



*“...for the work of the ministry, for  
the edifying of the body of Christ.”*

## **Book One - A**

*English Edition*

**by David L. Dawson**

**ETS Ministries • 4400 Moulton Street • Suite D • Greenville, TX 75401  
(903) 455-3782 • FAX (903) 454-8524**

**IF FOUND, PLEASE RETURN TO:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (WORK) \_\_\_\_\_

*Equipping The Saints, Book One-A  
Copyright © 1982 ETS Ministries  
Greenville, Texas U.S.A.*

*All Rights Reserved, including translation.*

*ETS Ministries is an organization devoted to helping churches and mission agencies train lay people to do the work of the ministry.*

*Scripture quotations in this publication are from The Holy Bible,  
The New King James Version, Copyright ©1979, 1980, 1982, 1984,  
Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers.  
Used by permission.*

*English edition printed in the United States of America.*

***Translations currently available:***

*English  
Spanish  
Portuguese  
Korean  
Chinese*

***Translations under development:***

*Indonesian  
Italian  
Russian*



# *EQUIPPING THE SAINTS*

## **Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  Married  Single

School or Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Date you accepted Christ \_\_\_\_\_ Date Baptized \_\_\_\_\_

Church Member? \_\_\_\_\_ Church you attend \_\_\_\_\_

Church Activities and responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

Other ministry involvement and responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

### **Personal Spiritual Growth**

Describe your Quiet Time habits. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your prayer life practices. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your Bible reading program. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your Bible study program. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your Scripture Memory practices. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Outreach and Ministry**

Do you actively share your faith?  Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

How many have you witnessed to? \_\_\_\_\_ How many have you led to Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently following up any new Christians? \_\_\_\_\_ Describe \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently discipling anyone else? \_\_\_\_\_ Who? \_\_\_\_\_

What are you doing with your disciple? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been involved with other discipling programs? \_\_\_\_\_

# *EQUIPPING THE SAINTS*

## **Personal Training Commitment**

After prayerful consideration I, \_\_\_\_\_ , believe God wants me to be involved in the *EQUIPPING THE SAINTS* Layman's Discipleship Training Program. Depending on the Lord and in cooperation with my classmates, I hereby make the following commitment:

- In order to increase my spiritual proficiency, I will give priority over other ministry involvements to *EQUIPPING THE SAINTS* training during the period of the course, except in the case of emergency,
- I will faithfully complete the assignments, including Bible Study, Scripture memory, outside reading and ministry projects,
- I will participate freely and responsibly in the group discussions and uphold my classmates in prayer,
- I am in agreement with the objectives and standards of the *EQUIPPING THE SAINTS* training program,
- I understand that if I fail to comply with my commitment, I will be asked to withdraw from the training until I am able to give the course its necessary priority.

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# A Love For God, A Vision For the World

## The Great Commander

The primary way we demonstrate our love for God is by keeping His commandments.

*He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.*  
John 14:21

This passage tells us that our love for God must go beyond verbal expression; it must be demonstrated in obedience to His commandments. Our Great Commander, Jesus, shed further light on the issue of the commandments in Matthew's Gospel.

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.*

Matthew 22:37-40

## The Great Commandment

We are to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. No human relationship is to have a higher priority than our own personal relationship to God. This love must find application as we reach out in obedience to those about us.

## The Great Commission

Great Commandment love is to be expressed not only in words but in action directed toward the people for whom Christ died. Jesus says we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. The best way to love our lost neighbors is to build a relationship that allows us to share with them the Good News of the Gospel. This will make us "fishers of men." The best way to love our Christian neighbors is to help them become mature disciples of Jesus. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, this will ensure our Lord's commendation, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

## The Great Commitment

In John's Gospel we see that God's love motivated Him to action.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*  
John 3:16

If our love for God is only verbal, our lost neighbors may well die in their sins, and brothers and sisters in Christ may remain immature in the Faith. Love demands a commitment to change the "Great Omission" into the "Great Commission" in our lives. What is the present state of *your* life? Are you omitting the most important commandment ever given us by God by neglecting a commitment to become personally involved in the fulfilling of the Great Commission?

## The Great Omission

If God's love for us had been expressed in word only we would still be lost in our sins. God intends that our love for Him motivate us to action as well. In the last chapter of John's Gospel we see this expressed clearly when Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love Me?" Each time Peter's affirmation of love was followed by a command from the Lord Jesus, "Feed My sheep."

*EQUIPPING THE SAINTS* is designed to help students express their love for God by obeying the Great Commandment *and* the Great Commission, *and* to avoid the Great Omission. By becoming a "fisher of men" and "maker of disciples" the process illustrated in the chart will be the natural end result of each student's training. May God grant *diligence* to each of us in the completion of the fourth generation for *His* honor and glory!





# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Book One-A Disciple Lesson Plan

<b>Book</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Memory</b>	<b>Ministry * and Bible Study •</b>	<b>Outside Reading and Other Assignments</b>
1/1	Perspective	Ephesians 4:11,12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry Prayer Guide</li> <li>* Pray for 2 Converts</li> <li>* Pray for 1 Disciple</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Born to Reproduce</li> </ul>
1/2	The Great Commission and Its Fulfilling	Matthew 28:18-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Pray for 2 Converts</li> <li>* Pray for 1 Disciple</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Need of The Hour</li> </ul>
1/3	The Priesthood of Every Believer	Colossians 1:28,29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Pray for 2 Converts</li> <li>* Pray for 1 Disciple</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pole Town USA</li> <li>• 100 Word Essay</li> </ul>
1/4	Biblical Perspective on Time	Psalm 90:12 1 John 5:11,12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assurance of Salvation</li> <li>* Pray for 2 Converts</li> <li>* Pray for 1 Disciple</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginning With Christ</li> </ul>
1/5	How To Organize My Time	Ephesians 5:15,16 John 16:24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assurance of Answered Prayer</li> <li>* Pray for 2 Converts</li> <li>* Pray for 1 Disciple</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Out Your Life Objective</li> <li>• 5 PSMA</li> </ul>
1/6	Introduction To Evangelism	Matthew 4:19 1 Corinthians 10:13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assurance of Victory</li> <li>* Pray for 2 Converts</li> <li>* Pray for 1 Disciple</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whatever Became of Evangelism?</li> <li>• 5 PSMA's</li> </ul>
1/7	The Bridge Presentation	Romans 10:9,10 1 John 1:9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assurance of Forgiveness</li> <li>* Pray for 2 Converts</li> <li>* Pray for 1 Disciple</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorize First Half of Bridge Presentation</li> <li>• 5 PSMA's</li> </ul>
1/8	Opening and Controlling a Conversation	2 Timothy 1:7 Proverbs 3:5,6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assurance of Guidance</li> <li>* Pray for 2 Converts</li> <li>* Pray for 1 Disciple</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorize Second Half of Bridge Presentation</li> <li>• 5 PSMA's</li> </ul>



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Book One-B Disciple Lesson Plan

<b>Book</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Memory</b>	<b>Ministry * and Bible Study •</b>	<b>Outside Reading and Other Assignments</b>
1/9	<b>Assurance of Salvation</b>	1 John 5:13 John 15:5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living in Christ</li> <li>* Pray for 2 Converts</li> <li>* Pray for 1 Disciple</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorize Complete Bridge Presentation</li> <li>• Going on With Christ</li> <li>• 5 PSMA's</li> </ul>
1/10	<b>Quiet Time</b>	Mark 1:35 Acts 20:32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living by the Word</li> <li>* Pray for 2 Converts</li> <li>* Pray for 1 Disciple</li> <li>* Share Bridge</li> <li>* Evangelism Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment With God</li> <li>• Planned Appointments With God</li> <li>• 5 PSMA</li> <li>• 6 AWG</li> </ul>
1/11	<b>Prayer</b>	Matthew 18:19 Romans 8:14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living by the Spirit of God</li> <li>* Pray for 2 Converts</li> <li>* Pray for 1 Disciple</li> <li>* Share Bridge</li> <li>* Evangelism Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How To Get Results Through Prayer</li> <li>• Prayer List</li> <li>• 5 PSMA</li> <li>• 6 AWG</li> </ul>
1/12	<b>The Victorious Life</b>	1 Corinthians 15:57 2 Corinthians 5:7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living by Faith</li> <li>* Pray for 2 Converts</li> <li>* Pray for 1 Disciple</li> <li>* Share Bridge</li> <li>* Evangelism Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PSMA</li> <li>• 6 AWG</li> </ul>
1/13	<b>The Word of God</b>	Matthew 4:4 1 John 4:11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living a Life of Love</li> <li>* Pray for 2 Converts</li> <li>* Pray for 1 Disciple</li> <li>* Share Bridge</li> <li>* Evangelism Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PSMA</li> <li>• 6 AWG</li> </ul>
1/14	<b>The Obedient Life</b>	Hebrews 5:8 1 John 1:7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living in Christian Fellowship</li> <li>* Pray for 2 Converts</li> <li>* Pray for 1 Disciple</li> <li>* Share Bridge</li> <li>* Evangelism Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PSMA</li> <li>• Bible Reading Chart</li> </ul>
1/15	<b>The Lordship of Christ</b>	Acts 2:36 1 Peter 3:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living as a Witness</li> <li>* Pray for 2 Converts</li> <li>* Pray for 1 Disciple</li> <li>* Share Bridge</li> <li>* Evangelism Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PSMA</li> <li>• Bible Reading Chart</li> </ul>
1/16	<b>Summary and Evaluation of Book 1</b>	2 Corinthians 9:7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living a Life of Generosity</li> <li>* Pray for 2 Converts</li> <li>* Pray for 1 Disciple</li> <li>* Share Bridge</li> <li>* Evangelism Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PSMA</li> <li>• Bible Reading Chart</li> </ul>



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Book One-A Convert Lesson Plan

<b>Book</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Memory</b>	<b>Ministry * and Bible Study •</b>	<b>Outside Reading and Other Assignments</b>
1/1	<b>Assurance of Salvation</b>  1/9*	1 John 5:11-13	• Assurance of Salvation 1/4	• Beginning With Christ 1/4
1/2	<b>Prayer</b>  1/11	Matthew 18:19 John 16:24	• Assurance of Answered Prayer 1/5	• How To Get Results Through Prayer 1/11 • Fill out Prayer List
1/3	<b>Quiet Time</b>  1/10	Mark 1:35 1 John 1:9	• Assurance of Forgiveness 1/7	• Appointment With God and Planned Appointment With God • 6 AWG 1/10
1/4	<b>The Victorious Life</b>  1/12	1 Corinthians 15:57 1 Corinthians 10:13	• Assurance of Victory 1/6	• 6 AWG
1/5	<b>The Word of God</b>  1/13	Matthew 4:4 Proverbs 3:5,6	• Assurance of Guidance 1/8	• 6 AWG • Fill Out Objective for the Word
1/6	<b>Biblical Perspective On Time</b> 1/4	Psalms 90:12 John 15:5	• Living in Christ 1/9	• 6 AWG • Going on With Christ 1/9
1/7	<b>How to Organize My Time</b>  1/5	Ephesians 5:15,16 Acts 20:32	• Living by the Word 1/10	• Do 6 Personal and Spiritual Management Aid (PSMA) • Bible Reading Chart 1/14
1/8	<b>Introduction to Evangelism</b>  1/6	Matthew 4:19 Romans 8:14	• Living by the Spirit of God 1/11 * Pray for two to win	• Do 6 PSMA • Bible Reading Chart Whatever became of Evangelism 1/6



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Book One-B Convert Lesson Plan

<b>Book</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Memory</b>	<b>Ministry * and Bible Study •</b>	<b>Outside Reading and Other Assignments</b>
1/9	<b>Bridge Presentation</b>  1/7	Romans 10:9,10 2 Corin- thians 5:7	• Living by Faith 1/12  * Pray for 2 Converts	• Memorize First Half Bridge Presentation • 6 PSMA • Bible Reading Chart
1/10	<b>Opening and Controlling a Conversation</b> 1/8	1 Timothy 1:7 1 John 4:11	• Living a Life of Love 1/13  * Pray for 2 Converts	• Memorize Second Half Bridge Presentation • 6 PSMA • Bible Reading Chart
1/11	<b>The Obedient Life</b>  1/14	Romans 13:11,12 1 John 1:7	• Living in Christian Fellowship 1/14  * Pray for 2 Converts	• Memorize Complete Bridge Presentation • 6 PSMA • Bible Reading Chart
1/12	<b>The Lordship of Christ</b>  1/15	Hebrews 5:8 1 Peter 3:15	• Living as a Witness 1/15 * Share Bridge * Evangelism Report * Pray for 2 Converts	• 6 PSMA • Bible Reading Chart
1/13	<b>Perspective</b>  1/1	Acts 2:36 2 Corin- thians 9:7	• Living a Life of Generosity 1/16 * Share Bridge * Evangelism Report * Pray for 2 Converts	• Born to Reproduce 1/1 • 6 PSMA • Bible Reading Chart
1/14	<b>The Great Commission and Its Fulfilling</b> 1/2	Ephesians 4:11,12	• Living in Christian Fellowship 1/14 * Share Bridge * Evangelism Report * Pray for 2 Converts	• The Need of the Hour 1/2 • 6 PSMA • Bible Reading Chart
1/15	<b>The Priesthood of Every Be- liever</b> 1/3	Matthew 28:18-20	• Review All Verses * Share Bridge * Evangelism Report * Pray for 2 Converts	• 100 Word Essay • 6 PSMA • Bible Reading Chart • Pole Town USA
1/16	<b>Summary and Evaluation of Book One</b>	John 15:16	* Share Bridge * Evangelism Report * Pray for 2 Converts * Pray for 1 Disciple	• 6 PSMA • Bible Reading Chart



# *EQUIPPING THE SAINTS* **Ministry Outreach Plan**

The next three pages are the most important pages in the *Equipping The Saints* course for several reasons. They:

- make the *Equipping The Saints* course an on-the-job training program,
- make the *Equipping The Saints* course training practical and not just cognitive, and
- make the disciple reproduce in others what is being taught.

