

SECTION THREE

*This Section of your Discipleship study
will establish you in*

The New Testament Church

Memory Verse:

***“Now ye are the body of Christ,
and members in particular.” 1 Corinthians 12:27***

Some QUESTIONS:

1. WHO is the body of Christ? _____
2. To be a member of that body would imply what? _____

In this Section, you will study the following subjects:

- **Prayer** - Walking with God!
- **Finding The Will of God** - Discovering God’s Plan for your life
- **Fighting Spiritual Warfare** - Dealing with sin and temptation
- **The Christian Family** - Developing a godly home
- **Handling Finances** - Managing your money and your priorities

MY NAME: _____

PRAYER

A Study of the Christian's Walk With God

Lesson Eleven

Memory Verse: *1 Corinthians 12:27*

Lesson Verses: *Psalms 116:1,2*

*"I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.
Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as
long as I live." Psalm 116:1,2*

I. Introduction - How Important is *Prayer* in my Life?

- A. Someone once said a Christian is only as strong as his prayer life. Your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ cannot grow without this proper method of communication. You were created to talk with God in prayer!
- B. Leonard Ravenhill writes, "Poverty-stricken as the church is today in many things, she is most stricken here in the place of prayer. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, but few prayers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, but few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. **Failing here, we fail everywhere.**"
- C. The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the believer with a powerful prayer life so he or she can effectively "_____ with God" (*Gen 6:9*).



II. Prayer Defined - *Hebrews 4:16*

- A. Prayer simply is walking and talking with Jesus, sometimes for brief moments, and sometimes for extended periods of time. When you read the Bible, God speaks to you; when you pray, you speak directly to God.
- B. It is the soul of man offering up desires and burdens to God with humble confidence that we shall obtain the help we need because of Jesus (*Heb 4:16*)
- C. Prayer is also our *worship* addressed to the Father, in the authority of the name of Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit (*Jn 16:23; Rom 8:26*).
- D. Finally, prayer is God's answer to *need!* By praying, we should know that we already have the answer to our need (*Mt 6:7,8; 1Jn 5:14,15*)!

III. The Challenge to Pray!

- A. Prayer is God's appointed way for Christians to get things (*James 4:2*). God already _____ what you need (*Matt 6:7,8*), but often waits for you to come to Him for those things, instead of just *expecting* things.
- B. God urgently commands prayer in the Bible (*Luke 18:1; 1 Thes 5:17; Philp 4:6; 1 Tim 2:1; Eph 6:18*).
- C. Prayer is part of the process that God uses to give Christians the fullness of _____ (*John 16:24*). Think of some reasons how this is true.
- D. Prayer is the Christian's way out of all trouble, and the cure for all worry and anxious care (*Philp 4:6,7; 1 Pet 5:7*).
- E. Prayer is the only way to get the power of the Holy Spirit in your life for God's work (*Acts 4:31; See also 2 Chron 7:14*).
- F. Prayer accomplishes **three** things:
 1. Through it, we fight the spiritual warfare (*Eph 6:11-18*)
 2. It is a spiritual watchdog against _____ (*Matt 26:41; 1Cor 10:13*)
 3. It _____ God (*Heb 11:6*).

IV. The Place of Prayer - Where Should a Christian Pray?

- A. **Everywhere** (1 Timothy 2:8). Don't limit your prayer life to the church house! Wherever you are, if you have a need, or are thankful, pray!
- B. Christians are *not to pray as a public show*, but rather in a "_____" (Mt 6:5,6). The principle is, have a special place of prayer in your home (the *closet* is as good as any), as well as everywhere you go, but not for show!
- C. **In church** (Acts 12:5), with other believers in the meetings.

V. How Does a Christian Pray?

- A. Like you were speaking *directly face to face* with your very best Friend (John 15:15,16)! There are three sides to prayer (Matt 7:7,8):
 1. *Asking* (not *demanding*; John 16:24; Matt 21:22). Never be afraid to ask God for things that you believe you need. Not with vain repetitions (Matt 6:7), or with prepared prayers - but from the heart!!!
 2. *Seeking* (Heb 11:6). Make sure that your request is not "flippant" (not being serious about it), but that you are fully persuaded that it is what you or someone needs (James 1:5-8).
 3. *Knocking* (2 Cor 12:7-9). If at first God does not seem to answer your request, keep "knocking" until either He answers the need, or has said NO, or tells you to wait.
- B. You pray *by* _____ (Heb 11:6), not by just "expectation," knowing that God hears you and **believing** that He will answer your requests - sometimes with a YES, sometimes with a NO, and sometimes with a WAIT.
- C. Pray *persistently* (Lk 11:1-13; 18:1-8) committed to getting what you need.
- D. Pray *constantly* (1 Thes 5:17) – at every opportunity. Have a mind to pray.
- E. Pray *humbly* (2 Chronicles 7:14), from the heart, not the head.
- F. Pray *honestly* - repent of sin in your life before asking (Psalm 51:1-4).
- G. Pray *specifically*. You want God to answer specifically don't you?
- H. Pray listening (1 Kings 19:11,12).
- I. Pray with the following ingredients:
 1. **Praise** – Start off with worship and adoration instead of selfishness, and demands (Ps 95:6; 34:1).
 2. **Repent**. Repent from every known sin (Ps 32:5). Make a list and agree with God (confess) them to Him alone!
 3. **Ask** - Supplication (1 Tim 2:1) - involves not just asking, but spending time *moving* God's heart toward your need, and other people's needs.
 4. **Yield** – accept God's will in the matters that you have prayed about (James 4:13-15).
 5. And finally end with Thanksgiving (Philp 4:6) - Be thankful ahead of receiving your request. Trust that God is going to take care of the need!

P – Praise
R – Repent
A – Ask
Y – Yield

VI. What to Pray For

- A. Wisdom – ask for the ability to make right decisions (Jam 1:5).
- B. Pray for all people in authority over us (1Tim 2:1-3), that they obey God.
- C. For for Courage (Acts 4:23-32).
- D. For for people who are serving the Lord, that they would always be protected.
- E. Pray for every need (Philp 4:6; 1Pet 5:7; Ps 34:6; 55:22) – A Christian is someone who has discovered they are totally dependant upon the Lord for everything! There is nothing to big, or too small to pray about.

F. Be aware that, NEVER did anyone pray for the gift of tongues!

VII. The Conditions for Answered Prayer

- A. You must ask according to God's _____, and not yours (Matt 26:39)
- B. You must make sure that you first _____ others their sins against you before you ask God for things (Mark 11:25).
- C. Pray in _____, believing (Mark 11:24; Heb 11:6; James 1:6,7) – not flippantly.
- D. You must make sure you are not in rebellion to God's commands and will for your life (1 John 3:22; Ps 66:18)
- E. _____ with Christ as opposed to only coming to God when you are in trouble or in desperate need (John 15:7).
- F. Make sure you pray to the Father, with the help of the Holy Spirit, in the _____ of Jesus Christ (John 16:23,24). You cannot approach God and make requests without *Authority* - **Jesus** is our Authority for getting every thing!

VIII. Hindrances to Answered Prayer - *Take This Spiritual Inventory*

- A. Are you saved (Prov 15:29)?
- B. How is your confidence in God's sufficiency - are you uncertain, or hesitant about what you are praying for (James 1:6,7)? If so, you are hindering it.
- C. Do you have an _____ attitude (Mark 11:25,26)?
- D. Is there any _____ (sin) in your life that you won't let go of (Ps 66:18)?
- E. Are you asking _____ (i.e., for the wrong things, James 4:3)? Do you have only selfish reasons for praying and not for others?
- F. Do you have improper relationships with others (1 Pet 3:7; Eph 4:26).
 1. Like being angry with your mate, children, co-workers, or your boss
 2. Like being out of fellowship with your pastor, or with other Christians
- G. Is your life over-scheduled - is your time prioritized, putting God first? If not, God feels no obligation to answer your prayers right away!
- H. Are you lazy? Not making the **effort**; and doing everything else but pray!

Will you right now make a promise to God that you will spend **at least 10 minutes** in heart-to-heart prayer **every day** before the throne of God, walking with Him, and depending upon Him for every need?

Yes

No

Signed _____ Date _____

<i>Date Lesson Completed</i> _____	<i>Discipler</i> _____
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THE WILL OF GOD

A Study of the Will of God for the Christian

Lesson Twelve

Memory Verse: *1 Corinthians 12:27*

Lesson Verses: *Romans 12:1,2*

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

I. Introduction

- A. A famous preacher once said, "a successful man is one who finds out what **God** wants him to accomplish with his life, and then fulfils it." Therefore, the true measure of a person's success is not in social status, bank account, influence, or fame. It simply is doing what God wants him or her to do.
- B. This lesson will acquaint the Christian with how to find what God's will is for them, as revealed in the Bible, so he can begin to live the abundant Christian life in the centre of God's perfect will!



