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Learning To Live

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To my wife, Cherri, who truly makes each day a blessing from God. And my parents, Bill & Pat West, who have always been an inspiration to my ministry.

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Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to give the new Christian a firm foundation on which to begin his new life. Work diligently toward finishing the lessons outlined on the following pages. Do not attempt too many subjects at one time as this will only confuse and discourage you. I must warn you by saying that Satan wants to see you fail and will do all he can to keep you from finishing the lessons.

The Bible teaches that we should first get our fill of soft foods before eating meat. (Heb. 5:12-14) Just as a baby must learn to crawl before walking, so should the new Christian have a basic gospel foundation before taking on deep theological subjects.

As you prayerfully study the following lessons, commit yourself to the will of God in your life.

Individual Study Instructions

This booklet is only a tool; your most important study source is the Bible. Be sure to look up all references with each lesson.

Don't be afraid to write in your Bible. Mark all verses that you wish to remember. Notes and marked verses make for easier study later.

When you read a verse that touches your heart, write it on a small card and memorize it.

Be sure to answer all questions to the best of your ability.

Pray that God will help you to understand the lessons, and will teach you through the scriptures.

Chapter One

God's Gift - Jesus Christ

Perhaps you have just become a Christian, or you may be returning to Christ after a period of sinful living. Maybe you are just looking for an answer to a difficult problem. In either case this could be the beginning of a wonderful relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. It is God's desire for every Christian to live a full and meaningful life. Because of this he has provided for us. Here are some of the basic facts about this life with him.

First is your prayer life, or your communication with God. Begin with a few minutes of prayer in the morning. Speaking to God may seem to be a little awkward at first, but this will soon be a normal part of your new life. So begin each day with prayer, and learn to pray throughout the day as the need arises. Remember to take all of your problems and burdens to Him because He really does love you. "Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you" (I Peter 5:7).

Secondly, the Bible is your spiritual food. Just as our physical bodies would die without proper nourishment, so will our spiritual lives dry up and die without the meat of God's Word. The Bible is God's way of speaking to you. It has been said that through prayer we talk to God, and through Bible study he talks to us. And we should let God do most of the talking.-We must remember that Bible study is important to our Christian growth. I would advise you to begin your reading with the Gospel of John, and to continue in Acts and Romans to learn about the early church.

Third, you can't live the Christian life alone. Get involved in your church and take an active part in it's ministries. If you do not belong to a church, find one that teaches and lives the Word of God. Pray for your pastors, church officers, and teachers that they may be led of God to direct His people. Use your time and money to support God's church and its ministries

Many people believe that when you step out on faith, accepting Christ, life will automatically be easier. Nothing could be farther from the truth. When we live as a Christian we have someone to whom we can take our burdens. Jesus never promised a life of leisure. He only promised Himself.

May God richly bless your new life in Christ.

Lesson One

God's Gift - Jesus Christ

1. What was the mission of Jesus in this world? John 1:29. _____
2. In perhaps the best known verse in the Bible, John 3:16, we find that God loved the world and gave his Son to die on the cross for us.
 - A. What must we do to have eternal life? _____
 - B. Complete the following statement to find the promise of God's love:
"For God so loved _____ that he gave his only Son, that _____ believes in him should not _____ but have _____ life"
(John 3:16).
3. How may we become the sons of God? John 1: 12 _____
4. What happens to those who will not accept Christ as Lord and Saviour?
 - A. John 3:18 _____
 - B. John 3:36 _____
5. In John 14:6, Jesus said "I am the _____, and the _____: no one comes to the Father but by _____."
6. Jesus assures us that in death we will have life. What does he promise to do for us in John 14:1-3? _____
7. Real life does not come from being religious, doing good works or following a set of rules. It comes by believing in a person, Jesus Christ. What does Jesus say in John 10:10? _____
8. Now review your answers and briefly state how you know Jesus lives in you and that you have eternal life. _____

Chapter Two

Why Join The Church?

Some of the questions now in your mind might well be: "Why did I have to join the church? "What was that feeling inside that made me want to know Christ as my Lord?" Or, "How will this decision affect the way I live?"

All of these questions are important and need to be answered. Accepting Christ is the most important decision you have ever made. It really should affect the rest of your life.

First, joining the church was an outward expression of an inward change. It was a public statement of your new life in Christ. The church is that part of Christ which helps us grow spiritually as well as spreading the Good News of Jesus to a sinful world. By joining the church you become a working member of the family of Christians. In the Bible, fellowship signifies a growing and loving relationship. It can refer to your relationship both with fellow Christians and with Christ. The amount of joy and fulfilment you experience in your Christian life will depend on the depth of your fellowship with Christ.