The end product or objective of *Equipping The Saints* is to make you a reproducing disciple. From the onset of your training you must start praying for two people to win to Christ. This engages you in evangelism—fishing for people. You also begin praying for one person to disciple. This causes you to reach back into the church for people who are not growing the way they should in their walk with God.

## **Ministry Prayer Guide**

On the next page you will find the Ministry Prayer Guide. This will help you identify potential people for your ministry.

### **Non-Christian Friends**

Make a list of all your non-Christian friends and begin to pray for them. When you have peace from God about a name, move the person to the evangelism section of your Ministry Discipleship Guide and place the name on your Ministry Prayer Guide in the space marked “Convert.”

### **Christian Friends**

Make a list of Christian friends who do not seem to be growing in their walk with God. When you have a commitment from a person to go through *Equipping The Saints* with you, write the name in the Disciple-Making section of your Ministry Discipleship Guide and on your Ministry Prayer Tree on the line marked “Disciple.”

## **Ministry Prayer Tree**

The Ministry Prayer Tree helps you visualize God’s plan for your ministry. Write your name in the box on the left side of the page. The three you win and disciple must be trained to reproduce the next generation. Set your heart now to labor until at least this page is filled with your spiritual children. What a wonderful gift of obedience this would be to present to your Savior at the Judgment Seat of Christ!

## **Ministry Discipleship Guide**

This guide will direct you in what to do with your converts and disciples until we get to this subject matter later in your training.

### **Evangelism**

The four-point outline will guide you in what to do with the people whom you have won.

### **Discipleship**

The nine-point outline will guide you in what to do with your new convert or disciple as you help the person grow toward discipleship.

*Both of these initial guides will be replaced in lessons 2/13 and 2/14 by a more detailed instructive guide.*





# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Ministry Prayer Tree

*Paul*

*Timothy*

*Faithful Men*

*Others*

**First Generation**

**Second Generation**

**Third Generation**

**Fourth Generation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Convert

\_\_\_\_\_  
Convert

\_\_\_\_\_  
Disciple

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*“And the things you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”*  
*(2 Timothy 2:2)*



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Ministry Discipleship Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Evangelism

*As part of your Equipping The Saints training, you are to ask God for two persons to win to Christ. List the two persons below, once you have peace from God who those persons should be.*

Name _____	✓	Date	Name _____	✓	Date
Prayed For			Prayed For		
Shared Testimony			Shared Testimony		
Presented Bridge			Presented Bridge		
Decision			Decision		

### Disciple Making

*You are also to ask God to give you one person to disciple. This person may be a Christian friend who is not growing, and for whom you are praying, or it could be one of the above converts.*

Name _____	✓	Date	Comment
Received Christ			
Baptized			
Attends Church Regularly			
Consistent Quiet Time			
Five Assurance Bible Studies 1/4-1/8			
Memorized Five Assurance Verses 1/4-1/8			
Memorizes and Shares the Bridge			
Develops A Servant Heart			
Committed to Growing — Finished ETS Book One			







# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Disciple Application Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area The Layman and the Great Commission  
 Topic Perspective

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
<i>Review Perspective</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<i>Read Born to Reproduce (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
Pray for two people to win to Christ		
Pray for one person to disciple		
<i>Fill out Ministry Prayer Guide</i>		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
<i>Memorize Ephesians 4:11,12</i>		



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Convert Application Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area Basic Christian Living  
 Topic Assurance of Salvation

Convert's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
<i>Review Assurance of Salvation (1/9)*</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<i>Complete Assurance of Salvation (1/4) (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<i>Read Beginning With Christ (1/4) (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<i>Read Lessons on Assurance (1/4) (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
<i>Memorize 1 John 5:11-13</i>		

\*Refers to Book N°/Chapter N°



# *EQUIPPING THE SAINTS*

## **PERSPECTIVE**

NOTES

### **Introduction**

In Proverbs 29:18 we learn where there is “no vision” or “revelation” of God the people perish. Today we live in a perishing world. It perishes not because it can’t be reached, but for lack of vision or revelation on the part of God’s people. God wants to use us to reach a lost and dying world that has been separated from Him because of sin. Like God, we were made to live for the eternal. Unfortunately, many of God’s children have let the eternal slip out of focus and are locked into the temporal things of the world.

The three lessons on the *Layman and the Great Commission* help to bring back into focus those eternal things of God. They help us first see life through the eyes of God as He intended for it to be lived, not as we perceive it through our human conceptions or even misconceptions. These lessons help us understand that the fulfilling of the Great Commission is our responsibility. The way to reach the world is by making disciples who can reproduce themselves into the lives of the next generations. When we begin to exchange our lives for these eternal things as God intended, the world in our lifetime and generation can and will be reached.

### **The Layman—the Major Participant**

Most Christian laymen are familiar with the Great Commission story, but they seldom grasp the fact that it has deep personal implications for everyone who names the name of Christ. Instead they see themselves as spectators in the great competition for the souls of men and women. They stand at the sidelines shouting words of encouragement, praying and giving financial support to “full-time Christian workers.”

However, their involvement normally ends here. If the job doesn’t get done and the Church is not increasing, they feel badly, but they have no personal sense of responsibility for the outcome. After all, they surely cannot be accountable! Discipling is the job of the pastor, the evangelist, and other full-time workers.

They see themselves merely as faithful on-lookers and supporters watching the action on the field. This was never God’s plan! God’s original intention is outlined for us in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians.

And He gave some:



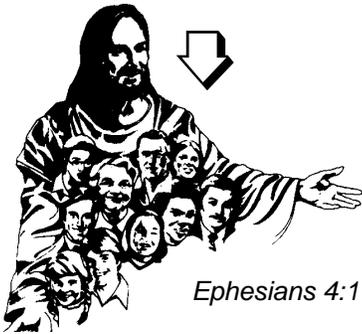
Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists,  
Pastors and Teachers,



for the equipping of the Saints,



for the work of the ministry  
for the edifying of the body of Christ.



*Ephesians 4:11,12*

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

*Ephesians 4:11,12*

In this passage we can see that God gave the “full-time Christian workers” (the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) to the Church for a special purpose. That purpose was NOT to do the work of the ministry themselves, but “... to get His holy people ready to serve as workers and build the body of Christ” (Beck translation). These **special agents** were to be coaches to train the laymen to be the players in the Great Commission. The ordinary saints of the Church were to be **on the front lines**—witnessing, leading their friends to Christ, discipling the nations. Scripture is so clear—the work of ministry and the edifying of the body of Christ belongs to the

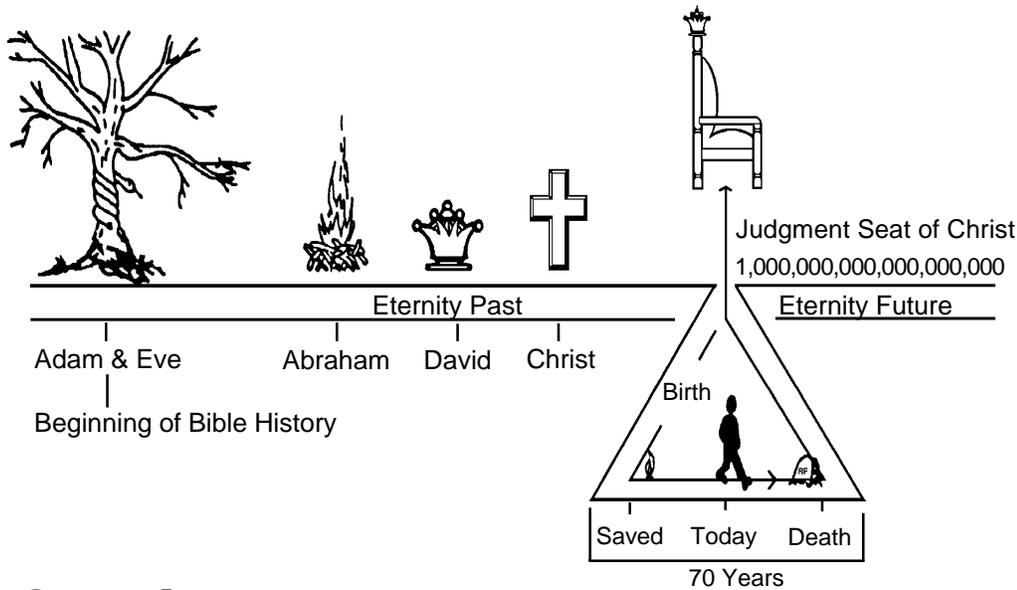
saints. These gifted leaders are charged with the responsibility of equipping the saints so they can engage in the work of ministry.

Let’s gain some perspective on God’s plan and see how He wants to make an impact on the world for Christ. In his epistle, James says:

*Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.*

*James 4:13-17*

In this passage, Jesus wants us to understand the brevity of our lives in comparison to the vastness of Eternity. Consider the following diagram and subsequent explanation of each phase of it.



## Creation

This was the beginning of beginnings—the time when God brought the world and man into existence. The exact length of this period has been debated for centuries by the theologian, geologist and astronomer, each of whom has a different opinion. It is not our purpose in this study to enter this debate, but simply to recognize creation as a definite point in God’s history, and to grasp the spiritual significance of God’s relationship and purpose for man from the beginning.

The Bible tells us that the first human beings, Adam and Eve, lived in a perfect and fulfilling relationship with their Creator. However, this relationship was broken as the result of their rebellion and sin, and from that point on man was separated from his God.

At the time of the first sin, God promised that He would provide a way for man to be reunited with Himself.

*And I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise  
your head, and you shall bruise His heel.*

*Genesis 3:15*

Here God said that through the offspring of the woman, Satan’s work of separating mankind from God would be destroyed. The entire Bible account, from that point on, records how God went about fulfilling that promise—culminating in the coming of Jesus Christ to redeem sinners.

## Abraham

About 2000 years after Adam, God chose a man, Abraham, to become the father of a new nation—the nation of Israel. In calling Abraham, God reaffirmed His promise to redeem the world when He said:

*I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*

*Genesis 12:2,3*

## David

God again re-stated His promise through the person of David a thousand years later. He promised David that through his line would come One who would rule over the house of Israel.

*When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*

*2 Samuel 7:12,13*

## Jesus

A thousand years passed again, and at last God fulfilled His promise when He sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to be born of a virgin through the lineage of Abraham and David. He lived a sinless life as a man, died for the sins of the world and rose from the dead to reign on David's throne forever. This is represented in the illustration by the cross.

*But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.*

*Galatians 4:4*

## You

Now almost two thousand years have passed again, and we have come to your life—a tiny gap in the expanse of history. We will enlarge this part of the diagram by drawing a triangle. During your lifetime you will be deciding two of life's greatest issues: where you will spend eternity and what eternity will be like for you.

