

STUDIES

FOR

THE GROWING CHRISTIAN

STUDIES FOR THE GROWING CHRISTIAN
PUBLISHED BY THE BAPTIST YOUTH AND MUSIC MINISTRY

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What specific actions can I take to help them to know Christ?

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE STUDY. Continue to be faithful in studying God's Word, and attend a Baptist Church near your home.

LESSON 1

CHRIST INDWELLING YOUR LIFE

When you invited the Lord Jesus into your life, He actually and literally came to live in you. Christianity is LIFE - life of Christ coming into you at the moment you are born again, and then living through your body each day. It is not trying to live like Christ; it is trusting Christ to live in and through you.

Paul said, "Christ liveth in me" (Gal. 2:20); and Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). He also said, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's (1 Cor. 6:19,20); and "...Jesus Christ is in you" (2 Cor. 13:5).

God's word inclusively testifies that when you are BORN AGAIN, the Lord Jesus, as the Holy Spirit, actually comes to live in your body.

Failure to realize that Christ lives in you will result in discouragement and defeat. If you think of Christ simply being near you, rather than living in you, your constant efforts will be to get closer to Him, or to get him closer to you. However, the truth is Christ lives in you. Know this! Believe this! Experience this!

He is more than a helper to assist you; more than a teacher to instruct you; and more than a friend to encourage you. He does more than give you strength, He is your strength.

b. Acts 22:6-13 (Experience of Salvation)

c. Acts 22:14,15 (Life after)

9. How should I pray to prepare me to witness about Christ? Acts 4:29

Col. 4:3

What should be my spirit and attitude as I go forth witnessing? Matt. 9:36: Psalm 126:6

10. Who are some of the first to whom I should witness? Mark 5:19

How far does my responsibility of witnessing extend? Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19,20

11. When I have led someone to Christ, does my responsibility to him end? Why? 1 Thess. 2:10-12

12. Who are some of my friends and relatives who do not know about Christ as Saviour?

John 15:26 _____
John 16:8 _____
Titus 3:3-5 _____

TOOL

6. What is the eternal seed which God uses to bring men to salvation? 1 Peter 1:23,25; Luke 8:11 _____
7. What facts could I present from the following verses when witnessing?
Romans 3:23 _____
Romans 5:8 _____
Romans 6:23 _____
Romans 10:13 _____

TESTIMONY

8. A witness shares what he has seen and heard, what he has experienced. What facts about his life did Paul include in his testimony.
a. Acts 22:3-5 (Life before) _____

He is life, your life - "Christ who is our life" (Col. 3:4). His life replaces your life. As Paul said, "...I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Gal. 2:20). "Without Him you can do nothing" (John 15:5)

This lesson has been prepared to help you realize that CHRIST LIVES IN YOU. Memorise Galatians 2:20 to remind you of this great fact.

"I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

ETERNAL LIFE

1. Why is the question, "Have you been born again?" life's most important question? John 3:3,7; Romans 8:9 _____
2. Why did God send Jesus into the world? John 3:16,17 _____
What is eternal life? John 17:3 _____
Look up the word "eternal" in a dictionary and write a brief definition _____
3. Why did Jesus say He came into the world? Luke 19:10; John 10:10b _____

4. How do I get Jesus to come into my life?
John 1:12

What is the difference in receiving Jesus
into your/my life and just knowing about
Him?

ASSURANCE

5. What has happened because I have confessed
that Jesus is my Saviour and the Son of
God? 1 John 4:14,15

Can I know for certain that I have Christ
living within me? John 3:24; 1 John
5:7,10

In what way does the Holy Spirit assure
me that I am a child of God? Roman 8:16

6. What is one of the basic reasons God in-
spired the letter of 1 John to be written?
1 John 5:13

7. What did Paul say about his assurance of
salvation 2 Tim. 1:12

your friends and neighbours about Christ who
makes your life different.