II. Understanding The Will of God - Let's first understand some things:

- A. Most people are *self*-willed by nature. They do what they do because they want to. The Christian's actions however, are not to be driven by *self*, but rather by God. Take a look at [Galatians 2:20](#), and ponder whether that verse is true in your life yet or not.
- B. God created you for *His* glory and _____ ([Rev 4:11](#)), and therefore, not for yours only ([1 Cor 6:19,20](#)). That may come as a surprise!
- C. There are two kinds of wills God has for a person - His *general*, all encompassing will for people everywhere; and His *specific will* for each individual.
 1. Before God reveals His *specific* plan to an individual, that individual must be submitted to God's authority over his or her life. Every person must want to not only find God's plan, but already be willing to do it no matter what it happens to be! Why try and tell someone specifically what to do with their life, when you know they won't do it?
 2. The key rests in whether you are truly interested in not just *knowing* the will of God, but more importantly, interested in *DOING* it ([Romans 8:5](#); [James 1:22](#))!
- D. There are always THREE stages to the will of God
 1. Doing what God says in the Bible – not the whole Bible, but a general set of clear instructions for every man, woman, boy, girl!
 2. As you are doing those things, God will show you His perfect will for your life – sounds great, but listen to the last stage...
 3. There will always be a delay before you actually experience living in that BIG, perfect will of God for your life
 - a. Illustrated by David:
 - 1) When God found David, David was already doing God's will in small things (i.e., taking care of his father's sheep)
 - 2) Then God anointed him to be king
 - 3) Then it took 7 years before David was finally crowned as king!

- b. Where we most of the time get hindered, is in the first stage – we won't get faithful in doing the "little" things (Luke 16:10).

III. God's General Will is Found in His Word, the Bible

- A. You will never discover God's will without the Bible, because God has given seven foundational instructions/plans for all mankind to live by.
- B. God's general will for all of mankind is to:
1. Be _____ (1 Tim 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9)! Everyone must begin here!
 2. Be **saturated**/filled with the _____ (Eph 5:17,18). A surrendering of your life to the work and authority of God over your will and plans.
 3. Be **satisfied**/thankful in _____ things (Eph 5:19,20; 1 Thes 5:18)
 4. Be **submissive** servants in everything you do (Eph 6:5-8), remembering "ye serve the _____" (Col 3:23,24). This includes submitting to all the laws of the land (1 Pet 2:13-15).
 5. Be **sanctified** (1 Thes 4:3-7). Sanctification means that we separate ourselves from sins and evils so that we can be holy and clean objects in God's hands (2 Tim 2:21). This involves every Christian coming away from all the activities and influences that hinder us from serving the Lord with our whole heart (2 Cor 6:17,18).
 6. Be ready to sometimes _____ (1Pet 3:14-17; 4:19).
 7. Be a **soul-winner** (Mt 28:19,20; Acts 1:8)
- C. All the above will make you so that you are **so much like the Lord Jesus!** All Christians are designed by God to ultimately become *conformed* to (just like) the image of God's Son, Jesus Christ (Rom 8:28,29).
- D. If you are not currently obeying God's clearly revealed will for your life (the above list), then God can never reveal His specific will to you because the one builds upon the other (Matt 25:21).

IV. Finding God's Specific Will For Your Life

- A. The specific will of God for your life is just an extension of the general will of God for all of mankind. Therefore, the will of God for your life will not violate His general will - there are no "exceptions to the rule," and God's will never contradicts His word.
- B. Finding God's specific will is referred to as "proving" it, to yourself and to the world (Rom 12:1,2). Whatever you discover, will have to be proven as being God's will for you. God expects you to *live* His plans. This requires you to "sacrifice" your plans and goals, and replace them with His!
- C. Let the word of God "speak" to your heart. God speaks directly to you through the Bible (Like Gen 12:1 where Abraham is told to leave his family and go to a place that God would lead him to). You must therefore be saturating your mind with Scriptures so that God can "talk."
- D. One of the main purposes of the Holy Spirit in your life is to guide you in your decisions (John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Cor 2:9,10). When making decisions, especially ones you are unsure of yourself, pray, and seek wisdom (James 1:5), and the confirmation of the Holy Spirit before proceeding (Rom 8:14).
- E. Wait for God to "open doors" of opportunity. Sometimes, when we just "push ahead," we find ourselves forcing through blocked "doors" that God intended for us to keep out of (like marrying the wrong person, or working at the wrong job). The Apostle Paul sensed God blocking his path several times so that he would ultimately

find the right path (**Acts 16:6-10**). Learn to accept circumstances as guideposts in the direction of God's leading. Just make sure you "_____ " in all the steps of the Lord (**Ps 37:23**).

- F. Finally, make sure that in your decisions, you "_____ *in the Lord with ALL thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding,*" (**Prov 3:5,6**). God's will does not always make sense - but it is always best! Therefore, when you find God's will, you will have _____ (**Psalm 37:37**), because He knows best! Your attitude must be to let God's "_____ " be done, not your own (**James 4:13-15**).

V. Some Discussion

Work through the following issues in life, and discuss how you would go about finding God's will in the various situations. Think of some additional helpful Scriptures that would guide you in finding God's will for each issue.

- Concerning Marriage - what are qualifications God has for you to choose from (**2 Cor 6:14; Dt 10:12**). Ask yourself, Is the person saved? Are they faithful in seeking God's will, or only self-centred? Are they mature, or childish? Have you sought wisdom about your desires from your parents? God wants us to honour them, and seek their counsel.
- Finding a job - what would be important for a Christian to look for in a job, and how would the Christian know it is the right one for him or her? What kind of job should be accepted? When is it time to leave a job?
- How do I find my ministry that the Lord has for me? Is God looking for talent or availability (**Philp 4:13,19; 1Cor 15:58**)? Am I worried about people's impressions of me, or pleasing God?
- Hearing God's Call to Preach? (**Mt 9:35-38; Lk 14:16-24; Act 13:1-4; 2Tim 4:1-4**).

Key Truths about God's Will

- ❖ It will never contradict His written word!
- ❖ It will cost you to live it.
- ❖ It is built upon the seven general wills for all man-kind - you cannot short-cut those to do what you want to do.
- ❖ It is found through prayer, and getting counsel from mature Christians and your pastor.

Date Lesson Completed _____ Discipler _____

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Dealing With Sin, and Your Spiritual Enemies

Lesson Thirteen

Memory Verse: *1 Corinthians 12:27*

Lesson Verse: *1 Corinthians 10:13*

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

1 Corinthians 10:13

I. Introduction - "How Do I Overcome Sin in My Life?"

- A. When a person becomes born again, they become a "new creature" (2 Cor 5:17). But there is a problem. They still have an "old creature" around called "the old _____" (Col 3:9,10). These two do not get along in the Christian's life, but instead, are *at war* against each other! They each want to dominate your life!
- B. This lesson is intended to equip you to fight a good warfare against sin and temptation in your life. This is an unpleasant study for the Christian that is only looking to serve the Lord comfortably, because some of the things discussed here may be in *your* life, and you may not see them as wrong. The challenge is to see what the Bible teaches, and submit to it, since only then will a Christian have real freedom and joy!

II. Dealing With Sin - Recognizing the Enemy, and Conquering Him!

A. Let's Realize Why You Sin - what is all the fight about?

1. Christians sin because we inherited a sinful nature from _____ (Rom 5:12; 1 Cor 15:45-49).
2. Christians sin because our *old* nature is attracted to sin (James 1:13,14; Rom 7:14-25). Sin is always attractive to your old nature - we enjoy it - but it is also deadly (Heb 11:24,25; Rom 6:23)!



B. Let's Realize How God Views Your Sin

1. First, your sin has already been judged and paid for back at Calvary (2Cor 5:21)! He views it as being in the past, and forgotten (Heb 10:17)
2. Yet, sin can still hinder your effectiveness as a Christian (Heb 12:1)! It hinders (besets) by pulling you off course.
3. It causes God to **chastise** you (Heb 12:6) like a parent does his child. To chastise means: _____.
4. It causes you to reap what you have sown (Gal 6:7,8). God cannot save you from experiencing the pains and scars that sin leaves in your life. He died to save you from eternal punishment in hell.

C. You Must Battle Against the Temptation to Sin, or you will by nature "give-in" to its dominion over your life (Eph 6:12; 1Tim 6:12; James 4:7).

1. **Decide that your sin is your fault, not anyone else's.** You must accept responsibility for your sin, and start not only taking the blame, but taking steps to keep from giving in anymore. You will never correct anything until you face your responsibility (Prov 28:13).
2. **Know your real enemies:** The external enemy is *this world*; the internal enemy is *your own flesh*; and your infernal enemy is *the devil*! As a soldier, know who your enemies are, and be equipped to defeat them!