## Birth

The left side of the triangle in the diagram represents the first major event in your life—the day you were born. This is where your life first intersected the time line and you became part of history. The base of the triangle, from left to right, represents the flow of your life.

## Salvation

The flame marks the point in time when you repented of your sins and received Jesus Christ as Savior. At this point, you made the decision which determined where you will spend eternity when your life on earth is over.

## Today

The figure in the diagram represents you, living out your life today. Each day we are moving closer toward that next great event, which is the day we die. On the day you die, your earthly body returns to the ground; and because you know Christ as your Savior, your soul will be reunited with God to spend forever with Him.

*We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*

*2 Corinthians 5:8*

This is shown by the right side of the triangle which again intersects the time line and moves into the great expanse of eternity. During our sojourn here on earth, you and I are deciding two of life's greatest issues:

## Where We Will Spend Eternity

If we have received Jesus Christ into our hearts, this is a settled issue, based solely on our trust in God's finished work upon the cross. We are on our way to Heaven!

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

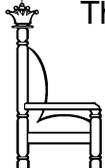
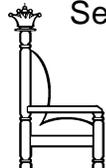
*Ephesians 2:8,9*

## What Eternity Will Be Like For Us

However, the way we invest or spend our lives day by day here on earth will greatly influence what eternity will be like for us. That is, the quality of our eternity is being determined right now on earth. This is because God promises reward to those who wisely invest their lives by faith in His eternal purposes—building His Kingdom on earth rather than our own. There is no other way we can please the Living God. The writer of Hebrews makes this abundantly clear:

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

*Hebrews 11:6*

Realities	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Cross of Christ</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>White Throne Judgment</p>  </div> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Judgment Seat of Christ</p>  </div>
Issues	Person's <i>Sin</i>	Person's <i>Work</i>
Decisions	<i>Where</i> I will spend Eternity	<i>What</i> Eternity will be like
Results	<i>Heaven</i> or Hell	<i>Reward</i> or loss of reward

## Two Great Realities of Life

In the chart above we see these great issues graphed out for us. Since they have such far-reaching implications let us look at them further.

### First Reality—The Cross

The first reality is the cross of Christ, from where He died for the sins of mankind almost 2000 years ago.

#### Issue

Each reality involves an issue. At the cross the issue is our personal sin—those thoughts and deeds which separate us from God.

#### Decision

Each issue requires a decision. The decision we make about sin in light of the cross will decide where we will spend eternity.

#### Results

God's plan for each of us is that we spend eternity with Him in Heaven. However, if a person refuses to deal with the issue of sin in light of the cross, then God has no recourse but to send him to hell. He refused to let Jesus' blood from the cross cover his sin. All of this someday will culminate at the Great White Throne Judgment where unbelievers will be judged at the end of the millennium. If there is no work of repentance for sin, their names will not be recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life. This judgment is recorded in Revelation 20:11-15. They will be cast into the lake of fire because of their unwillingness to deal with this first reality.

## Second Reality—Judgment Seat of Christ

This is often called the *Beama* or reward seat. It is from here the believers or the *Obeyers* of Christ will someday be rewarded for their faithful stewardship to the building of God's Kingdom here on earth.

### Issue

The issue in this second reality is the believer's works. It is not our sin, since our sin was covered by Jesus' substitutionary death upon the cross for our sin (the first reality). Once we are born again into the family of God, Ephesians 2:10 reminds us we were created to do good works:

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

*Ephesians 2:10*

### Decision

The decision we make about these good works will determine what eternity is going to be like for us. You will recall Jesus commanded us to lay up in Heaven treasures, or good works, which will someday be rewarded.

*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

*Matthew 6:19,20*

Please note these good works cannot save us, but we will one day be rewarded for them.

### Results

The decision we make about the good works will determine what eternity will be like for us. God's plan "A" for us is reward, but if we will not give ourselves to these good works for whatever reason, then we will suffer loss rather than have rewards. The Bible doesn't discuss all that loss entails, but you do not want to be found in that category. Almost everyone knows about the first reality; unfortunately, most Christians don't understand the second reality.

To many Christians, the concept of heavenly rewards is a strange one. We will take just a moment here to do a short Bible study on the subject of God's rewards and their personal implications for us.

# Study on Rewards

NOTES

## Warnings Concerning Rewards

The Bible warns us many times that we are to be careful to both strive for and protect spiritual rewards.

## Hold Fast Your Rewards

*Behold, I come quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.*

*Revelation 3:11*

Is it possible that someone could take another's crown away? Yes, or Jesus would not have warned us about it.

## Stay Alert

*Let no one defraud you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.*

*Colossians 2:18*

Is it possible that someone could deceive another of his reward? Yes, or Paul would not have warned us about it.

## Be Careful

*Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.*

*2 John 1:8*

Is it possible that one could receive less than a full reward? Yes, or John would not have warned us about it.

## Rewards and Works

The Bible is also very clear that our rewards are very closely related to our good works. Consider the following statement.

*For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.*

*Matthew 16:27*

Here we can see that rewards are clearly the result of our works. Because of this we can conclude our reward is *NOT* salvation, for we can never earn salvation.

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

*Ephesians 2:8,9*

Since salvation is a free gift of God obtained through faith, our reward must be something other than salvation. We do know that it was God's plan for every Christian to give himself to good works.

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

*Ephesians 2:10*

We also know our good works are to be maintained carefully, and they will result in profit for us.

*This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.*

*Titus 3:8*

If our works cannot save us and our reward is not salvation, to what end are our good works profitable?

## **The Five Crowns**

The Bible mentions five different crowns or rewards which a child of God may win as he passes through this life. As we study these, we will particularly take note of three things:

- *How the crowns are won*
- *The area of life they refer to, and*
- *God's commands for each of these areas.*

### **Crown of Life**

*Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

*James 1:12*

The crown of life is a reward promised to those who truly love the Lord. It is won by loving God and demonstrating that love by enduring in trials and temptations. These are really opposite sides of the same coin. It is our love for God that gives us strength to endure in our testings, trials and temptations, rather than become bitter,

critical or disillusioned. This crown deals with our own personal discipleship.

The writer to the Hebrews reminds us of Jesus' endurance under the supreme test, and exhorts us not to lose heart in our own personal struggles.

*Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.*

*Hebrews 12:2,3*

Are you enduring? Will you win the crown of life?

## **Crown Incorruptible**

*And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

*1 Corinthians 9:25,27*

This crown also deals with personal discipleship and is won for self-denial—something this existential age knows nothing about. People are being taught:

“Don't let people tell you it's wrong—deny yourself nothing.”

“If it gives you meaning, purpose, or pleasure, do it!”

“Don't let them over-socialize your morality: truth is relative.”

Contrast such sayings with the challenge of Jesus:

*Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”*

*Luke 9:23*

Though “self-denial” may be a dirty word for the existentialist, it is at the heart of personal discipleship for every follower of Jesus Christ. If we have disciplined our lives and have denied ourselves the pleasures of sin in this life, the crown incorruptible will be ours. Are you denying yourself?

## Crown of Joy

*For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?  
Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus  
Christ at His coming?*

*1 Thessalonians 2:19*

Here Paul says that the Thessalonian Christian, whom he had led to Christ, would be his crown of joy at the last day in Christ's presence. This crown is given to those who have been obedient to what the Scriptures teach concerning evangelism.

*And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make  
you fishers of Men."*

*Matthew 4:19*

If you are not a fisher of men, I don't know whom you are following, but I would wonder if it is Jesus. He said, "*I will make you fishers of men.*" Evangelism may not be your primary gift, but at least you will know how to fish for men. I would like to believe that if Jesus teaches you to fish, you would not come home empty-handed. Men and women will be brought into the Kingdom because of the testimony, not only of your life, but your lips as well. If you have been faithful to proclaim Christ to others during this life, then surely this crown will belong to you at that last day. Are you a fisher of men?

## Crown of Glory

*Shepherd the flock of God which is among you,  
serving as overseers, not by constraint but willingly,  
not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being  
lords over those entrusted to you, but being ex-  
amples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd  
appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does  
not fade away.*

*1 Peter 5:2-4*

This crown is given as a reward to those who nurture the flock of God. It is not a special crown reserved for the clergy, but one that every Christian can win. It has to do with caring for the children of God, helping them to grow in Christ so they can serve in the building of God's Kingdom—in other words, *disciplemaking*. Jesus said:

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the  
Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

*Matthew 28:19 (NASV)*

Jesus' last command is to be our first. We are charged with the responsibility of discipling the nations. Jesus not only commands us to **BE** disciples, but to **MAKE** disciples. Where are your disciples?

NOTES

## Crown of Righteousness

*Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

2 Timothy 4:8

This crown is won by those whose lives are lived in anticipation of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Many Christians have their own hopes, dreams and aspirations that have nothing to do with God or His Kingdom. In reality, for such people Christ's return would "ruin everything." Jesus said:

*Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them."*

Luke 12:37

Jesus' desire was that we live life watching and waiting for His return, exchanging our lives for the building of His Kingdom. If we do, we will receive the crown of righteousness. Are you living for His coming?

## Summary

Isn't it interesting that the crowns are not won for great heroic deeds of faith, but for the simple commands of Scripture that are to be lived out every day? I want to contrast the chart on the five crowns with the Wheel Illustration. The wheel depicts the totality of what Christ is asking us to become.

# Five Crowns

Crown	How Obtained	Area of Life
Life	Enduring Trials & Temptation	Discipleship
Incorruptible	Self-denial	Discipleship
Joy	Soul-winning	Evangelism
Glory	Undershepherd	Discipling
Righteousness	Looking for the Second Coming	Second Coming



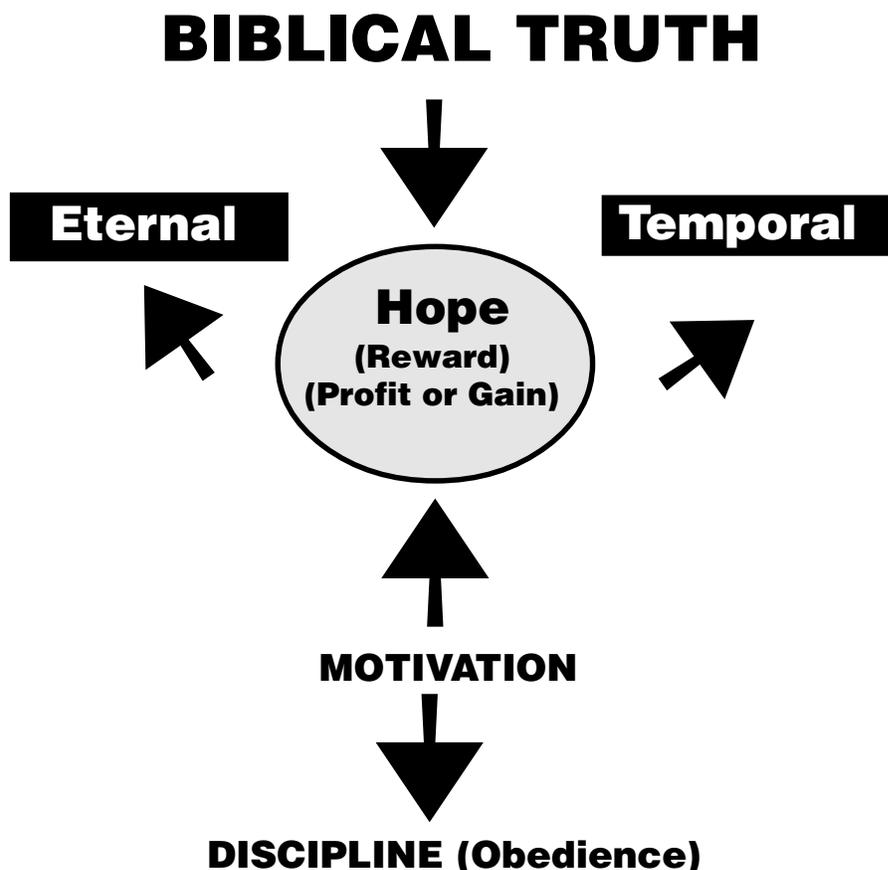
Notice that the first two crowns are vertical in nature. The Crown of Life and the Incorruptible Crown deal with our own personal discipleship and walk with God. They relate to what we call the Great Commandment and demonstrate in a very tangible fashion our love for God. The next two crowns are horizontal in nature. The Crown of Joy and the Crown of Glory relate to what we call the Great Commission and engage us in what God has commanded us to do. The last crown is related to the hub of the wheel which makes Jesus the true commander of our lives. All five of these crowns demonstrate the reality of the rim functioning in our lives as obeyers of God’s word.