"And He saith unto them, follow me, and
I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19

TASK

1. What has Jesus commissioned me to be for
Him? Acts 1:8
What is a Christian witness? Acts 22:14,15;
1 John 1:3
2. What is God's will for every person? 2
Peter 3:9
But what must a person do in order to be
saved? Rom. 10:13
What is necessary before a person can call
upon the Lord and trust in Him for sal-
vation? Romans 10:14,17
3. If I follow Christ in an obedient life,
what has He promised to make me? Matt.
4:19
4. Upon whom must I depend to convict men of
their sin and of a need of the Saviour?
John 16:7-11
When I am fully surrendered to God and the
Holy Spirit has control of my life, what
will He enable me to do? Acts 4:31
5. What are the three areas of the Holy
Spirit's work in helping a sinner become
a child of God?

WITNESSING - SHARING YOUR LIFE

Our Lord's last spoken words on this earth were, "You shall be witnesses unto me" (Acts 1:8). What is a witness? A witness tells what he has seen and heard, what he has experienced. Christ has not asked you to be a lawyer who argues, or a salesman who sells, but a witness who shares.

Personal witnessing is the only way this world will ever know about our precious Lord. Many unsaved will never be saved unless someone goes into their homes and shares Christ with them.

It was said of the Christians in Rome that their faith was spoken of throughout the whole world (Rom. 1:8); and of the Thessalonians, "... the Word of the Lord sounded forth from you...everywhere" (1 Thess. 1:8); These men and women had been with Jesus and the world took notice of the great difference it made. They turned the world upside down or rightside up (Acts 13). Do your friends take notice that you have been with Jesus?

Jesus said "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). Christ's command is to follow Him in an obedient life. As you do, He promises to make you a fisher of men.

You witness by what you do as well as what you say. At home, at work, or school, there should be something about you that's different - kindness, love, patience, honesty, consideration, sincerity, a cooperative spirit. Tell

8. What does Christ guarantee to those in whom he comes to live? John 10:28,29

What can separate me from the love of God which is in Christ? Romans 8:35-39

OBEDIENCE

9. Paul knew that Christ actually lived in him. What did he discover about how he was to experience this Christian life? Gal. 2:20

10. How should I behave now that Christ lives in me? 2 Cor. 5:14,15

What should characterize my life?

Mark 12:30

Mark 12:31

11. How can I show the Lord Jesus I love Him? John 14:21,23

12. What has God faithfully promised if I seek, above everything else, His lordship over my life? Matt. 6:33

13. What will happen if I use my life for my own selfishness and do not give it to the

service of God and man? John 12:25,26

14. From what I have studied, how do I know that I am a child of God and Christ lives within me?

A WARNING: Your enemy, the Devil, will try everything in his bag of tricks to keep you from finishing these lessons. Don't let him stunt your growth. Do a few questions every day - FINISH THE JOB!

"Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Col. 1:27

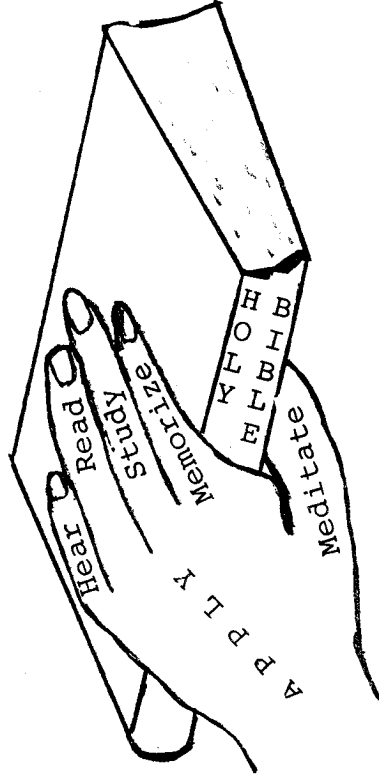
LESSON 2

THE CHURCH STRENGTHENING YOUR LIFE

A church is a group of baptized believers voluntarily joining together for instructions, fellowship, worship and service.

Jesus Christ personally established the church while He was here on the earth to unite Christians together as a spiritual family (Matt. 16:18). Just as you are physically

only one or two fingers. If you hear, read, study, memorize and meditate on the Word of God, your grasp of its truth will become a firm part of your life.