3. **Protect your mind!** Don't allow sinful thoughts to control your mind (2Cor 10:4,5). The TV can destroy you spiritually (Ps 101:3), as can wrong music (Eccl 7:5)! So, STOP watching ungodly TV programs, and QUIT listening to ungodly music stations!
4. **Don't make "provision" for the _____** (Rom 13:14). Don't provide for ("feed") the desires of the flesh. Stay away from things that you know will get you into trouble! Don't place more opportunities to sin in your path than are already there!
5. **Look for a way of _____** out of temptation to sin (1Cor 10:13). God promised to get you through every temptation, if you want to!
6. **Judge your sins yourself** (1 Cor 11:31,32). When you do wrong, and fail spiritually, think through why it happened, and how to keep from letting it happen again! Don't *justify* yourself - instead, accept the blame and do better next time! You can if you will work at it!
7. **Confess your sins to God daily**, trying to do it immediately after you sin (1 John 1:9). Be specific, and determined not to fail again.
8. **Hide God's _____ in your heart** so you can use it like a sword against sin and temptation (Ps 119:11). Jesus Christ overcame temptation by quoting specific Scriptures that related to each temptation (Mt 4:1-11).
9. **Trust God's promises to cleanse you**, and to fight your battles for you when you give Him the authority to do so (2 Cor 7:1; 1Jn 3:1-3; Heb 4:15,16)
10. **Walk daily in the power of God's Spirit** – it's like plugging in a light – only when plugged in will it shine!
 - a. You can either obey the _____, or God's _____ (Gal 5:16-25)!
 - b. Your flesh, and God's Spirit can never get along (Rom 8:1-8)!
 - c. The reason why it is so hard to live godly is because both the flesh and the Holy Spirit fight against each other's desires, and YOU have to decide who wins each day!

III. Dying To Your Self (Romans 6:1-11) - *Your biggest enemy is your own self!*

- A. Jesus Christ truly died for **all** your sins, as well as the sins of the whole world, providing forgiveness. When a person receives Jesus Christ as Saviour, they receive that same forgiveness of all their sins that was accomplished back at the cross (Rom 6:10; 1 John 2:2).
- B. When Jesus died, the _____ of your sin died also on that cross because He took away sin (Rom 8:1).
- C. When you as a Christian sin now, its judgment is transferred back to the cross automatically. Since sin's power was severed, it can no longer affect your eternal destiny!
- D. Therefore, "reckon" (understand) yourself to be _____ unto the sin that tempts you (Rom 6:11)! To be "dead" means, "*not to respond to it like you used to.*" Now that you are born again, you no longer **have** to give-in to sin. Your flesh will still want to sin, but the Spirit of God in you is greater than your flesh (1John 4:4), and if you so choose, you can put-off (ignore) the desires of your flesh, and give-in to the desires of the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:22-24).
- E. Paul wrote in 2 Tim 3:1-5 how that people in the last days would be "*lovers of their own _____*..." Everyone seems to have **ME, MY, & I** as priority. The world's psychology is increasingly stressing "*self esteem*," and it is increasingly creeping into Christian churches.

- F. Notice **Matthew 10:38-39**. Verse 39 says, "*He that findeth his life shall _____ it: and **he that loseth his life** for my sake shall _____ it.*" What do you think Jesus meant by "losing his life?" _____
- G. Read **Philippians 2:3-8**. Notice that verse 7 says that Jesus made himself of ***no reputation***. Verse 3 says that we should esteem others better than ourselves. It is evident that godliness does not promote **self**, but rather ***the death of self***. Could it be that **self** is what hinders us from becoming Christ-like after we are saved from the judgment of our sin?
- H. Look at what Paul said about *his identity* before salvation (**Philp 3:4-8**). He said I count all of it but "_____". Is that how you feel about *your identity*?
- I. After salvation, Paul said in **Gal 2:20** "*I am _____ with Christ...*" Who was living *through* Paul? _____! Jesus can live through you too!

IV. Separation Issues (**James 4:4**) - The Christian MUST separate from sin!

- A. The principle is: **Keep yourself out of situations where you know that your flesh is tempted to sin**. This is called *Separation*, and it is good! It is not negative, but rather positive since you are separating FROM ungodly things, UNTO *godly* things - so that you can live godly (**Tit 2:11,12**)!
- B. Some things to be separated from (2 Cor 6:17):**
1. Places where the *flesh* is in control and not the Spirit: i.e., pubs, liquor stores, Discos, Night Clubs, *Secretive* Societies, Dance halls, gambling halls, and the like! This includes things we watch on TV!
 2. Places where people are *uncovered* or are less and less covered. Nobody says a Christian is to be a hermit, or ugly looking to be spiritual - but that a Christian is to show off the "_____ man" by a godly life (**1Pet 3:2-4**), instead of the flesh, and following fashion fads, etc.
 3. Things that cause you to lose control of your will - like drugs, drink, and anything else that adversely affects your choice to live right.
 4. Things that _____ (ruin) your body and health (**1 Cor 3:16,17**).
- C. Definite Areas of Separation Between Christians and Non-Christians:**
1. In _____ (**2 Cor 6:14; Amos 3:3**). You can fall in love with anyone. Make sure that it is the Lord who brings you two together, and not your own lusts!
 2. Stay clear of all works of darkness (**2 Cor 6:14**), and demonic worship (**2 Cor 6:15**), and especially _____ (**2 Cor 6:16**). Don't toy with *Ouija* boards, *Tarot* cards, "crystals," and horoscopes (**Lev 19:26; Dt 18:10**) which are all Satanic. They are NOT of God.
 3. Stay out of friendships with the unsaved when they become wrong - i.e., they make demands on you that go against God (**Acts 5:29**) and try to pull you back into sin. Always be a witness though, and love them as Jesus did. "*Speaking the truth in _____.*" (**Eph 4:15**).
 4. Stay far away from False teachers (**1 Tim 6:3-5**), "*...from such _____ thyself*" (**1 Tim 1:3,4; 4:7; Gal 3:1**) and heretics (**2 John 9-11**) - Those that teach things contrary to clear Bible truth!
 5. Because, to _____ this world is very dangerous (**1 John 2:15,16**)!

D. Some Basic Rules to Follow:

1. *Decide to:*
 - a. Love not this _____, neither the things in it (1John 2:15,16)!
 - b. Seek guidance from God in prayer and Bible study regarding a particular issue that you don't understand (James 1:5).
 - c. Make sure that anything you are about to do glorifies God, and honours Jesus Christ (Col 3:17).
 - d. Use common sense - If you have doubts about something, then **don't do it!** Most Christians disregard warnings and guilt, and just go ahead thinking they have "liberty" not remembering our adversary, the devil is a lion seeking only to _____ (1Pet 5:8).
 - e. Do only things that you know Jesus Christ Himself would do if He was in your shoes (1 Pet 2:21).
2. *Separate yourself from:*
 - a. Anything designed to overthrow or cast doubt upon your faith in God (Rom 14:23), like false science (1Tim 6:20), and evolution.
 - b. Anything that would destroy your testimony, or debase your morals and lead you to sin (Heb 11:24-26).
 - c. And finally, anything that would harm your body - physically, mentally or emotionally (1Cor 3:16,17; 6:18-20).
3. *Separate yourself unto:*
 - a. A life of service for our Lord (1Cor 15:58; Gal 6:9)
 - b. A life of holiness and purity (Titus 2:11,12)
 - c. A life for others (Matt 28:19,20) - Soul-winning!

<i>Date Lesson Completed</i> _____ <i>Discipler</i> _____

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

A Study of God's Greatest Reflection of Himself

Lesson Fourteen

Memory Verse: *1 Corinthians 12:27*

Lesson Verse: *Genesis 2:24*

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24

I. Introduction - No Greater Challenge Than Having a Godly Family!

- A. The Biblical type of family is the most fundamental unit in a society! Without strong, godly families, a nation is doomed (**Ps 9:17**)!
- B. When God made this world, He completed His creation with a *man* - but He did not create him to be alone (**Gen 2:18**). God created man to exist as a family. Before there were cities, thrones, space programs, banks, churches, cars, or armies, there was the family! Truly, we humans have "*come a long way*," but since the garden, it hasn't been the right way!
- C. This lesson will introduce the Christian to the Biblical structure of the family and the home. It is intended to help the Christian to transform their family life into the greatest reflection of God possible!



II. The Family Unit - What is a Family?

- A. When the world tries to define a "family," it constantly has to change and adapt its definition to fit people's changing attitudes. Yet God has given us a perfect, never changing pattern for us to adapt to: the example of *Himself*!
- B. Notice God's titles: the _____, the Word (became *the Son*), and the Holy Ghost (**1Jn 5:7**). These three "Persons" exist as *one unit*. So is it to be in a human family, because mankind was designed like God is (**Gen 1:26,27**)!
- C. Every human has three "parts": a body, _____, and spirit (**1 Thes 5:23**).
- D. Every family has three "parts": the father, mother, and children. *There are only three*. The exceptions are when a person is not married (when a person is single, he or she is still part of the family that they were born into), and when there are no children in a relationship. These are "exceptions" - not the norm!
- E. Either you are single and under your parents, or are married and have your own children (or at least wish you could have children).
- F. Both of these places are right, and a blessing to be in. Don't let the world try to mould you to *its* definition of life, family, and so-called happiness (see **Prov 17:1; 15:17; 21:19**).
- G. The family unit is being attacked viciously today by the areas of homosexuality, and promiscuity (sexual immorality between men and woman who are not married). Both are wrong (**1Cor 7:1,2; Lev 18:22; 20:13; Rom 1:26-27**)!