## Motivation and Reward

Many people say, “I am not going to worry about rewards. After all, what I am doing for God is out of love and not for personal gain.” Such reasoning may appear unselfish, but it is also unscriptural.

As we have seen, the Scriptures admonish us over and over again to take seriously this whole matter of rewards. We dare not ignore such exhortations from God’s Word. God has given them for a reason to motivate us to exchange our lives for things that will count for eternity, rather than for temporal things.

If we fail to heed God’s instructions and warnings, we must bear the eternal consequences.



In the illustration on the preceding page, I want us to see that all Biblical truth is filled with **HOPE, REWARD** or **PROFIT (GAIN)** for each believer, or maybe I should say **OBEYER** of God's Word. These benefits were given to legitimately motivate the obeyer to discipline himself to obey God's commandments. This discipline or obedience produces both the temporal or eternal rewards.

We have stressed the temporal gain without teaching the eternal rewards. Consequently most evangelicals live for the temporal and neglect the eternal rewards. They know they are going to heaven and that is all they are concerned about.

Many are more concerned with the building of their kingdom and not the building of God's Kingdom. When we begin to teach what the Bible reveals to us about our eternal reward many will become less temporal in their values and see the importance of exchanging their lives for the eternal things of God. Our lack of teaching on the eternal reward has brought about the temporal values we are facing in many of our evangelical churches.

## What Motivated Jesus

*Keep your eyes on Jesus, our leader and instructor.  
He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross  
because of the joy He knew would be His afterwards;  
and now He sits in the place of honor by the throne  
of God.*

*Hebrews 12:2 (LB)*

Jesus was motivated by the eternal rather than the temporal rewards. He forsook the immediate rewards for the ultimate ones. We, as His followers, must also be motivated for the ultimate.

## What Motivated Moses

*It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused  
to be treated as the grandson of the king but chose  
to share ill-treatment with God's people instead of  
enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. He thought  
that it was better to suffer for the promised Christ  
than to own all the treasures of Egypt, for he was  
looking forward to the great reward that God would  
give him.*

*Hebrews 11:24-26 (LB)*

Moses was also motivated by the eternal rewards. As the son of Pharaoh's daughter, he could have enjoyed "the good life" here on earth, but he realized that such pleasures were "fleeting"—only for a season. He was more concerned about the eternal rewards of God.

## What Motivates Us

As Jesus and Moses were, we must also be motivated by the ultimate. Each of us will one day account for the stewardship of our lives.

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

*2 Corinthians 5:10*

There are three words in the Greek language for the word “bad.” The Greek word used in the verse above refers to the *worth* of something. It is not a word used to describe something that is ethically or morally bad, but rather something that is of little or no *value*. Paul is saying in this passage that one day Christ will judge the works and accomplishments of Christians to see if they have worth or whether they are worthless in light of the building of His Kingdom.

## Judgment Seat of Christ

The preceding verse is speaking of Christ’s “Judgment Seat,” where only believers will appear (Non-Christians will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment recorded in Revelation 20:11-15). In 1 Corinthians, we find Christ’s Judgment Seat described for us.

*For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become manifest; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

*1 Corinthians 3:9-15*

Paul says that as fellow workers, there are two sets of materials which we may use to build upon this foundation which is Jesus Christ:

- One set is indestructible: *gold, silver and precious stones.*

This set will stand the test of fire and only be purified by it.

- The other set is very perishable: *wood, hay and straw.*

Such materials have a very low kindling point and will not endure the test of fire.

Peter describes the test of fire for us as he warns us about the end of the age.

NOTES

*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*

*2 Peter 3:10*

With what are you building? Are you using eternal material to build His Kingdom—that which has worth in the eyes of God (gold, silver, precious stones)? Or are you using temporal things to build your own kingdom (hay, wood, straw)?

The Bible tells us that if our works do not stand the test, we will still be saved, but we will suffer eternal loss (see 1 Corinthians 3:9-15).

## **What Is Eternal**

### **• God Himself is Eternal**

*In the beginning you (God) laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish but you **remain**; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. But you remain the same, and your years will **never** end.*

*Psalm 102:25-27 (NIV)*

### **• God's Word is Eternal**

*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.*

*Mark 13:31*

### **• The Souls of Men and Women Are Eternal**

People will last forever—either in Heaven with God...

*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

*1 Thessalonians 4:16,17*

...or separated from God in hell...

*And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.*

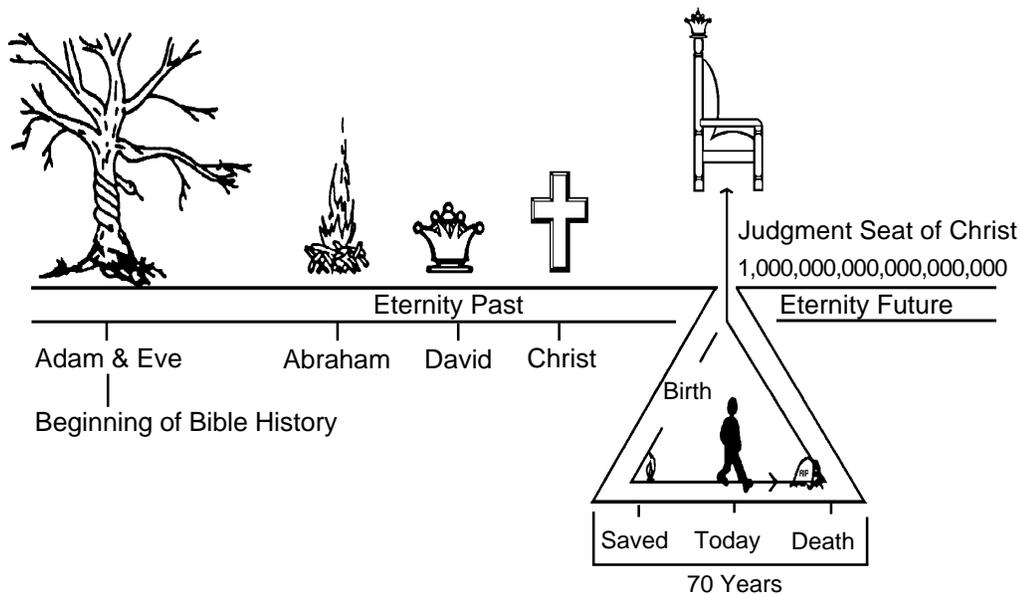
*2 Thessalonians 1:7-10*

Jesus said:

*“Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”*

*John 6:27*

### Back to the Illustration — Summary



If we are going to obey Jesus’ command in this verse, we must give our lives in exchange for the three eternal values described above. You and I are here today moving toward the next great event in our lives—the time when death will move us back into the vastness of eternity. How much time do we have before that event?

*The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

*Psalms 90:10*

The Bible estimates that people have about seventy years of life; some have more, others less. After many years and millions of dollars of investigation, insurance companies have concurred with what the Bible said centuries ago.

You may be trying to mentally subtract your present age from seventy to figure out how many years you have left. But in reality, each of us is only one heartbeat away from God! We must conclude, then, that we have X amount of time left, and there is insufficient data to solve X.

The next question we must answer is this: What am I going to exchange my life for between now and the time God calls me home? Will it be for the eternal or the temporal?

Remember, forever is a long time. How many years equal forever? How many zeroes should I add to represent such a number? If I were to put 70 years over 1, then 70 is a long time. If I put 70 over 10; 100; 1,000; 10,000; or even 100,000; it does not take long to see how right our brother James was when he said, "Our life is like a vapor."

# 70

---

# 1,000,000,000,000,000

It is during this vapor of life that we are deciding the two great realities of life. Life means different things to different people. Some people exchange it for these things of the world:

- **Wealth**
  - **Pleasure**
    - **Education**
      - **Status**
        - **Power**
          - **Materialism**  
(ad infinitum)!

*But what are you exchanging your life for?*

**DON'T EXCHANGE IT FOR THE WRONG THING!**



**OUTSIDE READING  
ASSIGNMENT**

**BORN  
TO  
REPRODUCE**

**by**

**Dawson E. Trotman**

**Used by Permission**

# Foreword

In the summer of 1955 it was my privilege to meet Dawson Trotman, director of The Navigators, for the first time. My heart was thrilled not only with his vision of soul-winning, but also with the manner in which God had used this man to promote a method of first winning an individual, then teaching him how to win and teach others, multiplying the ministry in this manner, supplementing the mass approach.

Through the years I have met Navigators who were trained by either Dawson Trotman or one of his trainees, and I have usually found them to be people with a passion for souls, a good knowledge of the Word, and something that made them stand out as individual Christians.

From the day when I met Dawson Trotman, our friendship and fellowship grew by leaps and bounds. We spent many hours together on various occasions, and almost overnight a David-Jonathan love grew.

As I came to know this man better, I soon discovered the secret of his power. Early in his Christian life he and another young man covenanted together to meet for prayer every morning for six weeks in order to find God's will in a certain matter. This spirit and practice of devotion was a rule of his life. He rose early to pray and read God's Word. Without this devotion to God he could not have been so successful in his service.

The unselfishness of Mr. Trotman could be seen on every hand. There was no trying on his part to hoard information or knowledge that he had gained in twenty-two years of experience, but rather there was a willingness to share and to cooperate with us in producing a much more thorough follow-

up system for the Back to the Bible Broadcast.

The Back to the Bible Broadcast Home Study Course, a follow-up method for young Christians, was the result. Different ones in the organization gave many hours of their time in helping to produce this course, and Mr. Trotman himself supervised every phase of it.

Possibly one of the last major accomplishments of this man was his untiring work in making this Bible course a reality. It was a pooling of both experience and knowledge which we believe will bear much fruit.

Mr. Trotman went to be with the Lord on June 18, 1956. In rescuing another person from drowning in Schroon Lake, N.Y., he lost his own life. How characteristic this was of his lifelong ministry! One man summed it up in these words: "I think Daws has personally touched more lives than anybody I have ever known."

The work of The Navigators continues under able leadership. It was solidly built on the principle of one person training another instead of one person being the teacher of all.

My own life is dedicated to a greater effort than ever before to persistently follow this great principle of Bible memory work and person-to-person evangelism.

These messages were given by Mr. Trotman at a Back to the Bible Broadcast conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, and have been condensed for use in this booklet.

—Theodore H. Epp

# Born to Reproduce

A few years ago, while visiting Edinburgh, Scotland, I stood on High Street just down from the castle. As I stood there, I saw a father and a mother coming toward me pushing a baby carriage. They looked very happy, were well dressed and apparently were well-to-do. I tried to catch a glimpse of the baby as they passed, and seeing my interest, they stopped to let me look at the little, pink-cheeked member of their family.

I watched them for a little while as they walked on and thought how beautiful it is that God permits a man to choose one woman who seems the most beautiful and lovely to him, and she chooses him out of all the men whom she has ever known. Then they separate themselves to one another, and God in His plan gives them the means of reproduction! It should be a wonderful thing that a little child should be born into their family, having some of the father's characteristics and some of the mother's, some of his looks and some of hers. Each sees in that baby a reflection of the one whom he or she loves.

Seeing that little one made me feel homesick for my own children whom I dearly love and whose faces I had not seen for some time. As I continued to stand there, I saw another baby carriage, or perambulator as they call it over there, coming in my direction. It was a secondhand affair and very wobbly. Obviously the father and mother were poor. Both were dressed poorly and plainly, but when I indicated my interest in seeing their baby, they stopped and with the same pride as the other parents, let me view their little, pink-cheeked, beautiful-eyed child.

I thought as these went on their way, "God gave this little baby whose parents are poor everything that He gave to the other. It has five little fingers on each hand, a little mouth and two eyes. Properly cared for, those little hands may someday be the hands of an artist or a musician."

Then this other thought came to me, "Isn't it wonderful that God did not select the wealthy and the educated and say, 'You can have children,' and to the poor and the uneducated say, 'You cannot.' Everyone on earth has that privilege."