*Hear it preached and taught - For Faith (Rom. 10:17)

*Read it - For Joy (Deuteronomy 17:19)

*Study it - For Knowledge (Proverbs 2:1-5)

*Memorize it - For Effectiveness (Psalm 115:11)

*Meditate upon it - For Growth (Joshua 1:8)

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

9. Why is God's word so effective? Hebrews 4:12 _____

10. As I obey God's word, how will this affect me?
John 8:31,32 _____
Psalm 119:11 _____
Psalm 119:135 _____
Acts 20:32. _____

11. What can "Hinder the Word" from being fruitful in my life? Luke 5:11,14 _____

When Jesus was tempted, how did He meet each temptation? Matt. 4:1-11 _____

How can I have God's word always available for victory over sin? Psalm 119:11 _____

12. When would be a good time for me to study the Scriptures daily?
What are some reasons that make it necessary for me to study the Bible? _____

Methods of learning God's word can be compared to the five fingers of your hand. It is easy to lose your grip if you hold something with

born into an earthly family, Jesus said you must be spiritually born into God's family (John 3:3).

God has placed men in families for their care, protection, fellowship, and development. You need the church for all the reasons you need a family and many more.

It is through the church that you are to be fed the "milk of the Word" (1 Peter 2:2). God said, "...I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding" (Jeremiah 3:15).

It is through the church that you are to give your tithes and offerings. God's word says, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him" (1 Cor. 16:2).

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). He denounced selfishness as one of the gravest of all sins. He said, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth (Luke 12:15).

Selfishness destroys life. It kept a rich man from becoming a believer (Mark 10:17-22). It can keep you from becoming a strong and useful Christian.

A right attitude toward your total life will mean the difference between a life of joyful victory and a life of frustrating defeat.

This lesson is to help you learn about your church and your responsibilities within it. Begin now to memorise Hebrews 10:25 to remind you to be faithful in attending and supporting your church.

ORIGIN AND PURPOSE

1. Who established the church of the New Testament? Matt. 16:18
- How did Christ obtain the church? Eph. 5:25
2. What is Christ's relationship to the church? Col. 1:18
- What is the church's relationship to Christ?
3. What is necessary before a person can become a member of the church? Acts 2:41
- Acts 2:47
4. What are the two major purposes Christ gave the church Matt. 28:19,20
- a. _____
- b. _____
5. What spiritual leaders has God given to the church? Eph. 4:11
- Why has God given them to the church? Eph. 4:12a
6. For what purpose are the saints perfected or spiritually equipped. Eph. 4:12b,c
- Use a dictionary and define the word "edify"

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

4. Why do I need to know God's word? 1 Peter 2:2
- Upon whom must I depend to teach me the truth? John 14:26
- What am I to do with the truth which I am taught? Luke 11:26; James 1:22
5. How has God commanded me to take His work into my life? Proverbs 2:1-5
- Proverbs 2:1,3
- Proverbs 7:1-3
- Joshua 1:5; Psalm 1:2; 119:15
6. How often should I study? Acts 17:11
- If I lack a desire to study, what should I do? Psalm 119:36
- What prayer can I pray? Psalm 119:27
- HEARING AND OBEYING
7. If I am truly a Christian what will I do about God's word? John 8:47
- What must I mix with the truth of God's word before it becomes profitable to me? Hebrews 4:2
8. In what ways is the Scripture profitable to me? 2 Tim. 3:16

God's word is also a spiritual light that guides your daily walk in Christ. David said, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

When Jesus was tempted He met each temptation with God's word (Matt. 4:3-11). It is also your spiritual weapon of defense against Satan's attacks.

Faith comes from knowing the word of God (Romans 10:17); and without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). Jesus said, "If you live in accordance with what I teach, you are really my disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth shall set you free" (John 8:31,32 - Williams). How wonderful to be free from the power of sin!