One thing that needs to be made clear is that joining the church will not get you into heaven. Unless a person surrenders his life to Christ, the gates of heaven will be closed to him. Jesus told the multitudes in Matthew 7:21, "Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

Christ Himself established the New Testament church as recorded in Matt. 16:16-18. In accordance with this scripture we have the foundation of our faith, believing the church is built upon confession, conversion, and assurance. When each person confesses Christ before men, he helps to build Christ's church. Then as he tells other people about Jesus, the church becomes a mighty force for God. This gives us a picture of the church standing beside Christ as an army so powerful that even the very gates of hell cannot prevail against it.

Lesson Two

The Church

1. Who established the New Testament church? Matthew 16:17-18 _____
2. Where does the term "Christian" come from? Acts 11:26 _____
3. Who is the head of the Church? Eph. 5:23 _____
4. What is one of the primary responsibilities of the Christian? 2 Tim. 4:2

5. In Colossians 1: 18, Christ is referred to as _____, and the Christian as _____
6. Read Matt. 28:18-20, and describe in, your own words the mission of the church. _____
7. What does God's word have to say about faithful church attendance? Hebrews 10:25 _____
8. As Christians, should we accept other races and nationalities as our brothers? Galatians 3:26-29 _____
9. According to Acts 2:42, list four things important to every church:
 - (1) _____
 - (2) _____
 - (3) _____
 - (4) _____
10. Describe a healthy church following the guide in I Cor. 1: 10. _____
11. Now that you have completed the section on the church, what responsibility do you feel toward the church? _____

Chapter Three

The Holy Spirit

Some time ago a teacher in a sixth grade class asked her students to explain gravity. One boy raised his hand. The teacher asked, "How would you explain it, Steve?" Steve scratched his head and replied, "A moment ago I knew it, but now I've forgotten." The teacher shook her head and said to the class, "What a tragedy! The only person in the whole world to really understand gravity and he's forgotten!"

The teacher's position may describe you and me when we study the Holy Spirit. We accept the fact that he is just as much God, as the Father or the Son. But we have difficulty explaining him.

The most important factor of your assurance in Christ is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Simply stated, the Holy Spirit is God's presence with man. Jesus realized our need for the Holy Spirit, so just before his death he promised us a Comforter . "Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you" (John 16:7).

You may notice that Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as "him". The Holy Spirit is not an "it". In John 14, 15 and 16, for example, He refers to the Holy Spirit as ",he" because he is not a force or a thing. He is a person. In Romans 8:16, the King James Version refers to the Holy Spirit as 'Itself". This is a mistranslation, and in most of the new translations 'Itself" has been changed to "himself".

The mission of the Holy Spirit is to convict man of sin. This is what makes us realize our need for Christ. Once we accept Jesus, the Holy Spirit begins to act in another way as he directs us in our Christian life. We should remember each day to pray for the Holy Spirit's leadership in spiritual matters. You will find that once you begin to rely upon the Holy Spirit, your life will finally have real direction.

Lesson Three

The Holy Spirit

1. What promise does God give to those in whom the Holy Spirit dwells? Romans 8:11 _____
2. Jesus says in John 14:15-16, if we love him and keep His commandments, the Holy Spirit will dwell in us. How long are we promised the Holy Spirit will live in us? _____
3. Fill in the spaces to find how to have life. "For if you live according to the _____, you will _____, but if by the _____ you put to death the deeds of the body, ye will _____"
(Romans 8:13).
4. How are we given assurance of our salvation? Romans 8:16 _____
5. In what way does the Holy Spirit help in our prayer life? Romans 8:26-27

6. Why are doubt and unbelief so common in the world? I Cor. 2:14 _____
7. Where is the temple of the Holy Spirit? I Cor. 6:19-20 _____
8. If Jesus truly is the Son of God, why does not everyone believe it? I Cor. 12:3 _____
9. What effect does idle gossip have upon the Holy Spirit? Eph. 4:29-30

10. When we give the Holy Spirit control of our lives, certain virtues are evident. These are called the fruit of the Spirit. List the fruit of the Spirit, according to Gal. 5:22-23:
(1)
(2)
(3)
(4)
(5)
(6)
(7)
(8)
(9)
11. What is the sword of the Spirit? Eph. 6:17 _____
12. Tell in your own words, what you believe Paul meant in I Thess. 5:19:

Chapter Four

Sharing Your Faith

A fireman once saved the life of a young boy by pulling him out of a burning house. Later he visited the boy in the hospital. As soon as he entered the room, the boy jumped from his bed and began to kiss the man's feet.

"Please, son, don't do that," he urged. "Just knowing that you are alive is enough thanks for me." With tears in his eyes, the boy smiled and said, "Sir, if it were not for you, I would be dead today. For the rest of my life, I'll tell the world how you saved me."