The first order ever given to man was that he "be fruitful and multiply." In other words, he was to reproduce after his own kind. God did not tell Adam and Eve, our first parents, to be spiritual. They were already in His image. Sin had not yet come in. He just said, "Multiply. I want more just like you, more in My own image."

Of course, the image was marred. But Adam and Eve had children. They began to multiply. There came a time, however, when God had to destroy most of the flesh that had been born. He started over with eight people. The more than two billion people who are on the earth today came from the eight who were in the ark because they were fruitful and multiplied.

## Hindrances

Only a few things will ever keep human beings from multiplying themselves in the physical realm. One is that they never marry. If they are not united, they will not reproduce. This is a truth which Christians need to grasp with reference to spiritual reproduction. When a person becomes a child of God, he should realize that he is to live in union with Jesus Christ if he is going to win others to the Saviour.

Another factor that can hinder reproduction is disease or impairment to some part of the body that is needed for reproductive purposes. In the spiritual realm, sin is the disease that can keep one from winning the lost.

One other thing that can keep people from having children is immaturity. God in His wisdom saw to it that little children cannot have babies. A little boy must first grow to sufficient maturity to be able to earn a living, and a little girl must be old enough to care for a baby.

Everyone should be born again. That is God's desire. God never intended that man should merely live and die—be a walking corpse to be laid in the ground. The vast majority of people know that there is something beyond the grave, and so each one who is born into God's family should seek others to be born again.

A person is born again when he receives Jesus Christ. "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God... Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12,13)—the new birth.

It is God's plan that these new babes in Christ grow. All provision is made for their growth into maturity, and then they are to multiply—not only the rich or the educated, but all alike. Every person who is born into God's family is to multiply.

In the physical realm, when your children have children, you become a grandparent. Your parents are then great-grandparents, and theirs are great-great-grandparents. And so it should be in the spiritual.

### **Spiritual Babes**

Wherever you find a Christian who is not leading men and women to Christ, something is wrong. He may still be a babe. I do not mean that he does not know a lot of doctrine and is not well informed through hearing good preaching. I know many people who can argue the pre-, the post- and the amillennial position and who know much about dispensations, but who are still immature. Paul said of some such in Corinth, "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual (or mature), but as unto carnal even as unto babes. . ." (1 Corinthians 3:1).

Because they were babes, they were immature, incapable of spiritual reproduction. In other words, they could not help other people to be born again. Paul continued, "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it...ye are yet carnal (or babes): for...there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions" (1 Corinthians 3:2,3).

I know a lot of church members, school teachers, and members of the women's missionary society who will say to each other, "Have you heard about so and so?" and pass along some gossip. Such have done an abominable thing in the sight of God.

How horrible it is when a Christian hears something and spreads the story! The Book says, "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him...a lying tongue..." (Proverbs 6:16,17). Oh, the Christians I know, both men and women, who let lying come in! "...he that

soweth discord among brethren" (Proverbs 6:19) is another. This is walking as a babe, and I believe that it is one of the basic reasons why some Christians do not have people born again into God's family through them. They are spiritually sick; there is something wrong. There is a spiritual disease in their lives; they are immature. There is not that union with Christ.

But when all things are right between you and the Lord, regardless of how much or how little you may know intellectually from the stand point of the world, you can be a spiritual parent. And that, incidentally, may even be when you are very young in the Lord.

A young lady works at the telephone desk in our office in Colorado Springs. A year and a half ago she was associated with the young Communist league in Great Britain. She heard Billy Graham and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ. Soon she and a couple of other girls in her art and drama school were used of the Lord to win some girls to Christ. We taught Pat and some of the others, as they in turn taught the girls whom they led to Christ. Some of these have led still other girls to Christ, and they too are training their friends. Patricia is a great-grandmother already, though she is only about a year and four months old in the Lord.

We see this all of the time. I know a sailor who, when he was only four months old in the Lord, was a great-grandfather. He had led some sailors to the Lord, who in turn led some other sailors to the Lord, and these last led still other sailors to the Lord—yet he was only four months old.

How was this done? God used the pure channel of these young Christians' lives in their exuberance and first love for Christ, and out of their hearts the incorruptible seed of the Word of God was sown in the hearts of other people. It took hold. Faith came by the hearing of the Word. They were born again by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They observed those Christians who led them to Christ and shared in the joy, the peace, and the thrill of it all. And in their joy, they wanted someone else to know.

In every Christian audience, I am sure there are men and women who have been Christians for five, ten, or twenty years, but who do not know of one person who is living for Jesus Christ today because of them. I am not talking now about merely working for Christ, but about producing for Christ. Someone

may say, "I gave out a hundred thousand tracts." That is good, but how many sheep did you bring in?

Some time ago I talked to 29 missionary candidates. They were graduates of universities, Bible schools, or seminaries. As a member of the board, I interviewed each one over a period of five days, giving each candidate from half an hour to an hour.

Among the questions I asked were two which I considered very important. The first one had to do with their devotional life. "How is your devotional life?" I asked them. "How is the time you spend with the Lord? Do you feel that your devotional life is what the Lord would have it be?"

Out of this particular group of 29 only one person said, "I believe my devotional life is what it ought to be." To the others my question then was:

"Why is your devotional life not what it should be?"

"Well, you see, I am here at this Summer institute," was a common reply. "We do a year's work in only ten weeks. We are so busy."

I said, "All right. Let's back up to when you were in college. Did you have victory in your devotional life then?"

"Well, not exactly."

We tracked back and found that ever since they came to know the Saviour, they never had a period of victory in their devotional lives. That was one of the reasons for their sterility-lack of communion with Christ.

The other question I asked them was, "You are going out to the foreign field. You hope to be used by the Lord in winning men and women to Christ. Is that right?"

"Yes."

"You want them to go on and live the victorious life, don't you? You don't want them just to make a decision and then go back into the world, do you?"

"No."

"Then may I ask you something more? How many persons do you know by name today who were won to Christ by you and are living for Him?"

The majority had to admit that they were ready to cross an ocean and learn a foreign language, but they had not won their first soul who was going on with Jesus Christ. A number of them said that they got many people to go to church; others said they had persuaded some to go forward when the invitation was given.

I asked, "Are they living for Christ now?" Their eyes dropped. I then continued, "How do you expect that by crossing an ocean and speaking in a foreign language with people who are suspicious of you, whose way of life is unfamiliar, you will be able to do there what you have not yet done here?"

These questions do not apply to missionaries and prospective missionaries only. They apply to all of God's people. Everyone of His children ought to be a reproducer.

Are you producing? If not, why not? Is it because of a lack of communion with Christ, your Lord, that closeness of fellowship which is part of the great plan? Or is it some sin in your life, an unconfessed something that has stopped the flow? Or is it that you are still a babe? "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again..." (Hebrews 5:12).

### **How to Produce Reproducers**

The reason that we are not getting this Gospel to the ends of the earth is not because it is not potent enough.

Twenty-three years ago we took a born-again sailor and spent some time with him showing him how to reproduce spiritually after his kind. It took time, lots of time. It was not a hurried, 30-minute challenge in a church service and a hasty good-bye with an invitation to come back next week. We took care of his problems and taught him not only to hear God's Word and to read it, but also how to study it. We also taught him how to fill the quiver of his heart with the arrows of God's Word, so that the Spirit of God could lift an arrow from his heart and place it to the bow of his lips and pierce a heart for Christ.

He found a number of boys on his ship, but none of them would go all out for the Lord. They would go to church, but when it came right down to doing something, they were "also rans." He came to me after a month of this and said, "Dawson, I can't get

any of these guys on the ship to get down to business.”

I said to him, “Listen, you ask God to give you one. You can not have two until you have one. Ask God to give you a man after your own heart.”

He began to pray. One day he came to me and said, “I think I have found him.” Later he brought the young fellow over. Three months from the time that I started to work with him he had found a man of like heart. This first sailor was not the kind of man you had to push and give prizes to before he would do something. He loved the Lord and was willing to pay a price to produce.

He worked with this new babe in Christ, and those two fellows began to grow and spiritually reproduce. On that ship 125 men found the Saviour before it was sunk at Pearl Harbor. Men off that first battleship are in four continents of the world as missionaries today. It was necessary, however, to make a start. The devil’s great trick is to stop anything like this if he can before it gets started. He will stop you, too, if you let him.

There are Christians whose lives run in circles who, nevertheless, have the desire to be spiritual parents. Take a typical example. You meet him in the morning as he goes to work and say to him:

“Why are you going to work?”

“Well, I have to earn money.”

“For what reason are you earning money?” you ask.

“Well, he replies, “I have to buy food.”

“Why do you want to buy food?”

“I have to eat so as to have strength to go to work and earn some more money.”

“Why do you want more money?”

“I have to buy clothes so that I can be dressed to go to work and earn some more money.”

“Why do you want more money?”

“I have to buy a house or pay the rent so I will have a place to rest up, so I will be fit to work and earn some more money.”

And so it goes.

There are many Christians like that who are going in big circles. But you continue your questioning and ask, “What else do you do?”

“Oh, I find time to serve the Lord. I am preaching here and there.” But down behind all of this he has the one desire to be a spiritual father. He is praying that God will give him a man to teach. It may take six months. It need not take that long, but maybe it takes him six months to get started taking in the Word and giving it out and getting ready to teach a man himself.

So this first man at the end of six months has another man. Each man starts teaching another in the following six months. At the end of the year there are just four of them. Perhaps each teaches a Bible class or helps in a street meeting, but at the same time his main interest is in his man and how he is doing. So at the end of the year the four of them get together and have a prayer meeting and determine, “Now, let’s not allow anything to sidetrack us. Let’s give the Gospel out to a lot of people, but let’s check up on at least one man and see him through.”

So the four of them in the next six months each get a man. That makes eight at the end of a year and a half. They all go out after another and at the end of two years there are 16 men. At the end of three years there are 64; the 16 have doubled twice. At the end of five years there are 1,048 and at the end of fifteen and a half years there are 2,176,000,000 men. That is the present population of the world of persons over three years of age.

But wait a minute! Suppose that after the first man, A, helps B and B is ready to get his man and while A starts helping another, B gets sidetracked, washes out and does not produce his first man. Fifteen and one-half years later you can cut your 2,176,000,000 down to 1,048 because the devil caused B to be sterile.

God promised Abraham “...in Isaac shall thy seed be called” (Genesis 21:12), so Abraham waited a long, long time for that son. God’s promise to make Abraham the father of many nations was all wrapped in that one son, Isaac. If Hitler had been present and had caused Isaac’s death when Abraham had his knife poised over him on Mount Moriah, Hitler could have killed every Jew in that one stroke.

I believe that is why Satan puts all his efforts into getting the Christian busy, busy, but not producing. Men, where is your man? Women, where is your woman? Where is your girl? Where is the one whom you led to Christ and who is now going on with Him?

There is a story in 1 Kings, chapter 20 about a man who gave a prisoner to a servant and instructed the servant to guard the prisoner well. But as the servant was busy here and there, the prisoner made his escape.

The curse of today is that we are too busy. I am not talking about being busy earning money to buy food. I am talking about being busy doing Christian things. We have spiritual activity with little productivity. And productivity comes as a result of what we call "follow-up."

### **Majoring in Reproducing**

Five years ago Billy Graham came to me and said, "Daws, we would like you to help with our follow-up. I've been studying the great evangelists and the great revivals and I fail to see that there was much of a follow-up program. We need it. We are having an average of 6,000 people come forward to decide for Christ in a month's campaign. I feel that with the work you have done, you could come and help us."

I said, "Billy, I can't follow up 6,000 people. My work has always been with individuals and small groups."

"Look, Daws," he answered, "everywhere I go I meet Navigators. I met them in school in Wheaton. They are in my school right now. (He was president of Northwestern Schools at that time.) There must be something to this."

"I just don't have the time," I said.

He tackled me again. The third time he pleaded with me and said, "Daws, I am not able to sleep nights for thinking of what happens to the converts after a crusade is over." At that time I was on my way to Formosa and I said, "While I am there I will pray about it, Billy." On the sands of a Formosan beach, I paced up and down two or three hours a day praying, "Lord, how can I do this? I am not even getting the work done You have given me to do. How can I take six months of the year to give to Billy?" But God laid the burden upon my heart.