III. Being Single

- A. Being single is best, but is not for everybody (**Mt 19:10-12; 1Cor 7:32,33**).
- B. Don't be discouraged if you feel too old to be married, or *past your prime*! God brought a wife to Isaac when he was ___ years old (**Gen 25:20**)!
- C. If a person is single, they should not _____ to be married, but seek to honour and glorify God (**1Cor 7:27; Mt 6:33**), trusting He will direct their path to the person they should marry (**Ps 37:4**) as He did Adam (**Gen 2:18-23**).
- D. If you lost your mate, then stop worrying about it, and serve God until He shows you who will take their place. *God will take care of you* (**Heb 13:5**).

IV. Courtship and Marriage

A. God's Purpose in Marriage - *Study these!*

1. **Companionship** (**Gen 2:18**) - Throughout creation, God balanced everything out - He created two of everything (to everything, there is a positive, and a negative; a true and a false; a light and a darkness; an up and a down; a male and a female, etc). When He created Adam, He was not finished, but knew Adam needed companionship (ie, someone that he could intimately relate to - who was just like himself). God created someone who would think like Adam, and understand Adam. None of the rest of creation could relate to Adam (**Gen 2:19-23**).
2. **Completeness** (**Gen 2:18**) - God did not just give Adam a "buddy" or "friend", but a "completer" (ie, someone who matched Adam's needs like a glove does a hand). Eve was not to be another *Adam*, but to be what Adam was NOT, and to "compliment" him, as he complimented her! She was called a _____, meeting his needs.
3. **Enjoyment** (**Heb 13:4**) - The marriage relationship is the most enjoyed of all relationships because of the intimacy of companionship and completeness! Marriage is not a duty, but a thrill, and it never gets dull when based upon God's pattern! The key is that the couple must operate within God's limits so that trust is always maintained.
4. **Fruitfulness** (**Gen 1:28; 9:1; 1 Pet 3:7**). The natural result of intimacy is *fruit*: children, growth, and blessing! This is true in our relationship with our spouse (**Gen 4:1**), and with Jesus (**Philp 3:10**)! Marriage produces fruit in each partner, but also in children (**Ps 127:3-5**).
5. **Protection** The purpose of any godly relationship is for the benefit of the people *in* the relationship, not their destruction. Adam needed Eve at times, and she supplied that need as she protected his weakness. Eve needed Adam at times, and he was to supply that need as he protected her weakness (**Eph 5:25-29; Eccl 4:9-12**).
6. **Representation** - The Christian marriage relationship is to present a living portrayal of the loving relationship between Jesus Christ and believers (**Ephesians 5:31-33**).

B. How God Sees Marriage

1. **As good.** "*Whoso findeth a wife findeth a _____ thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.*" (**Prov 18:22**). Marriage is not outdated, or old-fashioned. It is the greatest relationship, and is honoured by God!
2. **As pure.** In marriage, the bed is _____. (**Heb 13:4**) - it is wonderful, and a blessing, and just what God designed it to be. It is not to be a place of fear, or of wickedness, but of joy, and blessing (**Prov 5:18,19; Song 7:7-12**). If it is not honourable, it is not a marriage.
3. **As enduring.** "*The Lord, the God of Israel saith that he hateth _____.*" (**Malachi 2:16**). Only by seeing how God hates adultery and divorce can we see the seriousness of marriage (**Mt 19:3-6**)!
4. **As meeting each other's needs** (**1 Cor 7:3-5; 32-34**). The one person who is best able to meet your needs is the one who knows you best! The purpose of marriage is not to "obtain" but to "supply," knowing your own needs will be provided for in the process!
5. **As built upon friendship, and communication** - not on requirements, and expectations. The marriage relationship starts with friendship, and is built upon **trust**. If a person's mate is not their best friend, then the foundation of the marriage is flawed, and can collapse (**Song 5:16**)

6. God sees marriage **as a covenant** (a binding commitment) that makes their relationship the priority human relationship in life (**Gen 2:24**). Marriage is **not** an experiment! It is a total commitment, and a total sharing of the total person with another until death. This most wonderful of relationships both confines and yet fulfills the human heart!

C. Courtship or Dating (Psalm 34:3**) – A Good marriage proposal**

1. A Comparison – *read each row, from left to right:*

Dating	Courtship
For Fun (not really serious, but wanting to just “look around”).	For a Family.
Starts as soon as possible (these days around 12 years old or so).	Starts only when spiritually ready and serious about marriage.
By your own choice.	By the wise advice of parents and godly Christians, especially the pastor.
Defined by the world – almost anything goes when on a date.	Defined by the Scripture (see below).
Letting the “flesh” decide what is right or wrong to do on a date.	Letting God’s Holy Spirit define what is right and wrong to do, and obeying Him!
Lots of trial and error (lots of disappointments).	Following careful steps , leads to few disappointments.
Lots of temptation, and guilt.	Very little temptation , yet great joy for obeying God, and finding His will.
Based on how you feel about the other person.	Based on how God is directing your life for His glory.
Usually ends in massive heartache and ultimate distrust, and divorce.	Usually ends with a life-long mate.

Understanding and applying the following guidelines will result not only in a marriage pleasing to God, but also one that will be the most rewarding for ourselves. It provides the foundation for winning the world for Christ.

2. The Right Focus (**Col 3:17; 1Cor 10:31**) - in marriage, as well as every other area of life, our purpose is to _____.

 - a. If something is contrary to the will of God, then we must mortify it (**Lk 9:23,24**) – reject it as dead!
 - b. If our focus is to bring God the glory, then we must be careful to find the right spouse, His way. And, be willing to wait on God to provide the right spouse.

3. The Right People (**Gen 2:18**)
 - a. God specifically created a _____ for Adam that was suitable for him.
 - b. Two people are not equals (God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve) but rather complements; i.e., each possessed mutually affirming gifts, strengths and insights. Each was incomplete without the other. Each person had qualities that the other needed to fulfill his duties before God.
4. The Right Counsel (**Pr 23:22; 20:18**)
 - a. Dating is a modern substitute for wise counsel and lots of prayer!
 - b. Too many parents do not really know their children because by the time that their kids become teenagers, they have spent virtually no time with them compared what others have spent.

- 1) Someone else has educated them (usually the public schools)
 - 2) Someone else has instructed them spiritually (religious education classes, Church Sunday School classes, Church youth group, along with "Christian" rock artists and their music, etc.)
 - 3) And someone else has been their intimate confidant (their friends, neighbours, peers, etc.).
- c. But if parents have fulfilled their Biblical role faithfully, they should know their children better than anyone else in the world. They should have 20-odd years of experience with their children, know their moods, tempers, gifts, and weaknesses. They are providentially equipped to advise their children about what kind of person they should be courting. When a child reaches the age where courting is now appropriate, parents and child should sit down and do a frank analysis of both themselves and potential partners.
5. The Right Mind (Philp 2:1,2,5)
- a. The first thing to be in motion when courting is having a right MIND – not only following your heart or emotions.
 - b. The mind of Christ seeks to not only find fulfilment, but to fulfil other lives sacrificially, as a servant of others.
 - c. Your MIND must be in charge of the relationship, over the heart because when the heart is in charge it will get you in trouble (Jer 17:9).
6. The Right Heart (Philp 2:3-4)
- a. The goal of any relationship is *ministry*, not manipulation. We are not to seek to have our own needs met, but rather meet the needs of others. Yet usually marriages are made because young people think that a certain person will meet their "needs." Instead, we must see life as a process of giving up rights, and taking on responsibilities.
 - b. A single person MUST learn how to be "other-oriented" in their thinking. Otherwise they are only going to be a taker in the relationship, and a destroyer of the relationship!
 - c. Selfishness is the cause of most marital disasters.
 - d. Both man and woman must make genuine sacrifices to make a godly marriage. If one or both of the people are not ready or able to make those sacrifices, then they are not suitable marriage partners.
 - 1) Husbands must be willing to give themselves up for their wives. Husbands don't just need a wife in order to succeed, they succeed first by sacrificially ministering to their wives!
 - 2) Wives **must submit** themselves to their husbands. You had better make sure your husband is worthy of submitting to!
7. The Right Qualifications (Eph 5:22-31; Prov 31:10-31; 1Pet 3:1-7)
- a. The best indicator of future performance is past performance. If you want to know what a person is going to be like in the future, just take a long, hard look at where he has been. Now it is the grace and glory of the gospel that God transforms sinners. Yet even so, when deciding on who is or is not suitable as a mate for our children, the past is a great indicator of what they can expect down the road.