"Thy word have I hid in My heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalm 119:11

SPIRITUAL TRUTH

1. How has God given mankind His written word?
2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20,21
2. What did God inspire Isaiah and Jeremiah to do? Isa. 30:8
Jer. 30:1,2
2. What person is the Bible all about? John 5:39; Luke 24:25-27
3. What can I be sure of about God's word?
Psalm 119:152; Psalm 119:160; 1 Peter 1:25

7. What are the main responsibilities of my pastor?
Jer. 3:15; Acts 20:28
Acts 6:4

What should be my attitude toward my pastor and other spiritual leaders? 1 Thess. 5:12,13

FELLOWSHIP

8. What is said of the fellowship of the early church? Acts 2:44-47

What is one of my responsibilities to my church? Eph. 4:3

9. If any other Christian is helped or hurt, does it affect me? Why? 1 Cor. 12:16

10. What should I do if someone tries to disrupt the fellowship of my church? Romans 16:17,18

11. Why were deacons added as spiritual servants of the church? Acts 6:1

GIVING AND SERVING

12. What did Jesus say about the joy of giving? Acts 20:35

What his estimate of a small but sacrificial gift? Luke 21:3,4
Even in poverty and affliction, how did the Macedonians give? 2 Cor. 8:2,3

What is God's plan for my giving through my church? Attitude? 2 Cor. 9:7

Regularity? 1 Cor. 16:2

Amount? Mal. 3:10; 1 Cor. 16:2

13. What are some other things the early Christians did as they gathered together?

Acts 2:42

Acts 12:5

Acts 14:27

1 Cor. 4:17

1 Cor. 16:1,2

Heb. 2:12

14. What must I, a true believer, never neglect?
10:25

What should be my attitude toward attending church? Psalm 122:1

60 seconds - Prepare the heart
5 minutes - Partake of the Word
4 minutes - Pray

A - Adore God
C - Confess all known sin
T - Thank Him
S - Supplication for others;
your needs

GUARD YOUR PRAYER TIME

18. Satan will use every device to cause you to miss one day, and when you do - beware! Defeat is near!

LESSON 5

GOD'S WORD IN YOUR LIFE

You are to search for God's truth as you would for a HIDDEN TREASURE (Pro. 2:4). David said, "I love thy commandments above gold; yea above fine gold" (Psalms 119:127). Ignorance of the truth of God means ignorance of Jesus. Jesus said, the scriptures.....they.....testify of me" (John 5:39).

This precious treasure of truth is your spiritual food so necessary if you are to grow and develop into a strong and useful Christian. David loved God's Word - "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth" (Psalm 119:103). Job esteemed the words of God's mouth more than his necessary food (Job 23:12).

3. How can I be sure that God hears my prayers? 1 Peter 3:12; 1 John 5:14,15

4. What is God's condition for answering prayer? Matt. 21:22
What am I to believe?
Heb. 11:6
Rom. 4:20,21

5. What is the major reason prayer is answered? John 14:13

What is another reason prayer is answered?
John 16:24

PROVISIONS

6. What has God done that assures me that He will provide for all my needs? Romans 8:32

Through whom does God supply my needs?
Phil. 4:19

EXAMPLE OF ONE DAY'S PRAYER TIME IN 10 MINUTES

15. From this study, why is it important for me to attend church faithfully and participate in its activities and fellowship?

LESSON 3

VICTORY IN YOUR LIFE

No doubt you have already experienced some of the trials and temptations, the discouragements and defeats, that come to every Christian. You may have even asked yourself, "Is it possible for me to overcome the power of sin and temptation still in my life? Is it possible to overcome temper, irritability, pride, jealousy, gossip, worry, anger, hate, lust? IS any such hope of victory taught in the Bible?"

A life of victory is not only possible, but promised. God's word says, "This is the victory which overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).

What is this life of victory? It is simply a life fully committed to God, with Christ dwelling within and in complete control - a life in which the only desire is to obey and bring glory to Him. It is a life of

victory over lustful possessions, greed and pride. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10b). To experience this abundant life involves surrender to and total dependance upon Christ.

It is not a life without temptation and difficulties. It is a life in which Jesus Himself is your strength, joy, ambition, wisdom - everything. Jesus came that He might destroy the power of Satan over you (1 John 3:8). As John said, "As He is, so are we in the world" (1 John 4:17). He is victorious, and you are victorious if you depend upon Him.