Why should Billy have asked me to do it? I had said to him that day before I left for Formosa, "Billy, you will have to get somebody else."

He took me by the shoulders and said, "Who else? Who is majoring in this?" I had been majoring in it.

What will it take to jar us out of our complacency and send us home to pray, "God, give me a girl or man whom I can win to Christ, or let me take one who is already won, an infant in Christ, and try to train that one so that he or she will reproduce!"

How thrilled we are to see the masses fill up the seats! But where is your man? I would rather have an "Isaac" alive than a hundred that are dead, sterile, or immature.

### **Beginning of Follow-up**

One day years ago, I was driving along in my little Model T Ford and saw a young man walking down the street. I stopped and picked him up. As he got into the car, he swore and said, "It's sure tough to get a ride." I never hear a man take my Saviour's name in vain but what my heart aches. I reached into my pocket for a tract and said, "Lad, read this."

He looked up at me and said, "Haven't I seen you somewhere before?" I looked at him closely. He looked like someone I should know. We figured out that we had met the year before on the same road. He was on his way to a golf course to caddy when I picked him up. He had gotten into my car and had started out the same way with the name "Jesus Christ."

I had taken exception to his use of that name and had opened up the New Testament and shown him the way of salvation. He had accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour. In parting I had given him Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." "God bless you, son. Read this," I said, and went on my merry way.

A year later, there was no more evidence of the new birth and the new creature in this boy than if he had never heard of Jesus Christ.

I had a great passion to win souls, but after I met this boy the second time on the way to the golf course, I began to go back and find some of my "converts." I want to tell you, I was sick at heart.

It seemed that Philippians 1:6 was not working.

An Armenian boy came into my office one day and told me about all the souls he had won. He said that they were all Armenians and had the list to prove it.

I said, “Well, what is this one doing?”

He said, “That one isn’t doing so good. He is backslidden.”

“What about this one?”

We went all down the list and there was not one living a victorious life.

I said, “Give me your Bible.” I turned to Philippians and put a cardboard right under the 6th verse, took a razor blade out of my pocket and started to come down on the page. He grabbed my hand and asked, “What are you going to do?”

“I’m going to cut this verse out,” I replied. “It isn’t working.”

Do you know what was wrong? I had been taking the 6th verse away from its context, verses 3 through 7. Paul was not just saying, “All right, the Lord has started something, He will finish it.” But you know, that is what some people tell me when they win a soul.

They say, “Well, I just committed him to God.”

Suppose I met someone who has a large family and say to him, “Who is taking care of your children?”

“My family? Oh, I left them with the Lord.”

Right away I would say to that one, “I have a verse for you: ‘But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he...is worse than an infidel’ (1 Timothy 5:8).” Paul said to the elders of the church at Ephesus, “Take heed...to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you over...” (Acts 20:28). You cannot make God the overseer. He makes you the overseer.

We began to work on follow-up. This emphasis on finding and helping some of the converts went on for a couple or three years before the Navigator work started. By that time our work included few converts but more time spent with the converts.

Soon I could say as Paul said to the Philippians, “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the Gospel from the first day until now” (Philippians 1:3,5). He followed up his converts with daily prayer and fellowship. Then he could say, “Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6). In keeping with this, the 7th verse reads: “Even as it is meet (or proper) for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart . . .”

Before I had forgotten to follow up the people God had reached through me. But from then on I began to spend time helping them. That is why sometime later when that first sailor came to me, I saw the value of spending three months with him. I saw an Isaac in him. Isaac had Jacob, and Jacob had the twelve, and all the rest of the nation came through them.

### **It Takes Time to Do God’s Work**

You can lead a soul to Christ in anywhere from 20 minutes to a couple of hours. But it takes from 20 weeks to a couple of years to get him on the road to maturity, victorious over the sins and the recurring problems that come along. He must learn how to make right decisions. He must be warned of the various “isms” that are likely to reach out with their octopus arms and pull him in and sidetrack him.

But when you get yourself a man, you have doubled your ministry—in fact, you have more than doubled your ministry. Do you know why? When you teach your man, he sees how it is done and he imitates you. If I were the minister of a church and had deacons or elders to pass the plate and choir members to sing, I would say, “Thank God for your help. We need you. Praise the Lord for these extra things that you do,” but I would keep pressing home the big job—“Be fruitful and multiply.” All these other things are incidental to the supreme task of winning a man or woman to Jesus Christ and then helping him or her to go on.

Where is your man? Where is your woman? Do you have one? You can ask God for one. Search your hearts. Ask the Lord, “Am I spiritually sterile? If I am, why am I?”

Don’t let your lack of knowledge stand in the way. It used to be the plan of The Navigators in the early days that whenever the sailors were with us for supper, each fellow was asked at the end of the meal to quote a verse.

I would say it this way, “Quote a verse you have learned in the last 48 hours if you have one. Otherwise, just give us a verse.” One evening as we quoted verses around the table, my little three year-old daughter’s turn came.

There was a new sailor next to her who did not think about her quoting Scripture, so without giving her an opportunity, he began. She looked up at him as much as to say, “I am a human being,” then she quoted John 3:16 in her own way. “For God so loved the world, dat He gave His only forgotten Son, dat whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” She put the emphasis on the whosoever because when she was first taught the verse, she could not pronounce that word.

Days later that sailor came over and said to me, “You know, I was going to quote that verse of Scripture. It was the only one I knew. But I didn’t really know it, not until little Ruthie quoted it. When she said, ‘whosoever,’ I thought, ‘that means me.’ Back on the ship I accepted the Lord.” Today that young man is a missionary in South America.

Until several years after we were married, my wife’s father did not know the Lord. Here again God used children to reach a hungry heart. When Ruthie was three and Bruce was five, they went to visit Grandpa and Grandma. Grandpa tried to get them to repeat nursery rhymes. He said, “Mary had a little lamb” and “Little Boy Blue,” but the children just looked at him and asked, “Who is Little Boy Blue?” He thought they did not know very much.

Their mother said, “They know some things. Quote Romans 3:23, Bruce.” This Bruce did. Then he asked Grandpa, “Shall I quote another one, Grandpa?” “Sure,” said Grandpa.

Bruce began to quote verses of Scripture, some 15 in all, and Ruth quoted some in between. This delighted Grandpa. He took them over to the neighbors and to the aunts and uncles, showing them how well these children knew the Scriptures. In the meantime, the Word of God was doing its work. It was not long before the Holy Spirit, through the voices of babes, planted the seed in his heart. “Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast Thou ordained strength...” (Psalm 8:2).

Soulwinners are not soulwinners because of what they know, but because of the Person they know, how well they know Him, and how much they long

for others to know Him.

“Oh, but I am afraid,” someone says. Remember, “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe” (Proverbs 29:25). Nothing under heaven except sin, immaturity, and lack of communion will put you in a position where you cannot reproduce. Furthermore, there is not anything under heaven that can keep a newly born again one from going on with the Lord if he has a spiritual parent to take care of him and give him the spiritual food God has provided for his normal growth.

Effects obey their causes by irresistible laws. When you sow the seed of God’s Word, you will get results. Not every heart will receive the Word, but some will and the new birth will take place. When a new soul is born, give it the care that Paul gave new believers. Paul believed in follow up work. He was a busy evangelist, but he still took time for follow up. The New Testament is largely made up of the letters of Paul which were follow-up letters to the converts.

James believed in it. “But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only,” he said in James 1:22. Peter believed in it. “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2). John believed in it, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” (3 John 4). All the writings of Peter, Paul, James, and most of John’s, are food for the new Christian.

The Gospel spread to the known world during the first century without radio, television or the printing press, all because these produced ones were reproducing. But today we have a lot of pew-sitters—people who think that if they are faithful in church attendance, put good-sized gifts into the offering plate, and get people to come, they have done their part.

Where is your man? Where is your woman? Where is your boy? Where is your girl? Every one of us, no matter what age we are, should get busy memorizing Scripture. In one Sunday school, a woman 72 years of age and another who was 78 years of age finished *The Navigators Topical Memory System*. They then had something to give.

Load your heart with this precious Seed. You will find that God will direct you to those whom you can lead to Christ. There are many hearts ready for the Gospel now.





**Ephesians 5:15,16**

**1/5**

**John 16:24**

**1/5**

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**5**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Answered Prayer**

**Matthew 4:19**

**1/6**

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

**1/6**

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**6**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Victory**

**Romans 10:9,10**

**1/7**

**1 John 1:9**

**1/7**

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**7**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**2 Timothy 1:7**

**1/8**

**Proverbs 3:5,6**

**1/8**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**8**

**NKJ**

**Boldness in Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Guidance**



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Disciple Application Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area \_\_\_\_\_ The Layman and the Great Commission  
 Topic \_\_\_\_\_ The Great Commission and Its Fulfilling

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
<i>Review The Great Commission and Its Fulfilling</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<i>Read The Need of the Hour (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
Pray for two people to win to Christ		
Pray for one person to disciple		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
<i>Memorize Matthew 28:18-20</i>		
<i>Review all previous verses</i>		



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Convert Application Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area Basic Christian Living  
 Topic Prayer

Convert's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
<i>Review Prayer (1/11)</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<i>Complete Assurance of Answered Prayer (1/5)</i>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<i>Read How to Get Results Through Prayer (1/11)</i> (Be Ready to Discuss)		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
<i>Begin filling out ETS Prayer List (1/11)</i>		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
<i>Memorize Matthew 18:19</i>		
<i>Memorize John 16:24</i>		
<i>Review all previous verses</i>		



## EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

# THE GREAT COMMISSION AND ITS FULFILLING

NOTES

## Introduction

In our last session we looked at our lives from God's perspective. We realized He wanted us to exchange our lives for the eternal things of God, rather than for the temporal things of earth. We saw that the only three things that are eternal are God, His Word and the souls of men and women. These three eternal things are best stated for us in a command that Jesus gave to His disciples. Today we call that command the Great Commission. If we give ourselves to God, He will have us exchange our lives for the Great Commission. The commission demands that we disciple men and women of all nations. The way we disciple is by teaching all that Jesus commands which is found in the Word of God. Consequently, the three eternal things are best understood by us in light of the Great Commission.

## The Great Commission

*Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

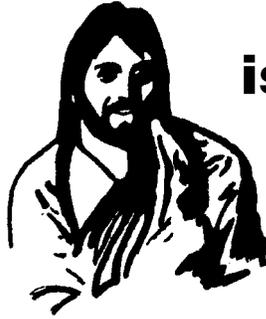
*Matthew 28:16-20*

The passage opens with Jesus meeting His disciples on top of a mountain after His resurrection. Matthew says that some of them doubted. Jesus tells them *He* possesses all the power in Heaven and on earth.

On the basis of that authority they were to go and disciple all the nations. They were to make disciples by teaching others all Jesus had commanded them. He closes by saying He would be with them always.

In order to better understand the commission and the implication for our lives, we need to examine this phrase by phrase.

# ALL AUTHORITY



**is given unto me**  
**Matthew 28:18,20**

**GO YE**



**MAKE DISCIPLES**  
**of ALL NATIONS**



**teach them TO OBEY ALL THINGS**  
**I have commanded you**

**I am with you**

**ALWAYS**

**Resources**

**Objective**

## The Resources

*All authority is given unto me in Heaven and on earth. Go therefore...*

Jesus first instructs His disciples that all authority or power had been given to Him. On the basis of this He said, “Go therefore.” When one finds the word “therefore” or “wherefore”, it means to stop and examine the preceding statement. What is about to be said will be based on the preceding statement. So what does “All authority is given unto me” mean?

From the context, it would appear Jesus is talking about a resource because Jesus is in the process of commanding them to reach the 250,000,000 who inhabited the earth at that time. This means each of them would have to reach about 22,725,000 people. If they had to rely on their own resources, they would never get the job done. Jesus was saying, “Whatever you need in Heaven or earth to get the job done, I have the authority and the power to give it to you.” On the basis of that resource, Jesus is able to say, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”

It is interesting to note Jesus begins with the resource, He does not just give them this monstrous job and leave it to them. He makes sure they have the resources necessary to accomplish the task. It is also important to note that Jesus ends with the resource.

*Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

He promises to be with us unto the end of the age. This means He will provide whatever our needs are. If we don't understand verse eighteen, we will never be able to come to grips with verses nineteen and twenty. Notice on the diagram (page 2) that the two resources have been joined with a line.