What a testimony! That little boy had found the key to abundant living and now all he could do was to share the love he had for the man who had saved his life. Just think how the world would change if all Christians were as excited about Jesus saving their eternal souls as that boy was about the salvation of his physical life.

First, we are all to be witnesses. The English word "witness" comes from the Greek word *martureo*, meaning, to have testimony or give evidence. So we are to be a witness by providing evidence that Christ lives in us. The Christian that lives his life for Christ soon realizes that being a witness is a normal part of his new life. When we love someone, we show it in our daily living. Love is not something we can easily hide. This means that, if we love Christ, we will bear witness of that love.

If you have the kind of excitement exhibited by the young boy, then you too will want the world to know of your Saviour. Sharing with others about salvation is a command from Christ. Some of the last words of Christ were those commanding us to go tell. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

When something good happens in our lives, the first thing we do is to tell of our good fortune. Shouldn't that be true of our salvation experience too? The sharing Christian is a happier Christian because he is doing God's will. Don't hide your light from others, but let it shine for the whole world to see.

Lesson Four

Sharing Your Faith

1. What must we do before being a witness for Christ? I Peter 3:15 _____
2. From whom do we receive our power? Acts 1:8 _____
3. What does Christ ask us to be? Acts 1:8 _____
4. What is the most important factor in sharing your faith? John 15:26-27

5. What does it mean to be a fisher of men? Matt. 4:18-25 _____
6. When going out to witness, for what should we pray? Col. 4:3 _____
7. To whom should we first witness? Mark 5:19 _____
8. How far is our responsibility of sharing to go? Mark 16:15 _____
9. A. What terms are used in regard to the many lost souls in the world? Matt. 9:38 _____

B. What word is used for the soul winner? Matt. 9:38 _____
10. When will the harvest of souls be ready for reaping? John 4:35 _____
11. Complete the following verse. "Then he said to his disciples, the _____
is _____, but the _____ are _____" (Matt. 9:37).
12. Tell in your own words, what the following verses mean:
A. Matt. 28:19-20 _____
B. Acts 1:8 _____
C. Acts 22:14-15 _____
13. Who is to be the witness? Acts 1:8 _____

Chapter Five

Facing The Enemy

Before this world was ever created, God and all his angels lived in Heaven. The Bible tells of one angel who through pride and rebellion was cast out of Heaven to become Satan, ruler of darkness.

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!

You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far north;

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will make myself like the Most High.'

But you are brought down to Sheol, to the depths of the Pit.

Those who see you will stare at you, and ponder over you: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a desert and overthrew its cities, who did not let his prisoners go home?' " (Isaiah 14:12-17).

The moment you asked Christ into your heart, Satan vowed to be your greatest enemy, to trick you in any way he possibly could. His most successful method of trickery is to make us think he does not exist. Some people, when asked to describe the devil, might talk of a man who is very ugly and would frighten people. This is not true. In reality he comes to us disguised in beauty and desire. Even from the time of Adam and Eve, he has fooled people into sinning against God (Genesis 3).

The Bible compares the devil to a roaring lion who prowls around looking for someone to devour. (Read I Peter 5:8.) When we combat Satan and his army, we do not fight against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers (Eph. 6:12).

Whenever we let God direct us, we are protected from Satan. The Bible teaches us to put on the whole armor of God so we will be able to fight off his attacks (Eph. 6:11-18). The only place left unprotected is our backs. When we turn our back on God, he cannot protect us from the fiery darts of the devil's attacks. So above all, we must always remember to keep our eyes upon Jesus. Never turn away to look at the world.

The Word of God gives the glorious promise that whenever Satan puts temptation into our lives, we can overcome it. We are children of God; and, as his children, we are entitled to the protection He provides.

"Little children, you are of God and have overcome them; for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (I John 4:4).

"For whoever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith" (I John 5:4).

That last verse tells us that our warfare against the devil is one of faith. Since the time of our Lord's death and resurrection, Satan has been defeated. We all like to be part of a winning team. One of the greatest things about being on

God's team is knowing that we will win the battle. Satan knows he is defeated and he is seeking every way possible to hinder God's work by attacking Christians. We can rejoice in the gospel truth that one day Satan will be put away forever (Rev. 12:7-12).

Remember to always wear the whole armor of God. Keep a bended knee, lifting all things to God in prayer. Rebuke Satan in the name of Jesus and His shed blood. Strive to always be in the center of God's will for your life. Then the victory will always be yours over the greatest of foes, Satan.

