

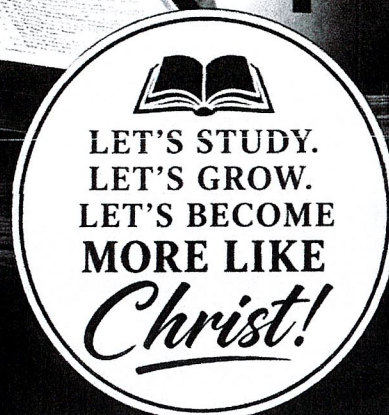
SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

— + —
MIDWEEK
Bible Class
— ∞ —

GROW IN GOD'S WORD. GROW IN FAITH. GROW TOGETHER.



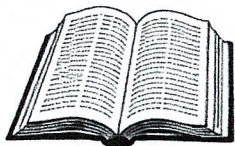
— JOIN US —
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
AT 7:00 PM



JOIN US ON
ZOOM
EVERY WEDNESDAY!



MEETING ID:
488 000 8436
PASSWORD:
PRAY (P-R-A-Y)



ALL ARE WELCOME!
COME BE ENCOURAGED.
COME BE EQUIPPED.
Come Be Transformed!

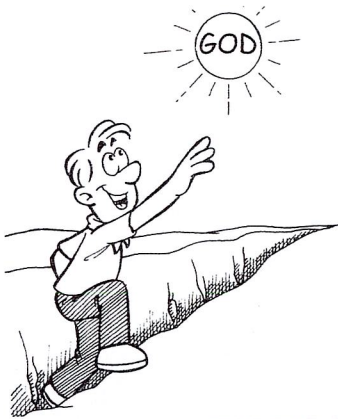
"Your word is a lamp
to my feet and a light
to my path."

PSALM 119:105



— LED BY —
Reverend Dr. Ronald O. Perry
PASTOR & TEACHER

— ∞ —
LET'S OPEN GOD'S WORD TOGETHER
AND DISCOVER HIS TRUTH FOR OUR LIVES!



Step 1 Saved

Have you read **Welcome To God's Family** on the previous page? If not, go back and study it carefully. It will give you an overview of what it means to live as a follower of Christ.

THE OLD LIFE

1. According to Ephesians 2:1, what was our condition before Christ gave us eternal life? _____
2. Ephesians 2:2-3 Not only were we dead, but we were trapped, following the ways of this _____ (v. 2). We lived under the power of Satan who is called the ruler of this world, the kingdom of the air. Instead of following God, we followed the lusts or cravings of our _____ (v. 3). We were deserving of the _____ of God (v. 3).
3. The Bible sums it up: "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23). Can anyone claim they are not a sinner? Yes ☐ No ☐
We all fall short; no one is good enough for heaven on their own merits.

THE WORK OF GOD

4. In Ephesians 2:4, how is God described? _____

Mercy: *God's compassion holds back the punishment we really deserve.*

5. According to this passage, what has God done for us? v. 5 _____

He did all this even when we were _____ in our sins.

God showed his love when **Christ died for us** (Romans 5:8). He took our place on the cross, shedding his blood to pay our debt to save us.

6. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. God says that we cannot be saved by our works (v. 9). Give examples of some of the good deeds people do in order to be saved _____

Many believe that if they just try harder they will be good enough to gain God's acceptance. They try religion and good deeds, but no matter how good they become, they never measure up to God's standards.

7. Instead, we are saved by _____ through _____ (v. 8).
Grace means "*an undeserved gift.*" In other words, salvation is a free gift, even though we do not deserve it.

DECISION TIME

Have you already accepted Christ?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, when? _____

If not, do you want to?

Yes ☐ No ☐

TO RECEIVE CHRIST

1. Admit that you are a sinner. Don't try to hide it any longer.
2. Decide to distance yourself from sin. Repent.
3. Believe that Christ came from heaven, died for your sins, and rose from the dead.
4. Ask Jesus to come into your heart to forgive your sins, and take control of your life.

The following prayer could serve as a model of how to receive Christ.

Dear Lord Jesus

I know that I am a sinner and that I need your forgiveness. I believe you are God and that you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I want to leave sin behind and live a pure life. Come into my heart and be my Savior. I want to follow you as my Lord. Thank you for saving me. Amen.