## The Objective

Beautifully sandwiched between the two resource statements is the objective.

*Go therefore, and make disciples (teach) of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.*

The objective of the Great Commission is to go and make disciples of all nations. In this objective, there are several components which we need to consider.

## Disciplemaking

Jesus said make disciples. There is the imperative of the passage and this is where the emphasis is focused. Jesus is saying this one thing you must do, **MAKE DISCIPLES**. As we study this passage, we will see why this imperative is so important.

## How to make Disciples

“Jesus said, teach them to observe (**obey**) all things I have commanded.” To make disciples we must teach people not to just observe but **obey**. Observe in our day means to see, understand or watch. To *obey* means application of the principle must take place. This allows principle to become reality. A disciple learns with the intention of application, not retention of knowledge. Jesus taught the eleven how they were to live if they were going to be His disciples. Now He commands the eleven to teach their followers everything that He had commanded them, thus making them disciples.

When Peter saw three thousand converted at Pentecost, he realized his job had only started. Jesus said *make disciples, not converts*.

*Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

*Acts 2:41,42*

It is of little wonder that the next verse says the converts continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine. What was the apostles' doctrine? It was all the things Jesus had taught them. The apostles were commanded to teach the doctrine to the 3,000 in an effort to disciple them.

## Practical Application

What should the apostles teach the 3,000 about stealing?

You would say, “Teach them ‘Thou shall not steal.’ ”

What would the apostles teach about adultery?

You would say, “ ‘Thou shall not commit adultery.’ ” In fact Jesus warns that if we entertain the thought in our mind we have committed adultery in our hearts.

If I ask you, “Why should the apostle’s teach the 3,000 these things?”

Your reply would be, “Because Jesus commands them to teach all he had commanded them. So they must teach these things to the 3,000 in an effort to make them disciples.”

## Who Is To Go?

This is a crucial point to grasp and understand. Everywhere I go people tell me, "If God were to call me I would go." I have news for you. God has called you. The last word from Heaven was "go therefore." If you are not going in light of this clear-cut teaching, I have a question for you. Has God told you, "*I don't want you to go, stay right here, disregard what I have said to the others, I want you to remain?*" If God has not clearly rescinded this order, the original order still stands, **Go Ye**.

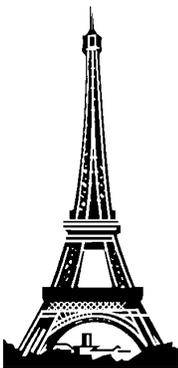
For some this will mean going next door, across the street, down the block or the other side of town. For some, it will mean going to another town or state. For others, it will entail going to another country. The geography is irrelevant as long as you are willing to go wherever God leads. Problems only occur when you are not willing to leave your present location and go wherever God wants you to go. I don't know where you are to go, when you are to go or with whom you are to go. I do know that YOU are to go.

## What Am I To Do?

Wherever you go, Jesus said to **make disciples**. If you can't make disciples where you are, there is no need to send you anywhere. When you have mastered the art and skills of being a disciple and making disciples, God will reveal when, where and with whom you are to go. God may send you locally or to another state or country. Where you go is not important as long as you are committed to obey and go where He commands you.

## A World-Wide Ministry

Jesus said to make disciples of all nations. God wants every Christian to have a world-wide vision as well as a world-wide ministry. In the following verse, write in the correct coordinating conjunction (and/or) and think about the implications of this.



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

*Acts 1:8*

The Bible says "and" in each of these places. There are a number of ways in which a person can have a world-wide ministry.





## How to Have A World-Wide Ministry

### • Go Personally

God has called many to labor in foreign fields. Bringing the good news of salvation to a foreign culture is an exciting assignment. This may be God's will for you. However, for many it will not be God's will to labor overseas.

### • Through your Children

God may call one of your physical or spiritual children to serve in the uttermost parts of the earth. Your children are an extension of your life. Nothing could be more exciting than to see God extend your ministry through them. It is a sad commentary on our vision when we don't want our children to exchange their lives in a foreign field.

### • Through your Prayers

Every time we bow our heads and hearts to God, we have the capability of reaching around the world. There is nowhere we can be shut out. If we can't talk to people in other places *about* God, at least we can talk *to* God about them. Through our prayers we can enter into the labors of missionaries. Again it is a tragic commentary on our lives when we refuse to invest our precious time in intercession for others.

### • Through Finances

One can enter into the labors of any missionary through giving. Your financial participation makes you a co-laborer with the missionary or missionaries you choose to support. It is unfortunate we give so sparingly.

### • Through Vocation

Choose a missionary and arrange to spend your vacation helping him. If you can win and disciple people, you will be an asset to any program. It may be you have a special skill that would be of benefit to a specific field. Not only would your service be a blessing to the missionary, it would do a great deal to strengthen your own vision and Christian walk. There are no skills possessed by a Christian which are not needed by some mission organization.

## Whose Responsibility is the Great Commission?

You do not need to look very far to realize the Great Commission is not being fulfilled. The nations are not being disciplined. Have you ever wondered whose responsibility it is? It is obvious that whoever is responsible needs to be fired and replaced with someone more capable. But who should we fire?

You may say that it is the Church's responsibility. However, when we talk about the Church, people normally think about the building on the corner, the brick and mortar, the stained glass, the soft organ music. It does not take long to realize that God did not give the responsibility to these. Then who is responsible?

The illustration at the beginning of this chapter shows us how the objective is passed to us and also shows us how the responsibility is passed down from one generation to the next.

*"Teach them to obey all things that I have commanded you."*

At this point most of us get very uncomfortable. We do not want the responsibility. If it were left to us, the job would never get done.

### **My Response to His Ability**

Our reasons for not wanting such a tremendous responsibility are certainly understandable. We are not smart enough, rich enough or strong enough to get the job done. So how can God saddle us with a job which is beyond our ability?

Notice that the word "responsibility" is made up of two English words, response and ability. Now we are nervous because we don't have the ability. However, we are dealing with the wrong issue. The real issue is this: Is God able? Certainly we would all agree that God is rich enough, smart enough and strong enough. We are not able, but God is. Responsibility is responding not to our ability, but to God's ability to get the job done in and through us. That is why I said if we didn't understand verse 18, "all authority (power) is given to me," we would never be able to come to grips with verses 19-20. Now we can see why Jesus' first words to the eleven disciples atop the mountain pertained to His infinite resources.

God is searching for men and women who believe that He is able and who will respond to His ability. It is imperative that we take this responsibility. As it is, the nations are not being disciplined. Will you respond to His ability to get the job done through you? If you, as His disciple, say no, then to whom shall we turn?

### **Everybody's Responsibility is Nobody's Responsibility**

The story that follows is about four Christians named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody accused Anybody.

Conclusion: If Everybody will get in the act and pitch in, then Nobody will need to blame Anybody because Somebody will have done the job that needs to be done by Everybody.

## FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION

Jesus not only gave the eleven the responsibility to reach all nations, He also gave to them the power and resources necessary to get the job done. In this session I want us to see how Jesus gave to them the plan for completing the task. Nowhere in Scripture did they call a meeting to discuss how they were going to reach the 250,000,000 who then inhabited the world. They just did what Jesus commanded them to do.

### Did They Reach the World?

When Paul wrote his letter to the church at Colosse, some thirty-three years after the death of Jesus, he said:

*...because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth.*

*Colossians 1:5,6*

Now this is an amazing statement! Paul was saying that the Gospel had gone to all the world. But verse twenty-three is even more amazing:

*If indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

*Colossians 1:23*

Not only had it gone to all the world, but every creature had heard. In a very real way Paul was saying, “We have done it!”

History and tradition tells us that ten of the eleven apostles died martyr’s deaths—most in foreign countries where they were preaching the Gospel. If God used them as He did Paul, whose story is recorded, we see they must have made a real impact. The Bible is silent about the ministries of the eleven apostles, the ministries of the seventy who were trained by Jesus and sent two-by-two, the 120 in the upper room, the 500 witnesses, and the 3,000 converted at Pentecost.

In the book of Acts the Bible does give us some insight as to the impact they made. In the second chapter of Acts we see how they went from adding 3,000 converts, who had come to Jerusalem from all over the world for the feast of Pentecost, to multiplying disciples in chapter six. In chapter nine we find them multiplying churches, to being accused of turning the world upside down in chapter seventeen. How they went from Jerusalem in Acts 1-8, to Judea and Samaria in 9-12, to Asia Minor, Europe and the world in 13-28 helps us understand Paul's statement: "the gospel has gone to all the world and every creature has heard."

## Can We Reach Our World?

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and the world has greatly multiplied since the early Christians reached their world. The demographers tell us that 250 million people inhabited the world at the time of Christ.

It took from the time of Christ until...

1850 to reach 1 billion people.  
 By 1930 the population was 2 billion people;  
 1960 the population was 3 billion people;  
 1975 the population was 4 billion people;  
 1987 the population was 5 billion people.



By 2000 there will be almost 7 billion people.

Is it still possible to get the job done with the world exploding the way it is? I think we can, mainly because other people are doing it.

## Coca-Cola

The story is told of a man by the name of George Pemberton. He lived almost 100 years ago. One day George stirred together a concoction called Coca-Cola. The first year he sold two gallons of syrup. Today, one hundred years later, 100,000,000 bottles will be consumed every day. Coca-Cola can be found in almost every country of the world. They have found a way to get their product to the ends of the world. They are not the only ones who are getting their products to the ends of the world.

## Record Companies

A few years ago a young lady by the name of Debbie Boone sang a song, "You Light Up My Life," and in just a matter of months this song was being sung around the world. The record companies have found a way to get their messages to the ends of the world. But, the children of God who have all the power of God, not just in Heaven but upon earth, cannot get the job done. Maybe we should hire the president of Coke or the record company to lead us.

## The Power of Multiplication

Can the world still be reached with the population exploding at such a rapid rate? The answer is "yes."

There is an old story that reminds us of the surprises we can get when even a small number like 2 is multiplied by itself many times.

King Shirham of India  
Was so pleased when his Grand Vizier,  
Sissa Ben Dahir, presented him with the game of chess  
That he asked Ben Dahir to name his own reward.  
The request was so modest that the  
Happy king immediately complied.

What the grand vizier had asked was this—  
That one grain of wheat be placed on the first square of  
The chessboard—  
2 grains on the second square  
4 grains on the third square  
8 grains on the fourth square  
16 grains on the fifth square  
Doubling the amount of wheat on each succeeding  
Square until all 64 squares were accounted for.

When the king's steward had gotten to the 17th square  
The table was well filled.  
By the 26th square the chamber held considerable wheat  
And a nervous king ordered the steward to speed up the count.  
When 42 squares were accounted for—  
The palace itself was swamped.

Now fit to be tied,  
King Shirham learned from the court mathematician  
That had the process continued  
The wheat required would have covered India to  
A depth of over fifty feet.

## Multiplying or Adding to The Kingdom

The difference between multiplication and addition is making of *disciples* and not *converts*. Let me illustrate it this way. If I were the only Christian in the world, whose responsibility would it be to

disciple the nations? You would answer, “It would be your responsibility.” So I start out and share the Gospel and the first person comes to Christ. I would have gone from 5,000,000,000 to 4,999,999,999. Encouraged by my success, I go to the next and that person comes to Christ; so now the ratio becomes  $\frac{4,999,999,998}{1}$ .

If I continue on winning it will be;

$\frac{4,999,999,997}{1}$	$\frac{4,999,999,996}{1}$	$\frac{4,999,999,995}{1}$	$\frac{4,999,999,994}{1}$
$\frac{4,999,999,993}{1}$	$\frac{4,999,999,992}{1}$	$\frac{4,999,999,991}{1}$	$\frac{4,999,999,990}{1}$

Now I have a question to ask. Am I doing what Jesus commanded me to do? Now think carefully before you answer.

You may say, “No, I am not doing what Jesus commanded.”

What is wrong with what I am doing?

“You are getting decisions, or making converts.”

What did Jesus say to make?

# DISCIPLES

## Disciples

That’s right, so by making converts I am only doing part of the job. I am adding to the Kingdom. If I do what Jesus commanded me to do, I would go back and train the first person. Train until he was able to share his faith and to see that it was his responsibility to reach the world. At that point I would have reduced the ratio from  $\frac{5,000,000,000}{1}$  to  $\frac{2,500,000,000}{1}$ .

