts 2:42).

10. A Prophetic Church

We desire to build a church that operates in the gifts of the Spirit as described in the New Testament with a strong desire to see prophetic ministry bringing edification, exhortation and comfort to the people of God (Acts 2:17-18; 1 Corinthians 14:1).

11. A Team Ministry Church

We desire to build be a local church that practices team leadership ministry as reflected in the Godhead, the natural family and the local church consisting of a plurality of elders with a chief elder or senior pastor (Ephesians 4:11; Acts 14:23; Hebrews 13:17).

12. A Generous Church

We desire to build a local church that has the generous spirit of Jesus who said that "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:25) and "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8; Proverbs 11:25; Acts 20:35).

13. A Church of Excellence

We desire to build a local church that reflects God's nature to the world which includes the qualities of industry, efficiency, goodness and excellence in every area of expression taking our responsibility seriously to be the leaders and shapers of society (Psalm 16:3; Isaiah 12:5).

14. A Church of Financial Integrity

We desire to build a local church that is a wise and faithful steward over all of the resource provided from the Lord knowing that we will one day give an account of our stewardship to the Head of the Church—Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:5).

15. A Powerful Church

We desire to build a local church that is truly baptized with the Holy Spirit and power, that walks in the power of the Kingdom of God and that experiences the miraculous display of God's awesome ability in our midst (Mark 16:15-18; Acts 4:32-33).

16. A Global Church

We desire to build a local church that is not only concerned about reaching its city with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but is also interested in reaching the nation, the continent and the world (Acts 1:8).

#### IV. OUR DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

1. We believe in the plenary-verbal inspiration of the accepted canon of the Scriptures as originally given and that they are infallibly and uniquely authoritative and free from error of any sort in all matters with which they deal,

including scientific and historical as well as moral and theological areas (I Timothy 3:16; I Corinthians 2:13).

2. We believe in the Eternal Godhead who has revealed Himself as ONE God existing in THREE persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; distinguishable but indivisible (Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14).
3. We believe in the creation, test and fall of man as recorded in Genesis; man's total spiritual depravity and sinfulness and his inability to attain to divine righteousness (Romans 3:10-18; 5:12).
4. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of men, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, completely God and completely man (Luke 1:26-35; John 1:18; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6).
5. We believe Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day, and personally appeared to His disciples after His resurrection (I Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 1:3; Romans 4:25).
6. We believe in the bodily ascension of Jesus to heaven, His exaltation and personal, literal and bodily coming again the second time for the Church (John 14:2-3; I Thessalonians 4:13-18).
7. We believe in the salvation of sinners by grace, through repentance and faith in the perfect and sufficient work of the cross of Christ by which we obtain remission of sins through His shed blood (Ephesians 2:8-9; Colossians 1:13-14; Hebrews 9:12; Romans 5:11).
8. We believe in the necessity of water baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus Christ, in order to fulfill the command of Christ (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:34-39; 19:1-6).
9. We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues, as an experience subsequent to salvation (Acts 2:1-4; 2:37-38; 8:14-17; 10:44-46; 19:6; Galatians 3:14-15).
10. We believe in the operation of the gifts of the Spirit as enumerated in I Corinthians 12-14 and Romans 12, and as manifested in the Early Church (I Corinthians 12-14; Romans 12:6-8).
11. We believe in the Spirit-filled life, a life of separation from the world and a lifestyle of perfecting holiness in the fear of God as an expression of Christian faith (Ephesians 5:18; II Corinthians 6: 14; 7:1).
12. We believe in divine healing, the healing of the body by divine power, as practiced in the Early Church (Acts 4:30; Romans 8: 11; I Corinthians 12:9; James 5:14).
13. We believe in the Table of the Lord, commonly called Communion or the Lord's Supper and that it provides life, health and strength for all believers (I Corinthians 11:23-30).

14. We believe in a literal heaven and hell, in eternal life for believers (John 5:24; 3:16) and eternal punishment for unbelievers (Mark 9:43-48; II Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:10-15).
15. We believe in the reality of Satan and demonic powers and in the ultimate eternal judgment of the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10-15).

# Answer Key

### LESSON 1 - REPENTANCE

- I. - "repent";  
"believe"
  - A. repentance
  - B. repentance
  - C. repentance
  - D. repentance
  - E. repentance
- II. A. heart attitude  
B. excuses & apologies
- III. A. fall of Adam  
B. every individual  
C. in himself
- IV. A. Conviction of sin  
B. Worldly sorrow  
C. Mere reformation  
D. Being religious  
E. Mental faith

### LESSON 2 - FAITH

- I. B. dependant  
C. faith
- III. A. Word of God  
B. condition of the heart  
only
- IV. A. confession  
obedience
- V. A. promise  
B. conditions  
C. delay
- VI. A. true  
B. hearing  
C. doers  
D. Exercise  
E. Avoid

### LESSON 3 - WATER BAPTISM

- I. - fully immersed
- III. A. Repentance  
B. Faith toward God
- IV. A. identified  
newness  
B. victory  
C. cleansing  
D. the name  
E. heart

- V. A. put off  
B. the self-life  
C. new beginning  
D. a new name
- VI. A. immersion  
B. the name
- VII. A. farewell  
B. new standard  
C. disciple

### LESSON 4 - HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

- III. - YES
- V. A. promise  
B. power  
C. definite  
D. subsequent to  
E. foundation
- VI. A. tongues  
B. speech or utterance  
C. tongues  
D. tongues  
speaking with tongues
- VII. - believers
- VIII. A. before  
B. Ask Jesus  
C. not doubting  
D. speaking  
E. daily