THINK ABOUT IT

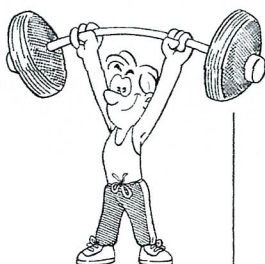
Think about your home and everyone and everything that you love. How does your sin affect them?

Think about your future. Had you continued with the old life, you would have faced the judgment of God. Read Revelation 20:11-15 and think on it, thanking God for His great love.

GROWING STRONGER

It is important to form habits that will help you grow in your new life.

Just as exercise strengthens the body, there are spiritual disciplines that help you to grow in Christ.



These disciplines include:

- Bible study
- Prayer
- Memorizing Bible verses.
- Daily repentance
- Faith

In addition to completing these lessons, it is important to read a portion of the Bible and pray to God every day.

This week read chapters 1-7 in the book of John, one chapter per day.

Pray to God before reading, preparing your heart to receive what He is going to tell you through His Word.

After reading each chapter, pray again, talking with God about what you have read.

With God's help, I commit to reading a chapter a day in my Bible.

Date: _____

Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast."

In Appendix 1 you will find some cards to help you memorize the verses in these lessons.

8. In whom should we have faith in order to be children of God?

Galatians 3:26 _____

9. Tell in your own words what it means to have faith in Christ. _____

THE NEW LIFE

10. Why did Christ come? John 10:10 _____

11. What does God offer to the person who accepts Christ? John 1:12 _____

12. According to John 5:24, what happens when a person accepts Christ? _____

13. What did God create us for according to Ephesians 2:10? _____

*Note that we are not saved **by** works, but we are saved **for** good works. While good deeds will not save us, they are the fruit of true salvation.*

14. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. To be "in Christ" means to have accepted Him as Savior. So, if someone is in Christ, what does he or she become? _____

15. Verse 17 speaks of changes in our lives. Give specific examples of:

The old which passed away: _____

The things that are new: _____

Verse 18 tells us that all these new things are from God himself.

IN SUMMARY

- **You were saved by grace through faith.** That means Christ died to gave you eternal life as a free gift even though you did not deserve it nor could you earn it.
- **You live now as a Christian by grace through faith.** Your standing before God does not depend on your ability to do good things to please him. Instead it means that you believe God now sees you as righteous on the basis of the blood of Christ, so you act accordingly.
- **Think about the following questions** as a way to review this lesson:
 - What was your life like without Christ?
 - What did Christ do for you?
 - How can you show every day the new life that God gave you?



GOD GIVES ME SECURITY

Step 2 Secure!

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

Avoid spending too much time on these T/F questions. The answers will become clear as you study the lesson.

- ____ Right now I can be sure that I am saved.
- ____ God wants me to sin so He can show more of His love.
- ____ If I sin and die without confessing it, I am still saved.

1. Read Romans 8:38-39. Once we have accepted Christ, is there any way we can be separated from the love of God? _____

Read **John 10:27-29** and respond to questions 2 through 7.

2. What is offered to us? (v. 28) _____
3. Who gives eternal life? (v. 28) _____
4. Can something eternal come to an end? _____
The verb "give" is in the present tense. This indicates that we already have eternal life. Eternal life does not begin when we die, but rather at the moment we accept Christ as our personal Savior.
5. When will we perish? (v. 28) _____
This refers to the fact that eternal life never ends.
6. Can anyone snatch us out of **Christ's** hand? (v. 28) _____
7. Can anyone snatch us out of the **Father's** hand? (v. 29) _____

Now read **Ephesians 1:13-14** and respond to questions 8 and 9.

8. What is the work that God did in us? (v. 13) _____

9. When were we sealed? (v. 13) _____

Read verse 14. God gave us the Holy Spirit to guarantee that we belong to Him until Christ comes for us. We have been branded by the Spirit as belonging to God forever. Being sealed is something the Spirit does which does not depend on our own works or effort.

Read "Who am I in Christ?" in Appendix 2, at the end of the book.