- b. In generalities, the future mate should pass the following test:
- 1) Is he or she truly saved? And does he live like he is saved? ([Matt 7:20-27](#))
 - 2) Is he or she strong in the Lord? ([Prov 3:5,6](#))
 - a) Do they trust God, pray about their needs, and rest in the Lord's answers, or do they fret and worry and panic?
 - b) Do they praise God a lot, or do they find fault, and complain?
 - c) You should seek someone who is more spiritual than you are, and loves God more than you do!
 - 3) Is he or she yielded and submissive to God's will for their life ([Acts 9:6](#))? Do they know their calling and are they working diligently at it?
 - 4) Is he or she consistent, or does he or she change their mind constantly, and do things impulsively ([Prov 24:21](#))?
 - 5) Do they truly love the other person, or do they really only love themselves? ([Eph 5:25](#); [Titus 2:4](#))
 - 6) Are they trustworthy? Do they exhibit integrity? Do they keep their promises? ([Psalm 7:8](#); [Prov 11:3](#))
 - 7) Are they a hard worker? Both the woman and the man must love hard work, or they will pull the relationship apart with their laziness ([Gen 3:19](#); [Prov 20:4](#); [2Thes 3:10](#)).
- c. When looking for a potential husband:
- 1) Look for a man who possess leadership ability. Someone who wants to lead his family, and be an example of serving, instead of just being lazy and letting the wife make all the important decisions!
 - 2) Look for a young man who works very hard. Make sure that the boy can save and manage money and thus financially provide for the family ([1 Tim 5:8](#)).
 - 3) The Bible asks:
 - a) Is he good father material ([Col 3:19-21](#), [Eph 6:1-2](#))?
 - i) Look at his own father for insights as to how he will handle frustration, anger, fear, etc.
 - ii) Does the boy's father trust his own wife, love her ([Eph 5:21-25](#)), nurture and care for her ([Pr 31:11](#)), granting her honour as a fellow heir ([1 Pet 3:7](#)), understanding her and being gentle with her ([1 Pet 3:7](#))?
 - iii) The way the boy's father treats his mother is likely the same way he will treat you or your daughter.
 - b) Is he a one-woman man ([1Tim 3:2](#)) or has he had lots of previous entanglements that could come back and haunt you both?
 - c) Is he sensible ([Tit 2:6](#)) and does he possess the general godly character qualities of an elder ([1 Tim 3:1-7](#))? If not, then no matter how friendly, charming or attractive, look somewhere else.
- d. In the same way, potential wives should be:
- 1) Submissive in spirit ([Eph 5:21-22](#)) and respectful in their attitude and demeanour. Most women are extremely assertive because of the training of the feminists!

- 2) Sensible, looking forward to working at home, kind, loving their husbands and children (cf. Tit 2:3-5).
 - 3) They are able to do good to their husbands because they are industrious, charitable, skilled in their work, well-dressed (modestly so), good managers of resources and, of course, they must fear God (cf. 1 Tim 2:9-10, 1 Pet 3:3-4, Pr 31:22,30).
 - 4) If a woman lacks the qualities necessary for any of these before marriage, there is no way of knowing if she will ever develop them afterwards. Therefore, parents ought to make it a point to examine potential mates according to objective, Biblical criteria. If they don't meet the qualifications, then no matter how attractive they are, they are not suitable for marriage.
8. **The Right Distance** (1Cor 7:1-5; Gen 2:24) – VERY IMPORTANT!
- a. If all the other issues are dealt with, then this issue will be easy. If the heart is not submissive to God's way, then no amount of warnings, and walls will stop two people from committing fornication.
 - b. There is a right amount of distance that must be maintained between two unmarried people (Pr 6:27-29) – no touching. Touching, clinging, cleaving to each other is for when married – period!
 - c. If you start to violate this principal, no amount of determination and repenting will stop you from God's judgment (Heb 13:4)!
9. Conclusions
- a. Parents must nurture these truths into their young children
 - b. Young men and women need to evaluate just how much they are willing to "wait" until marriage, and to let God prepare them for this most important of all life's treasures – a family!
 - c. The fruit of living godly is eternal. The pleasures of sin, are only for a season (Heb 11:24,25)!

D. Principles of a Happy Marriage

1. **Make sure both persons are _____** (Mt 7:21-27; John 3:3,7; 2Cor 6:14; Amos 3:3)! No Christian should ever think that they can be happy married to someone who doesn't care about Christ! It is next to impossible to change a person after marriage!
 - a. A woman marries a man, hoping he will change, but he doesn't.
 - b. A man marries a woman hoping she never changes, and she does!
2. **Give 100%! The marriage life is NOT 50/50, but rather 100/100% of each partner!** You no longer are two persons, but _____ (Gen 2:24)!
3. **Delete from your vocabulary words like: hate, divorce, mine, yours!** Don't remain angry, or vengeful with you mate (Eph 4:26,27), but rather take the time and talk the problem through until it gets settled! This takes prayer, and humility on your part (Pr 16:32)! Study **1 Corinthians 13** together, and implement each phrase into your relationship!
4. **Have a LOT of grace (tolerance) with each other** (1Pet 4:8; Heb 12:28)!
5. **Both must agree to submit** to the Biblical pattern for their home as found in the word of God, with the husband as the loving head of the home, the wife as the pleasant help participating in decisions, yet not forcing her way, and the children in nurtured obedience. The husband himself must be in submission to the word of God (1 Cor 11:3).

6. **Look forward to _____.** Focus your energies no longer on yourselves, but rather on raising *God's* heritage (Ps 127:3). Don't spend time worrying about affording children, but on loving them!
7. **Burn the bridges back to your single life!** Your mother should not "*keep your room,*" and you should destroy all the letters and notes you may have from old lovers! You cannot serve _____ masters (Mt 6:24)!
8. **Realize that your marriage and your family is your FIRST ministry,** before your job, your church, or even your *self*! This is the hardest task! And yet the most enduring, and rewarding!
9. **Have a family Bible-time (Deut 6:6-9)!** This means a time where you and your family sit down together and read out of the Bible for about ten or fifteen minutes, and then you pray for each member of the family. Have different members of the family pray each time. Sometimes, act out what is being taught in the Bible. Always make it a special time. The goal is to develop a godly home atmosphere all day!
10. **Romance your mate regularly (Gen 26:6-8; 1 Cor 7:1-3).** *Continue* to date each other, admire one another, woo each other's attention, read the Song of Solomon together; purchase your wife flowers! Do crazy things just to show each other how crazy you still are for them!
11. **Listen to one another (Eph 5:21),** without grudging (Eph 4:31,32)! There MUST be specific time set aside for each other, just where you talk and listen to each other's heart concerns, gripes, dreams, etc.
12. **Purpose to have times of fun with just your family, weekly!** This is so important to their emotional health! It lets them know that they mean something to you, and that you really find joy with them, instead of only out of the house!

V. The Dangers in Marriage. Marriage by nature can be full of problems because there is more than one flawed human being in the relationship! But God has balanced that out thankfully, when He is invited to be the focus of the relationship.

- A. **Wrong Expectations (Mt 11:7-9, 16-19).** This is the source of the majority of problems in marriages. People expect things of each other, and when those expectations are not met, problems arise (Ps 62:5; 37:4; Pr 11:7).

How to defeat wrong expectations:

1. Learn from Christ what He wants of YOU! Focus on becoming what Christ intended for *you* to be, instead of what you think He meant for your mate to be! Surrender your expectations to the Lord, and love your mate as a gift from Him.
 2. Begin to nourish and develop your spouse into the best that they can be -- not brow-beating, or nagging them, but encouraging, and equipping them with what they need to be their best!
 3. Communicate. Tell your mate what you need, and listen to the needs of your mate. Learn about each other. Don't just demand!
 4. Then start meeting your spouses needs, instead of so desperately wanting him or her to meet yours!
- B. **Stubbornness** - not yielding - not allowing God to change you in any way BY your partner. God put the two of you together NOT because both of you were already perfect, and were in need of nothing, but because each of you, when combined, made a stronger team than any one individual could have ever been! God wants BOTH people in a marriage to affect each other for good (James 4:6). Both partners MUST allow the other person the authority to help mould and shape them (1 Cor 7:4; Eph 5:21; 1 Pet 5:5).