Lesson Five

Facing The Enemy

1. The Bible has many names for Satan. Match the name with the Scripture:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| ___ Father of Lies | a. John 8:44 |
| ___ Enemy | b. Matthew 13:39 |
| ___ Dragon | c. John 8:44 |
| ___ Tempter | d. Matthew 4:3 |
| ___ Murderer | e. Ephesians 6:12 |
| ___ Evil one | f. Revelation 12:9 |
| ___ World ruler of this present darkness | g. Matthew 13:19 |

2. What was the name of Satan before he fell from Heaven? Isaiah 14:12 _____

3. What can we as Christians do to make Satan flee from us? James 4:7 _____

4. What do we find Satan compared to in I Peter 5:8? _____

5. Why are we told to wear the armor of God? Eph.,. 6:11 _____

6. The armour of God is our protection; tell what each piece is used for. Eph. 6:14-17

- A. Girded Loins: _____
- B. Breast Plate: _____
- C. Boots: _____
- D. Shield: _____
- E. Helmet: _____
- F. Sword: _____

7. What makes us stronger than Satan? I John 4:4. _____

8. We know that our fight with Satan is based on faith. What should we as Christians overcome? I John 5:4 _____

9. Complete the following Scripture. James 4:7 _____ yourselves therefore to _____ . _____ the devil, and he will _____ from you."

10. We know our victory over Satan is sealed, but what will finally overtake him? Revelation 12:11 _____

Chapter Six

How To Share Christ

Several methods to win souls are available to the Christian who wishes to share his faith. None of them will work for everyone, but you should be able to find one that will suit your needs. Winning souls is definitely an art and must be worked at to be effective. The experienced soul winner knows the guidelines and will follow them when presenting the Gospel. The basic guidelines for the soul winner include:

- (a) Desire
- (b) Preparation
- (c) Prayer.

Nothing is more important than having a burning desire to see souls saved. The salesman who does not believe in his product is doomed to fail. He must first believe he is selling the best product ever made. Then he can work toward making the sale.

The same is true for anyone sharing the Gospel. Without the desire to win, no method will ever produce positive results.

If you have that desire to share your new found Saviour, then you must prepare and pray. This means you must have a plan before getting started. Know the scriptures you will use and how to present them. Finally, pray for the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We learned earlier how the Holy Spirit leads us in life, and in the case of soul winning, this is very important. Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, your life as a soul winner can be very fruitful.

Perhaps the hardest aspect of sharing the Gospel is starting the conversation and getting it moving in the right direction. One way to control the conversation is to remember the word "F-0-R-M":

F-amily
O-ccupation
R-eligion
M-essage

Start the conversation by inquiring about their family and interests, then move to their occupation. A good question for turning the conversation to religion might be to ask, "Are you a member of any church?" Or in dealing with a person whom you know to be a church member, your turning question might be, "How long have you been saved?", and go from there.

The simplest approach to soul winning is to take the person down the "Roman Road", so called because all of the scriptures are found in the book of Romans. When using this method, be sure the person to whom you are witnessing understands the relation of each scripture to his own life. Lead him carefully through the following verses, allowing him to read along with you. Let the person read the verses from the Bible.

1. Everyone needs to be saved! Why? Because we all have sin in our lives. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).
2. Sin can eternally separate us from God. "For the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23a).

3. God has provided a plan of salvation. "...but the free gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23b).

4. In giving us His Son, God demonstrated His love. Romans 5:8. "But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

5. To receive God's gift, all we must do is accept Jesus by faith as our Lord and Saviour. "Because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him. For, "every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:9-13).

Now that you have worked through all the lessons of Learning to Live, rewrite your testimony and compare it with the one you wrote on page 10. I believe you will be surprised to see just how much you have grown and all the ways God has begun working in your life.

NOTE: (this page is usually filled with blank lines the student can use to write out their thoughts)

WHERE TO LOOK IN THE BIBLE

- When you need rest and peace, read Matt. 11:25-30.
- When you worry, read Matt. 6:19-34.
- When you are lonely or fearful, read Psalm 23 and Isaiah 41:10.
- When you need peace of mind, read John 14:27 and Philipians 4:6-8.
- When men fail you, read Psalm 27.
- When you grow bitter or critical, read I Cor. 13.
- When you have sinned, read Psalm 51 and I John 1.
- When you are discouraged, read Psalm 34.
- When God seems far away, read Psalm 139.
- When the world seems bigger than God, read Psalm 90.
- When in sickness, read Psalm 41.
- When you feel sorrowful, read John 14 and Psalm 46.
- When in danger, read Psalm 91.
- When you want courage, read Joshua 1:1-9.
- When you need assurance, read Romans 8.
- When you forget your blessings, read Psalm 103.
- When looking for joy, read Colossians 3.
- When you leave home to travel, read Psalm 121.
- When you think of investments, read Mark 10: 17-3 1.
- When you need guidelines for living, read Matthew 5-7 and Romans 12.
- When you need rules of conduct, read Exodus 20:1-17.
- When you need to know God's will for your life, read Proverbs 3:1-6.
- When you face trials, read James 1:2-4.
- When you are tempted, read I Cor. 10: 13.