How do you feel as you read these affirmations? Do they give you confidence? _____

GIVING THANKS

According to John 10:28-29, you are in the hand of Jesus Christ, and at the same time you are in the Father's hand.

Think of how protected your life is in those hands! No wonder it says two times that no one can snatch you from their hands.



I am secure in my Savior's hands
and in the hands of the Father.

THINK ABOUT IT

To sin is to do, say, or think something against the will of God. Although God loves me, He hates my sin.

Think about and write down two reasons why you believe that a Christian should seek to avoid sin.

1. _____

2. _____

WHERE WILL I
GO WHEN I DIE?



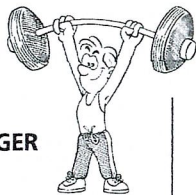
THIS WEEK

This week, pray for one of your family members who has not yet received Christ. Ask for his or her salvation. Write down their name:

Having trouble finding passages in your Bible?

Here's a tip. Memorize in order the names of the first ten books of the New Testament:

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts
Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians



GROWING STRONGER

Read John 8-14

this week (one chapter per day).

Memorize John 10:27-28

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me; I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; and no one can snatch them out of my hand."

10. How can we know for sure whether we have eternal life or not?

1 John 5:11-12 _____

Are you sure that you have eternal life? Why? _____

WARNING

11. Now that I am saved, why shouldn't I play around with sin?

Romans 6:1-2 _____

12. Why does God discipline me? Read Hebrews 12:5-10

Verse 6 _____

Verse 10 _____

GOD GIVES ME A CHOICE

God's desire is that you don't sin, but as human beings, we are subject to temptation. This means that we still struggle against sin in our lives.

What happens when you sin? You don't lose your salvation, but sin can affect your fellowship with God. As the loving Father that He is, He has provided the way of escape from temptation and also the means for us to draw near to Him in repentance if we do sin. We will study this more in Step 3.

Even though all Christians sin, having eternal life is not a license to sin, rather it motivates us to obey. If someone claims to be a Christian, yet continually lives in sin with an unrepentant heart, he should ask himself if he really understood the gospel and truly accepted Christ.

Churches are full of so-called "Christians" who never had eternal life because they never really understood or believed the gospel of grace. No one is saved because they dropped some bad habits and began to attend church. They are saved, and continue to be saved, by the grace of God alone.

THE BELIEVERS REWARDS

14. Read 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. One day each Christians' works will be judged. If their works are pleasing to God, the Christian will receive rewards. If they aren't, they will lose these special rewards. This judgment is to determine what rewards they will receive, not to see if they are saved, since verse 15 says the person already has salvation.

Will you receive rewards or will you just barely make it into heaven?

Explain why. _____



Step 3 Victorious!

Answer True (T) or False (F)

- ___ If we are tempted, it is inevitable that we will sin, because we are so weak.
- ___ If we sin and we confess it to God, He will forgive us.
- ___ We have spiritual enemies who tempt us.

WE ARE ENGAGED IN A BATTLE

- Have you ever felt helpless like the man on the right? If God isn't the one who tempts us (James 1:13), who then are our spiritual enemies?

James 4:4 _____

Galatians 5:17 _____

1 Peter 5:8 _____

- How should we respond to each enemy?

The **world** (Romans 12:2) _____

The **flesh** (Galatians 5:16) _____

In lesson 5 we will study how to be filled with the Spirit.

The **devil** (James 4:7) _____

Note the two steps. Resisting will not work without submitting to God first.

WE CAN BE VICTORIOUS

- Who is greater than Satan? 1 John 4:4 _____

- Who lives in the believer? 1 Corinthians 6:19 _____

- Who gives us the victory? 1 Corinthians 15:57 _____

GOD GIVES US RESOURCES TO BE VICTORIOUS

- What do the following passages say to keep us from falling into sin?

Psalm 119:11 _____

Think about concrete ways you to hide God's word in your heart.

Matthew 26:41 _____

Proverbs 4:14-15 _____

How does this relate to the friends you choose and where you choose to go?

2 Timothy 2:22 _____

Meditate on the things that consistently make you fall. Do you have a strategy to avoid putting yourself into places of temptation? We must not only **flee** evil, but must **pursue** what is good. Also, note that we need to pursue righteousness **together** with the mutual support of other believers.