- C. **Over-sensitivity.** Intimacy naturally means *vulnerability*. And vulnerability often-times results in *hurt* (Ezek 16:45). Extreme emotional hurt must be given to God (Isa 53:3,4). Don't take it upon you to revenge any hurt you may receive from your partner. You must learn to take the situation as God's way of getting you to rely on Him to handle the "pay-back." He assures us He will do a very good job of it (Rom 12:17-21). In other words, suffer _____ (1 Cor 13:4), and endure some _____ (2 Tim 2:3), and develop the ability to love and be _____ when the other person does not deserve it (Eph 4:31,32), simply because that is how God treats you!
- D. **Complacency.** Your relationship with your spouse is a living, and growing relationship - it never sits idle. It is either growing closer, or farther apart, based upon your efforts. The lack of effort by BOTH people will result in decay setting in. Vigilance must be maintained. There is never a time that a person can just sit back and say, "I got it made. Everything is perfectly under control." This is not to say that you should be happy with a relationship *out of control* (1 Cor 14:40). In other words, work hard at your relationship. Don't just take it for granted, and draw from it, while not investing into it! Both of you must work at this!
- E. **Being focused on short-term gratification.** This is where evolution has taught 99% of all married couples that they are in a relationship only to *get*. And instant gratification turns into demand. And demand creates slavery. And slaves revolt! Maturity is required in the heart and desires of each partner so that gratification is found in supplying the others' needs before themselves (1 Cor 7:33,34; Acts 20:35). At the start of any marriage, it is expected that the two people will not automatically know how to give more than they get, but over time, this attribute should fully develop!
- F. **Disrespect.** This is vital to conquer (Eph 5:33; 1 Pet 3:1-7)! Honour each other, and _____ each other _____ than themselves (Phlp 2:3)! Disrespect is formed by *distrust*. Therefore, have very short memories about past failures, and always completely forgive each other when asked (Lk 17:3,4; Heb 10:17). This will allow you to maintain respect and praise for your mate even though they are imperfect. Keep your love and respect fresh (like God does, Lam 3:22,23). Both of you are commanded to work at earning and maintaining each other's trust! If the other person has problems with you, then YOU better deal with those problems (Mt 5:23,24)!

VI. The Role of The Husband/Father (Prov 17:6) – To Be A Team Leader!

- A. A husband is to _____ his wife (Eph 5:25) as he loves his own _____ (Eph 5:28,33). Men are the main problem! God directs most of His words at men because men are stubborn and rebellious, and need the most encouragement to do right!
- B. The pattern for this kind of love is to be as _____ loved the _____ (Eph 5:25) when He died so we could live! A wife will only thrive spiritually when her husband loves her beyond everything else!
- C. This love will be shown by a husband accepting his responsibility to be the _____ of his wife and family (Eph 5:23). The Husband is the head of the home *positionally* (1 Cor 11:3), leading, and making the important decisions with his wife's input (he is not dictator). The head of the man is _____! Therefore, how can a man expect his wife to be in submission to *his* decisions, if he himself is not in submission to God's word?!!!
- D. The purpose of a husband's love is shown in how Christ gave Himself for the church that He might _____ and _____ it with the washing of water by the _____ (Eph 5:25,26). Therefore, the husband is responsible for maintaining the wife's purity and love for God, by not damaging her emotionally, physically, or spiritually! He is to care for, and nurture his wife and family like a farmer does his soil and plants!

- E. According to **1Peter 3:7**, a husband must:
1. *Dwell* with (live with, spend time with, get intimate with, but not dominate) his wife according to _____ - i.e., he will work to know her needs, and weaknesses, and strengths, and seek to build her up and strengthen her.
 2. Give “_____” to his wife (only in Biblical Christianity is the woman elevated to that of royalty). Do this in public! ***That’s an order!*** Listen to your wife! Include her in the decisions, and allow her to be right!
 3. He will recognize that she also is an _____ of the grace of life - she is just as important, and as much a beneficiary of God’s gift of children, and family, and life itself as the husband is!
- F. If a husband loves his wife, he will not allow himself to get _____ against her (**Col 3:19**), and will work to keep her from getting bitter against him! But remember, the two of them must work together at this!

VII. The Role of the Wife

- A. God made the woman as an _____ meet for the man (**Gen 2:18**).
Define *help*: _____ The word ‘*meet*’ means *match*, or fitting to his needs (**Mt 3:8; 2Tim 2:21**).
- B. God made the woman _____ the man (**1Cor 11:9**).
- C. A woman is to _____ herself to her husband. (**Eph 5:22**).
1. A wife is supposed to be subject to her husband in _____ (**Eph 5:24**). If she is not married, then to her father.
 2. One exception to this is that we ought to obey _____ rather than _____. (**Acts 5:29**). The wife is to disobey when the husband gets abusive or directs her to go against the word of God.
 3. A man will not respect a woman who does not respect and obey God more than she does him. And for sure, a woman will not respect a man who does not respect and obey God more than his selfish wants!
- D. The wife is also to _____ her husband (**Eph. 5:33**). She is to honour her husband as she should honour Christ.
- E. According to **1Peter 3:1,2**, a woman should have a chaste _____ (her life and language should show forth purity) coupled with _____, *not disrespect*. The woman should not live in fear of her husband, but in fear of falling short of God’s design for her and her husband.
- F. A woman should have a _____ (soft) and _____ spirit (**1Peter 3:3,4**). She needs to refrain from a loud, clamorous, demeaning, and nagging attitude (**Prov 21:9, 19**).
- G. God said to the first woman (Eve) that her _____ would be to her husband and that he would _____ over her (**Gen. 3:16**). This is part of the curse that Satan brought into the world, but it also is part of the way that God designed the Christian woman to defeat Satan by his own devices

VIII. Children - *The MOST intensive (and rewarding) part of a family’s energies*

- A. **What are Children as far as God is Concerned?** In marriage, “*children are an _____ of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is his _____*” (**Ps 127:3**). Therefore, they are an opportunity for Christians to raise up a Godly generation! Why is it that Christians want all of God’s blessings, except for children?! Children are God’s **greatest** blessing that He offers us! ***Remember the blessing of being HIS children!***

B. Establishing A Child's Proper Relationship with God.

1. A _____ can and should trust Christ at a young age (2 Tim 3:15)!
2. Fathers are not to _____ their children, but bring them up in the _____ (tender training) and _____ (encouragement) of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). Therefore, it is the responsibility of the father to instruct his children in *spiritual* things - it is not the church's, school's, or the Government's job! Provoking children (yelling at them) only _____ them (Col 3:21)
3. A parent should teach the word of God _____ unto their children (Deut. 6:6,7). That means with a lot of time and effort!
4. List the four areas that a child should mature and develop in, according to Luke 2:52 (note: it is the parent's job to develop these areas)
 - a. _____ - Bible learning and general education
 - b. _____ - by healthy eating and exercise
 - c. _____ - pleasing to God – living by faith
 - d. _____ - a blessing to others – hard working

C. Disciplining Children - The orderly and controlled manner of training (Titus 2:1-4; Eph 6:4) "Bring them UP..."

1. **In their thoughts.** Have a Bible-centred home, with lots of Scripture and good books surrounding them. Also, HAVE DAILY DEVOTIONS!
2. **In their daily walk.** Help them choose good friends, work on their composure, as well as to be clean, and look clean.
3. **In their talk.** Develop their manners (to be courteous and say "please," and "thank you," and "may I").
4. Children are commanded to _____ their parents (Eph 6:1), and not just in a few things but in _____ things (Col 3:20). *Teach them this!*
5. Parents are God's representatives to their children. The fifth commandment (Exodus 20:12) **commands** children to _____ their parents. The home is the training ground for the children, and there must be a consistent, spiritual atmosphere there for them to be able to see *how to live*, and *what is expected of them*.
6. Learn from *your own* _____ (Prov 13:1; 6:20)! Don't waste your life trying to prove you know better! Talk to them, and listen to them!
7. Our example in this is the Lord. "*Whom the Lord _____, He **chasteneth***" (Hebrews 12:6) which means, "corrects" not punishes!
8. Is chastening supposed to be pleasant? _____ (Heb 12:11)
9. God chastens us as His children in order for us to be partakers of His _____ (Hebrews 12:10). That is the purpose of parental correction - to mature a child, and develop in them godliness!
10. The pattern in discipline - note that the Bible emphasizes *correction*, and not just punishment (Prov 22:15):
 - a. Set down clear and understandable rules in your home! Let your children know what is expected of them, and what will happen if they disobey. They don't need to live in fear of you!
 - b. Identify each violation - they have to know what they did wrong. Give patient and clear instructions when the child does wrong.
 - c. "*Chasten thy son while there is _____*" (Prov 19:18). Don't get into the habit of letting them "slide" by in their disobedience. It will come back and haunt you later!

- d. Never yell or threaten! Speak firmly and exact the punishment right away (**Ecc1 8:11**)! Don't repeat commands, and *don't count!*
- e. Use a "rod." Not the hand, or a board, or a belt. A **Rod** is a small branch off a tree that *stings **but does not bruise.***
- f. **Love** your children after each time of chastening. This is a must!