### LESSON 5 - CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

- I. A. To evangelize  
B. To make disciples  
C. To be witnesses  
D. To feed others
- II. A. 1. taught  
trained  
B. 3. Orderly conduct
- III. A. Lord  
B. taught  
C. respond  
D. corrected
- IV. A. home  
B. family  
C. occupation  
D. possessions  
be willing

- V. better
- VI. A. strong
- B. Christ
- C. follow
- D. minister
- E. good and faithful

- D. pure
- E. hypocrisy
- V. A. all
- B. daily
- C. listening
- VII. A. Individually
- B. With two or three
- C. Corporately

LESSON 6 - FELLOWSHIP

- I. A. the act of using a thing in common
- B. communion
- II. - two dimensions
- A. God-ward
- B. man-ward
- III. all will know
- IV. separation
- V. A. Doctrinal concerns
- B. Disorderly conduct eat;  
keep company (fellowship)

LESSON 7 - EVANGELISM

- I. - good news
- II. C. in sin
- 1. wrath
- 2. condemnation
- 3. death
- 4. dead
- 5. alienated
- 6. hostile
- D. darkness
- III. B. 1. righteous
- 2. no
- 3. image of God
- 4. peace
- 5. access
- IV. A. preached
- B. Church
- C. All believers

LESSON 8 - PRAYER AND FASTING

- IV. A. faith
- B. humbly
- C. will

LESSON 9 - GOD'S WORD

- I. A. source of life
- B. labor for
- 1. hunger
- 2. thirst
- 3. believer
- II. A. hammer
- B. mirror
- C. two-edged sword
- D. judge
- E. water
- F. seed
- G. food
- 1. milk
- 2. bread
- 3. meat
- 4. honey
- H. lamp
- I. riches
- J. fire
- III. A. daily bread
- B. alive
- IV. A. hearing
- B. reading
- C. studying
- D. meditating
- E. memorizing
- F. confessing
- G. doing

LESSON 10 - WORSHIP AND PRAISE

- II. A. spirit
- B. truth
- III. A. spontaneous
- B. heart
- C. brokenness
- D. humility
- E. often

- E. corporate
- F. praise
- IV. A. voices
- B. hands
- C. posture

- 3. oil
- 4. spoken Word
- 5. table of
- 6. gifts
- 7. ministry

LESSON 11 – COMMUNION

- I. A. Supper
- B. Table
- C. Communion
- D. Bread
- IV. A. remembrance
- B. communion
- C. unity
- D. love
- E. healing
- F. examination
- G. thanksgiving
- H. blessing
- I. witness

LESSON 14 - GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

- III. B. 1. yielded
- 2. desire
- 3. learn
- 4. pray
- 5. faith
- 6. stir up
- IV. A. building up
- B. 1. message
- 2. time
- 3. manner

LESSON 12 - STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

- III. A. tenth
- C. all we have
- D. covetousness
- E. beginning
- V. A. ourselves
- B. willingly
- C. cheerfully
- D. generously
- E. proportionately
- F. regularly
- G. systematically
- H. lovingly
- I. thankfully
- J. sacrificially
- K. ministry

LESSON 15 - THE CHURCH

- I. A. building
- called out
- separated
- gathered together
- III. A. covenant commitment
- VI. A. 1. Doctrine
- 2. Fellowship
- 3. Breaking
- 4. Prayers
- 5. Fear
- 6. Signs
- 7. Accord
- 8. Common
- 9. Temple
- 10. House
- 11. Simplicity
- 12. Praising
- 13. Favor
- 14. Added
- VII. B. 2 a. Relationship
- b. Character
- c. Function
- d. Reproduction
- C. 1. City/Community
- 2. Region/Nation
- 3. Cross Cultural
- 4. Global Missions

LESSON 13 - DIVINE HEALING

- II. A. natural
- B. mental and emotional
- C. spiritual
- VI. C. 1. prayer
- 2. hands

## LESSON 16 - CHURCH GOVERNMENT

- II. A. government
  - 2. rule
- B. elders
  - 2. plurality of elders
    - 2. a. one
    - b. chief elders
  - 3. bishop
- C.
  - 1. character
  - 2. spiritual vision
  - 3. homes in order
  - 4. gifted and skilled
- III. A. Ruling
- B. Shepherding
- C. Instructing

## LESSON 17 - CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- V. A. being hurt
- B. tied down
- C. scriptural
- VI. A. Fellowship
- B. Fulfillment
- C. Fruitfulness
- D. Accountability
- E. Growth
- F. Power
- G. Presence of God

## LESSON 18 - LOCAL CHURCH COMMITMENT

- II. A. Himself
- B. Word of God
- C. husbands and wives
- D. each other
- III. A. temple
- B. body
- C. family

## LESSON 19 - CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

- III. A. life
- B. time
- C. talents and abilities
- D. possessions

- E. finances
- VI. A. lose it
- B. increase
- C. wisdom
- D. accountability
- E. industrious
- F. slothful
- G. Faithful

## LESSON 20 - DISCOVERING YOUR PLACE

- I. A.
  - 1. Word and Prayer
  - 2. Equip
  - 3. Preach and Teach
  - 4. Protect
  - 5. Correct
- B.
  - 1. Believe
  - 2. Love
  - 3. Respect
  - 4. Attend
  - 5. Give financially
  - 6. Have Compassion
  - 7. Unite
  - 8. Serve

## LESSON 21 - MISSION, VISION, & DOCTRINE