WILL I EVER
BE FREE?



THIS WEEK

This week, pray for a friend, co-worker, classmate, or neighbor who needs to know Jesus Christ.

This week I will pray for:

AFFIRMING THE TRUTH

The Christian can conquer temptations. Can you recall a time recently when you were tempted and overcame it with God's help?

MAKING THINGS RIGHT

The one to whom I should confess my sin is God (Psalm 32:5); but there are cases in which this is not enough. I need to go one step further.

If my sin has affected another person, I should seek out that person and ask his or her forgiveness as well (James 5:16; Matthew 5:23-24).

Paraphrasing the Apostle John: How can I be right with God, whom I don't see, if I am not right with my neighbor, whom I do see? (1 John 4:20)

Memorize the next ten books of the New Testament, reviewing the first 10 from the last lesson:

Philippians
Colossians
1 and 2 Thessalonians
1 and 2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James



GROWING STRONGER

Read John 15-21
this week (one chapter per day).

Memorize 1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

7. We are all tempted, but this doesn't mean that we have to sin. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. Meditate on the following truths and believe them.
 - Temptations are part of being human. It is possible to overcome them.
 - God puts limits on temptations; we can resist them.
 - In every temptation, God always provides a way to escape.

WE CAN BE FORGIVEN

8. Can anyone, even Christians, claim to be sinless? 1 John 1:8 _____
By sinning, the fellowship between God and the believer is broken. Although He still loves us, He will not answer our requests while we are unwilling to confess our sin (Psalm 66:18).

9. How can we be forgiven? 1 John 1:9 _____

10. What two things happen when I confess my sin? 1 John 1:9 _____

- When I acknowledge my sin and repent, God **forgives** me and **sees me as clean**, not as a dirty sinner, enemy or hopeless failure.
- I feel unworthy because I am unworthy, yet he still forgives me.
- My standing before God doesn't depend on how I feel, but on the cross. God declared me righteous because of what Christ did, not what I do or feel.
- I don't need to beg for acceptance because God's mercy moves Him to forgive.

HOW SHOULD I CONFESS MY SIN?

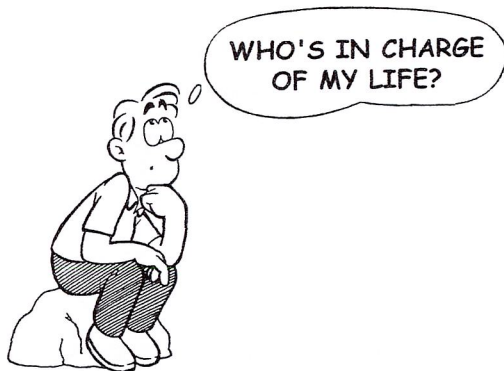
Confession is more than saying "I sinned."
True confession requires several things:

- Be sincere.
- Be repentant (being truly sorry and desiring to not commit that sin again).
- Be specific (telling God precisely what I did).
- Be quick to recognize my error. As soon as I realize that I have sinned, I should confess it. Otherwise, I am in danger of falling into more sin.
- Be humble. Ask forgiveness of those people who were affected by my sin.
- Accept forgiveness. I should not continue to beat myself up for sins that I have already confessed. If God has forgiven me, I must accept His forgiveness, and believing, give Him thanks. I must reject Satan's accusation that I can't be forgiven.



SUMMARY

1. Who are our spiritual enemies?
2. What resources do we have to conquer them?
3. If we sin, what should we do to be forgiven?



Step 4

Lord of All

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- ___ I know how to run my own life. No one else has any right to tell me what to do.
- ___ If I yield control of my life to Christ, He'll take away all my fun.
- ___ When I resist Christ's control of my life, I become a slave to sin.

WHO'S THE BOSS?

One of the titles that is often used to refer to Christ is "LORD." Although the world lives today in rebellion against God, one day every knee will bow before Christ and every tongue will confess that He is Lord according to Philippians 2:10-11.