11. Reasons why a parent should discipline their children

- a. Correction delivers the soul from _____ (**Prov 23:13,14**)
- b. Correction establishes righteousness. " _____ is bound in the heart of a child, but the _____ of correction will drive it far from him." (**Prov 22:15**)
- c. "A child left to himself bringeth his _____ to _____" (**Pr 29:15**)
- d. Correction provides _____ for the parent. (**Prov 29:17**)

12 Some tips for disciplining children:

- a. There is a certain method God gives parents to use in discipline. "*Thou shalt _____ him with the _____.*" (**Prov 23:14**) The corrective use of a small "stick" is not being abusive.
- b. He that loveth his children chastens them _____ (**Prov 13:24**). This means *early* before their character is formed, and over and over (not just on occasion).
- c. Should a parent withhold discipline when a child starts to cry? _____ (**Prov 19:18**). The child is smarter than you think!
- d. Recognize children do not become perfect with one spanking - discipline is a long term process.
- e. Never withdraw affection and love from your children.
- f. Never spank in anger or out of embarrassment (**Ecc1 7:9**)!
- g. Never compare children with other children - this crushes them!
- h. Don't ridicule or make fun of their weaknesses or handicaps.
- i. Allow children to express their viewpoint, keeping avenues of communication open. Let them know they are important to you!
- j. Admit mistakes when you make them. Live honestly and humbly.
- k. Give them nothing they cry for, and only that which they ask for politely. Don't be afraid to say "**no**" to your children when they want things that they do not need.
- l. Be creative in your discipline - as they grow older:
 - 1) Restrict (ground) them from activities
 - 2) Give additional chores – this is always great!
 - 3) Restrict them from the telephone or other important items

E. **Enjoy Your Children** – Make sure they know you love and enjoy them!

1. When everything is said and done, rules and discipline without love only kills the spirit of a child
2. The greatest thing that God ever did for this world was LOVE it (**John 3:16**)!

Date Lesson Completed _____	Discipler _____
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FINANCES

A Study of The Stewardship of Money and Possessions

Lesson Fifteen

Memory Verse: *1 Corinthians 12:27*

Lesson Verse: *Philippians 4:19*

*"But my God shall supply **all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19*

I. Introduction

- A. The main emphasis in the Bible is not placed upon the mere *possession* of money, but rather on the *responsible use* of it! There is a big difference. You may be surprised at just how much the Bible has to say about "money." Money means "control," and "control" is the *real* name of the game. In other words, are you in control of your money, or is your money, and desire for possessions **controlling you**?
- B. This lesson deals with maintaining a proper attitude toward money, material possessions, and the importance of financial freedom from debt.



II. The Responsibility of Stewardship

- A. **What is Stewardship?** The Bible refers to the Christian not only as a child of God, but as a _____ of what God gives us (*1 Cor 4:1,2*).

1. A steward is "One who manages, or oversees another's property, finances, or other affairs." We are dealing with the control and management of money and possessions *for someone else* - not just our own! Examine the example of young Joseph in *Genesis 39:1-6*.
 - a. Who was Joseph's "master?" _____
 - b. What was Joseph in charge of? _____

Therefore, stewardship means responsibility. The issue for the Christian then is, "to whom are *we* responsible, and for *what*?"

2. Ownership is fixed with God. Remember, it is God who owns _____ things (*Psalms 24:1*)! We may possess some things in this life, but then again, it is we who are born and will die, while God remains. Therefore, when we take up "ownership" of something, we really are taking up *stewardship* of something that first belongs to God!
3. As stewards, we must remember that really, everything is a _____ from above (*James 1:17*), and that just as the Lord _____, He also can and does _____ as He did with Job (*Job 1:21*).
4. *Spirituality* cannot be measured by *abundance* of material possessions or its *lack*. God doesn't condemn anyone for simply having money. Nor does He condemn anyone for *not* having money. Instead, God is concerned with us maintaining a *right attitude* towards money. It is not money itself that is evil, but the _____ of money (*1 Tim 6:10*).
5. Stewardship involves _____ (*1 Cor 4:2*) over the things God has given us, including money. We are to be faithful with what we now have, and not worry about what we don't have (*Matt 25:21*).
6. Stewardship is not grievous, but rather an enjoyment. *1 Tim 6:17* says "God... *giveth us richly all things to* _____." God never wants us to idolize money and seek after riches, but to seek first the _____ of God and His righteous-

ness (**Matt 6:33**). He wants us to learn to be content, no matter where we are economically (**Heb 13:5**).

C. God's Four Purposes for Money - To provide for:

1. The needs of you and your family (**1 Tim 5:8**) - **Main Purpose**
2. The needs of others (**1 Tim 6:17,18; 1 John 3:17**) - **Compassion**
3. The operation of the government (**Rom 13:1-8; Mt 22:17-22**) - **Taxes**
4. The operation of your local church (**Mal 3:10**) - **Tithes and Offerings**

D. The Problems With Money

1. People end-up trusting in money instead of trusting in God (**Mark 10:23-27; Prov 11:4, 28**), to supply all their needs (**Philp 4:19**).
2. It is easy to start loving earthly possessions instead of heavenly ones (**Matt 6:19-21; Col 3:1-4; Pr 30:7-9**).
3. There is a great danger in thinking God's blessings can be measured by a person's material possessions (**Luke 12:15; 1 Sam 16:7**).
4. Beware when your life's objective becomes earning as much money as possible (**Prov 23:4; Eccl 5:10-12**).

E. Things Money *Cannot* Buy

1. _____ (**Prov 16:16**)
2. A righteous life (**Prov 28:6**)
3. A good night's sleep (**Eccl 5:12**)
4. The word of God (**Ps 119:14,72,127**)
5. Good health (**Luke 8:43**)
6. Quietness, peace (**Eccl 4:6; Pr 15:16; 17:1**)

F. Personal Achievement and Ambition

1. Ambition is the drive to obtain, or accomplish something beyond yourself. Ambition is definitely not bad. What you seek to possess, when it becomes your "god," is where the problem comes in. Every Christian needs ambition - or else no one would be getting up in the morning to go to work!
2. It is not wrong to achieve success. God desires that we have the desire to be a success in everything we do. The issue is HOW we achieve it (**Ps 1:1-3; Josh 1:8**). God wants us to achieve success the right way (**1Cor 9:25; 2Tim 2:5**), which is always the Bible way.

H. How To Evaluate the Lack of Money

When you experience a perceived need, the following are the possible reasons why you may not have the money for it.

1. You may not need it. God may be saying, "Forget about it for now."
2. You may have already misspent it. You may have already over-spent yourself on things that you did not need (new TV, stereo), so that now you cannot obtain things that you do need (food, clothing).
3. God may be testing your faith (**Jam 1:2-8**). Sometimes God wants to see if you will wait upon Him to provide the funds instead of getting impatient, and making the "thing" your "god" (**Ps 27:14**).
4. Your perception may be all wrong - you may have the wrong attitude about what are your *needs* and what are your *wants* (**Luke 12:15**)!

Key Truths About Money

- ❖ To love money is the beginning of the worst nightmare anyone could ever have!
- ❖ All your money belongs to God - it is only yours because God first gave it to you.
- ❖ You owe God the tithe of every pay-check - if you hold back, then be ready for God to get you!
- ❖ A cheerful giver is the happiest person alive!

III. Steps to Financial Freedom

Many people are in financial bondage. They owe the bank, credit card companies, friends and relatives. You may be facing great personal pressure in your home and marriage because of these debts. Here are some wise steps from God's word that you can take to become financially free.

- A. **Transfer Ownership.** Realize you are owned by _____ (1Cor 6:19-20; Col 3:23-24). Give everything over to God for His control. This encourages you to be faithful with what you currently possess - so you don't squander or waste it (Mt 25:14-30).
- B. **Become Free from Debt (Rom 13:8).** Realize that it is a priority (Pr 22:7)! Here are some helpful steps to getting, and staying *current* financially.
 1. **Start with a written budget (Prov 27:23-24).** Record all your expenses and income in a monthly budget. Write out a basic budget below:

Write Out Your Budget by Percentage of Income (no matter how small)			
Monthly GROSS INCOME: _____			
EXPENSE	Avg	Yours	Percent
Firstfruits to God (the tithe)	10%	_____	_____%
House Rent or Mortgage (including insurances)	23%	_____	_____%
Groceries	18%	_____	_____%
Auto/Travel Expenses (Fuel, Repairs)	10%	_____	_____%
Household Needs and Clothing	8%	_____	_____%
Electricity, Heat, Water	8%	_____	_____%
Savings	5%	_____	_____%
Entertainment (Birthdays, dining out)	5%	_____	_____%
Telephone	5%	_____	_____%
Miscellaneous (Snacks, Newspapers)	8%	_____	_____%
Other _____	0%	_____	_____%
Total	100%	_____	_____%