This lesson has been prepared to guide you in knowing how to surrender and trust, to let go and let God perform in you what he has promised (Luke 1:45). Memorise 1 John 5:4 as a reminder of how to experience VICTORY IN YOUR LIFE.

"This is the victory which overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:4

ABUNDANT LIFE

1. What kind of life does Christ make possible for me? John 10:10b
1 John 5:4
How do I know that an abundant life or victorious life is possible? Romans 5:10
Jude 24
2. How am I to experience this life? 1 John 5:4

may be full (John 16:24). Paul said, "He that spared not his own Son but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things" (Romans 8:32).

Your Lord promises to answer prayer, but there are certain conditions. "If you abide in me, and my words abide you, then you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7). To abide means to constantly live. In other words, if you live in constant fellowship with Christ, and in daily obedience to His word, then you can ask what you will and it shall be done.

At first prayer may be difficult. The words may come slowly, but you must keep on praying. Even the disciples had to learn to pray. They went to Jesus and said, "Lord teach us how to pray" (Luke 11:1).

The questions in this lesson are designed to help you learn more about prayer and its power. Fill in the answers as nearly as possible in your own words.

"If you abide in me and my words abide in you, then you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7

PATTERN OF PRAYER

1. To whom am I to address my prayers? Luke 11:2
Why then am I to approach God in Christ's name? John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5
2. Who do I have continually helping me as I pray? Romans 8:26

12. Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to fully control my life? If not, what is keeping me from being controlled by the Spirit?

What can I do now to allow the Spirit to have full control of my life?

LESSON 4

PRAYER ENRICHING YOUR LIFE

Christ's life was filled with prayer. "And in the morning long before daylight, He got up and went out to a deserted place, and there He prayed" (Mark 1:35). If you are to grow into His likeness, you also need to spend time with Him daily in prayer.

Jesus said, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1). He indicated that if you do not pray, you will faint. Without prayer you will easily be defeated by the temptation of the enemy.

God assures you that in answer to prayer He will take care of your every need. Jesus said, "Hitherto have you asked nothing in my name: ask, and you shall receive that your joy

What does the word "faith" mean to me?

3. How do I get faith? Roman 10:17

What must I believe? Hebrews 11:6

4. Am I to "ask" God for victory or "thank" Him for victory? Why? 1 Cor. 15:57

How does God give me victory? 1 Cor. 15:57; John 15:5

INDWELLING PRESENCE

5. If I have been born of God, who lives within me? 1 John 3:24; 4:4,12,13,15,16; Romans 8:9

How did the coming of Christ into my life affect the work and power of Satan over me? 1 John 3:8

6. What does it mean, "Greater is he that is in you, than He that is in the world?" 1 John 4:4

What does it mean "as He is, so are we in the world?" 1 John 4:17

7. What do the following verses tell me about living a victorious Christian life?

Luke 9:23 _____

1 John 2:6 _____

1 John 2:15,17 _____

1 John 3:11,18; 4:11 _____

Romans 6:13 _____

8. If the Holy Spirit is in control of my
life, what characteristics will I have?
Gal. 5:22,23

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____
- g. _____
- h. _____
- i. _____

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

9. What can keep me from a total surrender of
my life to Christ? 1 John 2:16

What is "lust of the flesh?" _____

What is "lust of the eyes?" _____

What is the "pride of life?" _____

Christ was tempted in every way as I am
tempted. In what three ways was he tempt-
ed? Matt. 4:1-11

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

10. Does God ever tempt me? James 1:13
Who tempts me to sin? Matt. 4:1
What can I be sure of when I am tempted?
1 Cor. 10:13

What can I do to overcome temptation?
Matt. 26:41

James 4:7 _____

11. If I sin, how does this affect the Holy
Spirit living within me? Eph. 4:30

How can broken fellowship with God be
restored if I yield to sin? 1 John 1:9

What does the word "confess" mean?

What are the consequences of unconfessed
sin? Proverbs 28:13
Have I confessed every known sin in my
life to God? _____ Has He forgiven me
and cleansed me? _____