1. What does it mean to say: "Jesus is Lord of my life"? _____

2. Why does Christ have the right to rule my life?

Colossians 1:16 _____

2 Corinthians 5:15 _____

To whom does my life belong now? _____

MY RESPONSE

3. If Christ owns me, how should I respond to Him? 2 Corinthians 5:15

4. Read Galatians 2:20. This verse summarizes one of the essentials of the Christian life. Explain the following phrase: "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." _____

To be "crucified with Christ" means that my old life died, or remains behind me. Now I have new life in Christ, with power to conquer sin.

5. How should I live this new life in Christ? See the second part of verse 20.

CHECK UP

There are many things that are not bad in themselves but can come to take the place that only Christ should occupy in our lives.

Mark the things that are hindering Christ's work in your life:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| ☐ Belongings | ☐ Friends |
| ☐ Ambition | ☐ Work |
| ☐ Entertainment | ☐ Habits |
| ☐ Your character | ☐ Family |
| ☐ Other _____ | |

What specific areas do you need to surrender to Christ's control?

Right now, pray to the Lord, asking Him to take control of the areas of your life that you wrote down

THIS WEEK

Now finish memorizing the following books of the New Testament, reviewing the other names of the ones you already learned:

1 and 2 Peter
1, 2, and 3 John
Jude
Revelation

CONQUERING FEAR

Does it scare you to think about surrendering your life completely to Christ?



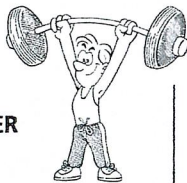
DOES GOD REALLY WANT
WHAT'S BEST FOR MY LIFE?

Here are some reasons people have for being afraid to surrender to Christ. Mark those that affect you.

- ☐ I fear that Jesus doesn't really understand my problems.
- ☐ I'm afraid Christ will ask me to do something I can't do.
- ☐ I fear that Christ won't let me marry the person who will make me happy.
- ☐ I'm afraid God will take away my friends or fun activities.
- ☐ I fear that I won't be faithful to follow through on what He wants me to do.

Now read 1 Peter 5:6-7. In light of this passage, do you think there is any basis for your fears?

Yes ☐ No ☐



GROWING STRONGER

Read Acts 1-7

(one chapter per day).

Memorize Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ; and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

6. What is a good way to know if Christ is Lord of my life? Luke 6:46

7. Why is it so necessary to yield my life to Christ's control?

- ✓ I cannot serve two Lords. I have to decide whether I'm going to serve God or serve the world. I can't please both (Luke 16:13).
- ✓ Without Christ as the guide of my life, I am a slave to sin (Romans 6:16).
- ✓ One day I will have to stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of how I lived (2 Corinthians 5:10).

WHO IS MOST CAPABLE OF MANAGING MY LIFE?

	Jesus	Myself
Who always desires the best for my life?	☐	☐
Who knows what is best for my life?	☐	☐
Who is able to do what's best for my life?	☐	☐

WHAT MUST I SURRENDER TO CHRIST?

8. Some areas of my life that I should surrender to Him are:

Romans 12:1 _____

Romans 12:2 _____

Ephesians 5:15-16 _____

Matt. 6:19-21, 24 _____

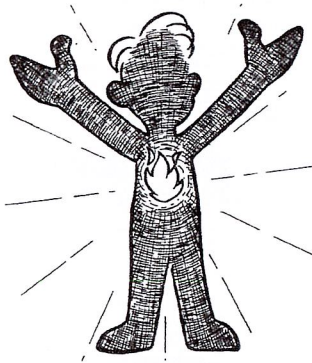
2 Corinthians 9:6-7 also speaks about cheerful giving. I can sow sparingly and reap sparingly, or sow generously and reap generously."

A DAILY SURRENDER TO CHRIST

Romans 12:1 exhorts us to surrender our bodies to Christ. The following prayer may serve as a model for this daily surrender.

*"Lord, I surrender myself to you.
Take my mind and what I think.
Take my eyes and what I see.
Take my ears and what I hear.
Take my lips and what I speak.
Take my heart, what I feel and my attitudes.
Take my hands and what I do.
Take my feet and where I go.
Take my body; it is your temple.
Fill me with your Holy Spirit.
I want to obey you.
I want to do your will."*





Step 5

Living in the Spirit

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- ___ The Holy Spirit is a "force" of God.
- ___ The Holy Spirit helps us understand our sin.
- ___ The Holy Spirit dwells in all children of God.