- a. This helps you know where you are financially.
- b. **Bind yourself** to living within the budget, and don't "cheat" on it.
- 2. **WORK to obtain money, and to get ahead of debt.** It takes work (Pr 10:4)! Money is not a God-given right. Work, not money builds your confidence, develops character and discipline (2 Thes 3:10-12). Work was designed as a lifestyle for man even before Adam and Eve fell into sin (Gen 2:15), and hard work is part of the curse that God placed upon life *because of* Adam's sin (Gen 3:17-19).
- 3. **Determine the difference between "needs" and "wants".** Example: When you need a car. You may want a new BMW. But your need can be satisfied with a used *Ford*. Quit demanding only what *you want*!
- 4. **Begin to eliminate non-essentials.**
 - a. Avoid *costly* _____ (Prov 21:17) - every TV channel available!
 - b. Utilize individual skills by "fixing and doing things yourself".
 - c. Get rid of non-essentials in your life that only drains your pocket.
- 5. **Think before buying (Prov 24:3).** Every purchase should be evaluated:
 - a. Is it a necessity? Have I checked whether it is a *need*, or a *want*?
 - b. Does this purchase reflect my Christian values? Is it questionable?
 - c. Is it the very best buy? Or is it just convenient on credit cards?
- 6. **Discontinue Credit (and Overdraft) Buying.** If you are in debt from the misuse of credit cards, or your **bank overdraft**, then stop! **Totally Stop Using Them!!**

You will have to sacrifice some of your wants and desires in life to get current, or you will only get deeper into debt.

7. **Practice Saving.** Save part of the money you obtain, even if it is only a little a month (**Prov 21:20**). Don't spend everything you make (**Lk 15:11-16**)! Prepare for the future (**2Cor 12:14; Pr 13:22**). How to save:
 - a. Have sales resistance. Follow common sense and not your feelings when it comes to "sales" (beware of covetousness).
 - b. Don't be guilty of *presumption*, where you assume the money you spend will show up somewhere, sometime later (**Ps 19:13**) - i.e., charging it when not having the money to pay it off right away
 8. **Pray.** When we have done our best, then we can confidently ask God to meet our daily needs and be thankful for the way He provides (**Matt 6:11**). Learn to trust God (**Heb 13:5,6**).
- C. **Practice and learn the blessing of giving to others** (**Philp 2:4; Lk 6:38**). Jesus said in **Acts 20:35**, "*It is more blessed to give than to _____*." He was the best example of this when He gave himself on Calvary.
- D. **Maintain a Clear Conscience** (**Pr 28:13, Mt 5:23-24**). Do all business dealings with a pure heart. Remember that you will give an account to God, so "*provide things _____ in the sight of _____ men*" (**Rom 12:17**).

IV. What About *Tithing* - The Giving of the Firstfruits of Our Resources

The giving of tithes and offerings to your local church is God's ordained way of supporting that ministry. Faithful stewardship of our possessions involves designating the " _____ " of our increase to God (**Prov 3:9,10**)! Not because God needs our money (**Ps 24:1**), but rather, because we need to learn how to manage our resources so that we can obey God - not just "survive" from pay-check to pay-check! Tithing is the payment of our *firstfruits* to God simply out of obedience to His word, and because we love Him (**2 Chron 31:5**)!

- A. According to **Mal 3:8-10**, the Lord is very serious about the Christian making sure that *money* does not become our "god." And the way He helps us to remember HIS first place, is by requiring us to keep *Him* in first place with our finances. This remembrance is called the *tithe*.
- B. How much is a *tithe*? _____ of your income (**Lev 27:32**).
- C. Tithing was normal for who? _____ (**Heb 7:1,2**)
- D. In the Old Testament, tithes and offerings were presented *where*? (**Dt 12:5,6; Mal 3:10**) _____ In the New Testament it is to be gathered where? (**1 Cor 16:1,2**) _____
- E. *When* should we tithe? (**1 Cor 16:1,2**) _____
- F. Why tithe to my local church? So that your local church can be self-sufficient- not dependent upon the government, bazaars, or bake sales. And so that the pastor can be full time for serving the Lord (**1 Tim 5:17,18**)

V. Giving More than a Tithe? *The Proof of Our Love for God!***A. Why Give, When I Already Tithe?**

1. The tithe is an act of obedience, but giving above the tithe is an act of love because you are giving *above* what is required (**Luke 17:10**). The principle is, you have not *given* until you have paid what is owed!
2. Giving proves the _____ of our love - is it only out of duty (as with the tithe), or is it heart-driven (**2 Cor 8:1-8; 9:7**)?
3. Giving above the tithe develops an attitude of *grace* (**2 Cor 8:6,7; 9:8**), and dependence upon God. Remember, God *first* gave (**John 3:16**)!
4. Giving provides us the opportunity to make *eternal* investments (**Philp 4:15-17; Mt 6:19-21**). The more invested, the greater the return.
5. Giving allows God the opportunity to give back to us over and above what He already gives us (**Luke 6:38**)!

B. How Should I Give to the Lord?

1. Give **Sacrificially** (**2 Cor 8:1,2**). It is not always easy.
2. Give **Faithfully** (**1 Cor 16:2**) - consistently!
3. Give **Cheerfully** (**2 Cor 9:7**)! It is a privilege to be able to give!
4. Give **Willingly** (**2 Cor 8:3-5, 11, 12**)! It is up to you!

<i>Date Lesson Completed</i> _____ <i>Discipler</i> _____

Section THREE Test

The New Testament Church

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

SCORE: _____

The following questions will help you identify how much you have learned in your Bible Study time. Answer as many as possible, and take your time so that you can think and remember the answers. Most answers are obvious. Some questions however will be hard. All questions come from the material in the First Principles Study Course. God bless you as you examine what you have learned, and become confident in knowing and growing in God's wondrous word!

1. Prayer is simply talking with _____.
2. Jesus said that God hates what kind of prayers? _____
3. Prayer is the only way to get the power of *what* in your life? _____
4. There were three places of prayer in a Christian's life. Name one of them:

5. There are three ways to pray given in Matthew 7:7,8, one of them was "asking." What were the other two? 1) _____, 2) _____
6. To get an answer from God, you must pray according to whose will? _____
7. List one hindrance to God answering your prayer: _____

8. What is God's measure of success in a person's life? (concerning the will of God)

9. A Christian's actions are not to be driven by self-will, but by _____
10. It is not as important to *know* God's will for your life as it is to _____ it!
11. Will God's will for your life ever contradict His word (*His revealed will*)? _____
12. According to Proverbs 3:5,6, list the most important thing you must do to find God's will daily? _____
13. According to Colossians 3:9,10, our old nature is referred to as _____
14. Give a reason why a person still sins even after they have become a Christian?

15. How does God view sin? _____
16. How does God view a Christian's sin? _____
17. Whose fault is it when a person sins? _____
18. Romans 13:14 says that we are not to make _____ for the flesh to sin.
19. Psalm 119:11 commands us to do *what* with God's word so that we won't sin against God? _____
20. Every person has three parts. Name them: 1) _____, 2) _____
3) _____
21. List one of the God's five purposes of marriage (one was for us to be "fruitful and multiply"): _____
22. Describe God's view of marriage: _____

23. Instead of *Dating*, what is the godly approach to finding a marriage partner called?

24. Give one of the principles of a happy marriage: _____

25. What is the most important role that a husband and father has _____

26. What is the most important role for the wife and mother: _____

27. What are children (according to Psalm 127:3) _____
28. Can a child be saved at an early age? _____
29. Children in Ephesians 6:1 are commanded to _____
30. Who is our example of how to correct and train our children? _____
31. Is chastening supposed to be easy and pleasant? _____
32. Biblical correction will deliver a child's soul from what? _____
33. What is the root of all evil? _____
34. God has designed four purposes for money. Name one: _____

35. Name a problem with money: _____
36. Name something that money cannot buy: _____
37. Tithing is the giving of our _____ to God.
38. Is tithing by our choice or by God's command? _____
39. How much is the tithe? _____
40. When a Christian does not tithe, what are they really doing to God? _____

How are you doing?

Have you been born again? **Yes, No.** When? _____

Have you been baptized? **Yes, No.** When? _____

Have you read your Bible all the way through yet? **Yes, No.** What Book are you reading currently? _____

Have you memorized the three memory verses listed so far? **Yes, No.**

How many Scriptures have you memorized so far? _____

Are you faithful in church (every Sunday possible)? **Yes, No.**

Are you praying every day (**Yes, No**), Is God answering your prayers? **Yes, No.**

Is your home life developing, and becoming more Christian? **Yes, No.**

Are you tithing? **Yes, No.**

Well Done!

You have now completed Section THREE, and its test. Hand this test in to your Discippler, and it will be quickly graded. The results will only be known by you, your Discippler, and the Course Administrator. After going through this test, knowing what you don't know, and maybe don't understand, you may want to go back over certain portions of the Course before going on to the next Section. Otherwise, press on, and keep growing!