THE INITIAL WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

When He ascended to the Father in heaven, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Truth) to give testimony about Himself (John 15:26).

1. According to John 16:8-9, what is the work of the Holy Spirit in unbelievers? _____
2. The Holy Spirit causes the person who accepts Christ to be "born again" (John 3:3-8). What do you think it means to be born again?

In addition, the Holy Spirit does other things in the person who accepts Christ, as we will see below.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13. According to verse 13 we were all _____ into one body by the Spirit.

Baptism with the Spirit does not refer to baptism in water, but rather to the Holy Spirit making us members of the body of Christ, that is, the church, which is made up of all true believers throughout the world.

4. According to Ephesians 1:13, we were _____ by the Holy Spirit of promise. To be "sealed" with the Spirit means that we are God's secure possession from the moment that we first believe (v. 14). Just like a rancher brands a steer, God put his mark on us to say, "This one is mine!"
5. According to 1 Corinthians 3:16, the Christian is the temple of God, and the Holy Spirit _____ in him or her. This means that the Spirit truly and permanently indwells each Christian.

SUMMARY OF THE INITIAL WORK OF THE SPIRIT:

- He convicts us of sin.
- He seals us forever as God's possession.
- He causes the new birth.
- He dwells in our bodies.
- He baptizes us into the body of Christ.



DIGGING DEEPER

According to 1 Corinthians 6:11, who is the Holy Spirit?

See also Acts 5:3-4.

THINK ABOUT IT

Ephesians 1:14 says the Holy Spirit Himself is the "guarantee" or "down payment" of our salvation. How does this truth make you feel?

MY RESPONSE

Knowing that our bodies are the temple of the Spirit of God, how should we take care of them? See 1 Cor. 6:18-20.

THIS WEEK

- Share your testimony (how you came to know Christ) with one person. See appendix 6 for ideas.



Maybe this could be with the person you have been praying for. Ask God's Spirit to prepare their heart to receive and understand your testimony. Remember, it is God, not us, who convinces unbelievers of their need.

- Write out the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23 on a card and put it on your mirror so you can review it frequently.



GROWING STRONGER

Read Acts 8-14
(one chapter a day).

Memorize
1 Corinthians 12:13

"For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body, whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free, and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

THE CONTINUING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

6. What did Christ promise in John 14:26? _____

The Spirit gives us wisdom and sound judgment. He helps us understand and apply the Scriptures as we read them.

Need guidance? Sometimes we are in the middle of a difficult situation and we don't know what to do. Since the Holy Spirit is the author of Scripture, ask him to reveal the truth as it applies to your particular situation. Do you think the Holy Spirit can guide you to a wise decision? Ask him!

7. The Holy Spirit knows us intimately. What else does He do for believers?
Romans 8:26-27 _____

8. Romans 8:14 says that the Holy Spirit leads the Christian. In order to be led by the Holy Spirit, the Christian is commanded to:

Ephesians 5:18 _____

Galatians 5:16 _____

To be "filled with the Spirit" or to "walk in the Spirit" means that the Christian is controlled and guided by Him. This is demonstrated by the fruit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23.

HOW CAN I BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- ✓ When you realize that you have sinned, confess it to God. Do not wait for sin to build up (1 John 1:9). After confessing your sin, accept by faith the forgiveness that God offers you.
- ✓ Present yourself to God in prayer. Permit Him to control your life, submitting to His will (Romans 6:13). Review the prayer, *A Daily Surrender to Christ*, at the end of the previous lesson.
- ✓ By faith, accept the filling of the Holy Spirit, that is, believe that He is controlling you. Begin to act and live according to that faith.

HERE I AM LORD



SUMMARY OF THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE BELIEVER

- He teaches the believer.
- He intercedes for the believer.
- He guides the believer.
- He fills the believer.
- He glorifies Christ (John 16:13-14).



Step 6

God Speaks to Me

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- ____ Almost all of the Bible is of divine origin.
____ With God's help anyone can to understand the Bible.
____ Meditating on the Bible will help us get the greatest benefit from it.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

1. What does 2 Timothy 3:16 say about the origin of the Bible? _____

The word "inspired," found in some translations, literally means "God-breathed." What does this tell us about God's Word?

This verse says that _____ Scripture is inspired by God. If that's so, could there be any errors in it? _____

2. In what way is the Bible different from other books? Hebrews 4:12

3. Explain how the Bible serves as a sword in your life. _____

THE PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE

4. The Bible **feeds** you spiritually. To what is the Bible compared in 1 Peter 2:2? _____

What can happen to the Christian who neglects to read the Bible?

5. The Bible **guides** you in your daily life. To what is the Bible compared in Psalm 119:105? _____

What is a lamp used for? _____

We live in an age of confusion. There are many "teachers," churches and friends who want to give us advice. How can we know which ones have the truth? God gave us the Bible for this very purpose, to enlighten our minds and to help us evaluate the advice we receive.

6. The Bible **helps keep you from sin** (Psalm 119:11). What does "I have hidden your word in my heart" mean? _____

THIS WEEK

How are you doing on the Bible readings assigned in each lesson?

Are you reading a chapter a day?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Note: You don't necessarily need to read a chapter a day. Sometimes you will read more, sometimes less. It is often helpful to read just a few paragraphs several times and study them in depth.

When reading the Bible, have you seen that its power has touched your heart or changed your life?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Tell someone about what you are learning in your readings.

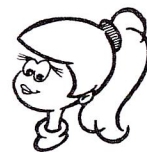
If up until now you have not read your Bible regularly, why not start today?

With God's help I commit to reading my Bible every day.

Date _____

Memorize in order the names of the first 14 books of the Old Testament:

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 and 2 Samuel
1 and 2 Kings
1 and 2 Chronicles



MEDITATING ON SCRIPTURE

Joshua 1:8 commands us to meditate on the Bible day and night; in other words, all the time.

We suggest the following means of meditating continually on the Bible:



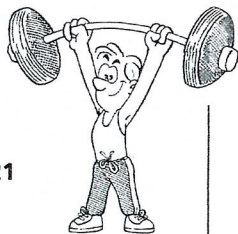
From your daily Bible reading, copy a verse onto a 3x5 card or into a notebook. Carry it in your pocket, purse, or wallet, or tape it up in a visible place (like the mirror or refrigerator) so that you can review it often during the day.

When you meditate on your verse, ask yourself:

- ✓ What does God want to teach me?
- ✓ How can I put this passage into practice in my life today?

GROWING STRONGER

Read Acts 15-21
(one chapter per day).



Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16-17

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

7. The Bible **helps you grow** in your Christian life. According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, the Bible is useful for:

Those who let themselves be guided by the Bible will be *"thoroughly equipped for every good work"* (v. 17). Be careful of those who say that the Bible is not enough and encourage you to seek dreams and revelations in addition to the Bible. The Bible is enough!

8. Is it hard for you to have faith at times? Read Romans 10:17 and answer.
How does faith come to us? _____
How can we increase our faith? _____
9. Is the Bible the final authority in your life? Read Acts 17:10-11. What custom did the Berean believers have that is worthy of imitation?

THE CONTENT OF THE BIBLE The Bible is divided into two parts:

The Old Testament

39 Books

The Law (Genesis to Deuteronomy)
The History of Israel (Joshua to Esther)
Poetry (Job to Song of Solomon)
Prophecy (Isaiah to Malachi)

The New Testament

27 Books

The Life of Christ (the 4 Gospels)
The Growth of the Church (Acts)
Teaching (the Epistles)
Prophecy (Revelation)

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THE BIBLE

Listen: Fellowship at a church where the Word of God is faithfully taught.

Study: Are you reading your Bible daily? Get a notebook and take notes about what you are learning as you study (see Appendix 4). A good place to start is with the books of John, Acts, and Romans.

Meditate: See "MEDITATING ON SCRIPTURE" in the side column. Biblical meditation involves *thinking and mulling over* God's Word for understanding. Eastern religions and those who practice yoga use another type of meditation. They try to *stop thinking, completely empty their minds*, and repeat a word or phrase over and over, in order to achieve relaxation, mental clarity or increased energy. Many do not realize it opens them to spiritual forces apart from God. The focus is *inward*, while biblical meditation seeks *external* input from Scripture.

Memorize: A memory verse is assigned in each lesson. This is important because once you have the verse memorized, it is kept in your mind for future use.

Obey: Write in your own words the main idea of James 1:22 _____

10. Follow the example of Ezra. Write down the three things that he did with the Scriptures. Ezra 7:10 _____



Step 7

Talking with God

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- ___ In order to pray, it is important to be in a church and on your knees.
 ___ I can pray with confidence, because God hears me and promises to answer.
 ___ It is enough to just pray before I eat and when I go to sleep.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is communicating with God. It is as simple and natural as talking to a friend. You can talk to God with complete confidence about anything including your fears or needs. Prayer is intimate communication with Him.

1. What great offer does God make in Jeremiah 33:3? _____

Prayer is a means of honestly expressing everything that is in your heart to a friend who listens to you with great interest.

How does God promise to respond to your prayer? _____

Are there times when God is too busy to hear your cry? Yes ☐ No ☐

2. What should our attitude be when we come before God in prayer?

Hebrews 4:16 _____

What is the reason for this degree of confidence that we can have in prayer?

3. What dangers do we need to avoid when we pray? Matthew 6:5-7

v. 5-6 _____

Explain verse 7. _____

"The Lord's Prayer" in verses 9-13 is an example of the right way to pray.

HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

4. What reasons does Psalm 106:1 give you for praising God?

Mention some of the many ways you see God's goodness revealed.

5. Instead of always worrying, what should you do? Philippians 4:6

We are to pray in **every** situation, not just the big things or emergencies.

THINK IT OVER

"We should pray when we have the desire to pray, because it would be a sin to waste such a valuable opportunity. We should pray when we do not have the desire to pray, because it would be dangerous to stay in such an unhealthy condition"

Charles H. Spurgeon

THIS WEEK

Memorize in order the names of the following books of the Old Testament and review the ones previously learned.

Ezra
 Nehemiah
 Esther
 Job
 Psalms
 Proverbs
 Ecclesiastes
 Song of Solomon
 Isaiah
 Jeremiah
 Lamentations
 Ezekiel
 Daniel



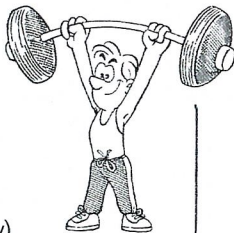
THIS WEEK

1 Timothy 2:1 asks that "requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone."

Do you have a list of prayer requests to remind you for whom you should pray?

Your list could include the following categories:

- Family members.
- Friends.
- Brothers and sisters in the faith.
- Servants of God (your pastor, missionaries, etc.).
- The people that govern your country and community.
- People who have done you harm.
- People you want to see come to Christ.
- Your goals and personal growth.



GROWING STRONGER

Read Acts 22-28
(one chapter a day).

Memorize Philippians 4:6-7

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

6. According to Philippians 4:6, what should our attitude be when we ask God for something? _____

When we pray "*with thanksgiving*," we are expressing faith in God for the answer that He **will** give to our request.

That is why verse 7 says we can experience _____ in our hearts. Why? _____

Leaving our burden in the hands of the One who is completely willing and able to help us is one of the most freeing things we can do.

7. What does "pray without ceasing" mean? (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

If you should pray all the time, does that mean that you can pray in any place, for example, at your job, riding the bus, etc.? _____

Your prayer can include:

Adoration and Praise to God for who He is.

Confession of your sins so that they don't hinder your fellowship with God.

Thanksgiving What has God done for you? Express your gratitude to Him.

Requests for personal needs and intercession for others.



8. According to John 14:13 we are taught to pray in the name of _____. He is the one who makes it possible to come before God.

9. What else can we learn about how to pray from the following passages?

Psalms 66:18 _____

1 John 5:14-15 _____

Matthew 21:22 _____

10. How does Ephesians 3:20 encourage your faith? _____

GOD ALWAYS ANSWERS

God promises to answer our prayers. He **always** answers, but how? Someone has said that God has three ways of answering prayer:

- Sometimes He says **yes**.
- There are times when, for our good, He says **no**.
- Others times He says **wait a while**.