Then, if the two of us were able to reproduce ourselves again in the lives of two more people who saw it was their responsibility, we could reduce the ratio to  $\frac{1,250,000,000}{1}$ .

In the chart on the following page you can see the comparison between addition and multiplication.

Adding		➤	Multiplying	
People Needed	Ratio		Ratio	People Needed
1	5,000,000,000	—	5,000,000,000	1
1	4,999,999,999	—	2,500,000,000	2
1	4,999,999,998	—	1,250,000,000	4
1	4,999,999,997	—	625,000,000	8
1	4,999,999,996	—	312,550,000	16
1	4,999,999,995	—	156,250,000	32
1	4,999,999,994	—	78,125,000	64
1	4,999,999,993	—	39,062,500	128
1	4,999,999,992	—	19,531,250	256
1	4,999,999,991	—	9,765,625	512
1	4,999,999,990	—	4,882,813	1,024
1	4,999,999,989	—	2,441,406	2,048
1	4,999,999,988	—	1,220,703	4,096

It is within our power to take every town, state, country, and the world for the cause of Christ. We only need people who see that:

- *It is their responsibility*
- *It is possible*
- *God wants to use them*
- *They need to exchange their lives for it.*

What are you **exchanging your** lives for? Is it the **eternal** things of God or the **temporal** things of the world?



**OUTSIDE READING  
ASSIGNMENT**

# **THE NEED OF THE HOUR**

**by**

**Dawson E. Trotman**

**Used by Permission**

# The Need of the Hour

What is the need of the hour? That depends upon the person who is thinking about it. If I'm walking along the street and see a beggar with a tin cup, what's the need of the hour? A dime. If a woman is being taken to the hospital, what's the need of the hour? A doctor. But in Christian work, what is the need of the hour? I started to list the things that we often feel are the need, which if supplied, would end our troubles.

Some say, "Well, if I just had a larger staff..." Would more staff be the answer? Today many a minister would like to have an assistant, and many a mission would like to have more missionaries. The cry of returned missionaries is always for more men and women to fill up the ranks...to them, the need of the hour.

Others say, "We don't need more workers, but if we had better facilities, if we just had more office space and more buildings and bigger grounds and a base of operation...if we had a place like Glen Eyrie...then we could do the job."

In certain areas of the world they say it's communication we lack, or better transportation, or better means to take care of health. The need of the hour on many a mission field is merely a radio. But if you get that radio, there's another need, and something else, and something else. Many feel it is literature. I hear that in my travels all over the world, "We just lack literature."

I know of people today who are saying, "If we could just get into a certain place." For years people have been on the borders of Nepal saying, "If we could just get in there." To them the need of the hour is an open door into Nepal. Right now hundreds of people are saying, "If we could just get into China." The Bible says, "My

God shall supply all your needs." If the need were an open door into China, why doesn't God open it? "These things saith He that is holy, He that is true, He that hath the key of David, He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth...I have set before thee an open door."

Paul found closed doors, but closed doors to him weren't the problem. I really believe these closed doors were used of God to show him the open doors he was to go through next. I believe if God wanted to put His hand over the great country of China tonight, turning the Reds into confusion so they would start killing each other (a good deal of which they are already doing), He could do it. I believe in forty-eight hours the door to China could be opened.

Some say, "We need more time. If we just had more time..." Others say, "If I just weren't so old, if I were young again." People have said to me, "Dawson, if I had known when I was twenty years old what I know now, I could have done a hundred times more for the Lord. Why didn't I."

Often the biggest need of the hour seems to be money. "If we just had money...That's the answer for a larger staff, more facilities, literature, communications and transportation...If we just had money."

What is the need of the hour? Frankly, I don't believe it is any of these. I am convinced that the God of the universe is in control, and He will supply all of these needs in His own way and in His own time, all else being right.

Let me tell you what I believe the need of the hour is. Maybe I should call it the answer to the need of the hour. I believe it is an army of soldiers, dedicated to Jesus Christ, who believe

not only that He is God, but that He can fulfill every promise He has ever made, and that there isn't anything too hard for Him. It is the only way we can accomplish the thing that is on His heart...getting the gospel to every creature.

In 1948 I was in Germany for six days. I had been put in touch with Colonel Paul Maddox, Chief of Chaplains for all of Europe, and through his recommendation to the Commanding General I got into Germany. I invited fifty German fellows to meet with me for three days, and twenty-five of them came. I talked to them every evening for three hours, beginning to lay before them the Great Commission, and the idea that I felt Germany not only needed to hear the gospel, but that Germans themselves needed to obey the Great Commission by sending missionaries

I gave them the privilege of asking questions during the meetings, and every once in a while a hand would go up. I was trying to lay upon their hearts the very thing the Lord laid on the hearts of the disciples when He told them to go to every creature, make disciples of every nation, start in Jerusalem and go to the ends of the earth. One German spoke up, "But, Mr. Trotman, you don't understand. Here in Germany some of us right in this room don't even have an Old Testament; we only have a New Testament." I said, "When Jesus Christ gave these commandments, they didn't have even a New Testament."

Later one of them said, "But, Mr. Trotman, we have very few good evangelical books in this country. In America you have thus and so." I asked, "How many books did the disciples have?" A little further on one of them said, "Is it true that in America you can hear the Gospel any day?" I answered, "Yes." He said, "If we had that...but we can't get the message out on any radio." They said, "You have automobiles, we ride bicycles." I reminded them, "The disciples didn't have bicycles. Jesus rode a borrowed burro." Now these questions didn't come up one

right after the other or they would have caught on, but they arose during the nine hours together. Finally one fellow spoke up and said, "In America you have money. I work twelve hours a day for sixty cents. We don't have much money." I replied, "The disciples were sent out without purse and without script."

Every excuse in the books was brought up. "We don't have this, and we don't have that. We don't have buildings; we don't have facilities." Each time I replied, "But the twelve didn't and He sent them out."

Then finally near the end one fellow, a little older than the rest and with almost a bitter expression on his face, got up and said, "Mr. Trotman, you in America have never had an occupation force in your land. You don't know what it is to have soldiers of another country roaming your streets. Our souls are not our own." I said, "The disciples lived at the time Jesus Christ lived, and their souls weren't their own. The Roman soldiers were in charge."

Then it dawned on me in a way I had never considered before, that when Jesus Christ sent the eleven out, he let a situation exist which was so bad that there could never be a worse one. No printing presses, no automobiles, no radios, no television, no telephones, no buildings, not one single church, no uniforms, nothing for the vestry...He didn't even leave them a little emblem.

He left them only a job to do, but with it He said, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore...". What does the "therefore" mean? It means "I have the power to give you the order, and I have the power to back you to the hilt." He has all power in heaven and earth...not just heaven, but in the earth; all power, not part of the power, but all power, which means power over the Romans and power over the Communists.

Earlier Jesus Christ had said to this same little group, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that

believeth on Me...”; He that what?; “... believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do.” Do you believe that statement is true? Or must you say that for a moment it makes you stop to wonder. Could it possibly be true that the Son of God would say to a human being, “The things that I do, you shall do, and greater things than these you shall do?”

I believe with all my heart that the reason so many wonderful Christians don’t accomplish more in their lives is they don’t believe Jesus meant what He said. They have never come to the place where they believe that the all-powerful One, Who commissioned them, could enable them to do these greater works. The last thing He said was, “All power is given unto Me. I’m giving you your orders now. Go and teach all nations and see that every created being hears the Word.”

Now, gang, we think it is going to be a tough job, even with the printing press, the radio, the airplane, and modern medicine. What do you think the early disciples thought about it? When Paul wrote to the Romans, he said, “I thank my God that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.” When he wrote to the Thessalonian church, he said, “For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance.” And he said to the Thessalonians, who were not even as strong as the Bereans, “For from you sounded out the Word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad.”

How did the message go? Not by telephone, not by television, but by tell-a-person. That’s the only method they had. It was as simple as that. Everyone was to tell someone else. “I cannot help but speak the things which I have seen and heard,” was the impelling force. That’s how it spread, and it did spread. They didn’t need the printing press and they didn’t need materials. They only needed to be obedient.

Over in England they really went for the Bible study and memory materials. It was hard to get them to see their value at first, but when they did, some of them felt they were a necessity. One rainy night during the Billy Graham Crusade at Wembley Station around 3000 came forward at the invitation. Two clergymen came running up to me, “Mr. Trotman, Mr. Trotman, we ran out of materials! What will we do?” I said, “Relax. They probably ran out of them at Pentecost, too!” They looked at me for a minute and, obviously getting the point, said, “That’s right!”

The answer is the man, not materials. Maybe the greatest problem today is that we try to put into printed form that which should go from lip to ear and heart to heart. We de-emphasize materials, and people can’t understand why. Materials are the tools. Tools by themselves are useless. If there were a young fellow beginning his study of medicine who had all the necessary instruments for a major operation, and an old doctor who just had a razor blade and a plain, ordinary crooked needle and some strong string, I’d put myself into the hands of the old doctor for surgery rather than this boy over here with all the instruments, wouldn’t you? It’s not only the tools; it’s the man who has the tools in his hands.

What is the need of the hour, gang? I’ll tell you the need of the hour. It is to believe that our God controls the universe, and when He said, “The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea,” He meant it. That is exactly what is going to happen. The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord!

Today more people than ever in a lot of our civilized countries know about Jesus Christ because of the radio, literature, mission societies, Billy Graham, etc. But they only know about Him; they don’t know Him. The Book says, “The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” How much does the water cover

the sea? Do you think that every square inch of sea has water in it? Yes! That's how every tongue and tribe and nation in every single nook and corner of this earth is going to hear about Jesus Christ and His glory.

What is the need of the hour? It is to believe that "Thy God reigneth." The rain isn't coming down like you feel it should in order to have good crops. Can He send it if it's necessary? If He doesn't, can you say, "Thank you, Lord"? That's what He wants. "In everything give thanks."

You don't need anything that He can't supply. Is it knowledge? Is it strength? God can do more through a weakling who is yielded and trusting than He can through a strong man who isn't. "For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us" (2 Corinthians 1:20).

I want the fellows and girls who come to Glen Eyrie to go away with this thought securely in their minds: "God, I'll never come to the place where I'm going to let the lack of anything persuade me that You are being hindered." I would rather you would go away with that in your hearts than with methods or materials or ideas that we may have to share with you, because I know the potential of the man who will come to the place where he can say hour after hour, day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year, "Lord, I believe my God reigneth."

Listen! You have an excuse if you want one. You have more than an excuse: you have hundreds of them. That isn't what's holding us back. It's that we don't live and preach the fact that He is on the throne. And when He's running the show, He will take care of all the props, even the transportation.

I was in Hong Kong on my way to India in 1948 when a Pan American flight was delayed long enough to make me miss my connection in Bangkok. I inquired if there were any ways for

me to get to Calcutta. The crew said, "No, not a chance in the world." Then one said, "We do have orders for this plane to go on to Calcutta, but because of regulations this crew can't take it." So I prayed, "Lord, You know about the meetings in Calcutta, and it's nothing for You to work this out."

We got to Bangkok and a radio message came, "We do not have a crew to bring this ship to Calcutta. Your crew ordered to bring it." Only four people were on that big DC-6, and the other three didn't have to go to India for three days. I arrived in time for those meetings, and as a result, a man from Nepal came to know the Lord, a man who later became a key for getting the Gospel to that closed country way up in the Himalayas.

The need of the hour, as far as I'm concerned, people, is to believe that God is God, and that He is a lot more interested in getting this job done than you and I are. Therefore, if He is more interested in getting the job done, He has all the power to do it, and has commissioned us to do it, our business is to obey Him...reaching the world for Him and trusting Him to help us do it.

The Lord could easily have said to the disciples, "You fellows are only eleven men, and you lack facilities and transportation, so all I want you to do is start the fire in Jerusalem," but He didn't say that. The believers in South India testify they are glad Thomas believed Jesus Christ that he was to go to the uttermost part of the earth. I understand that the Mar Thoma Church, the largest in Southern India, traces its origin back 1900 years to the work of this disciple. Aren't you glad that Thomas didn't say to Jesus Christ, "I don't have a DC-6 jet?" "Ye shall be witnesses unto Me in..." not EITHER Jerusalem OR Samaria OR Judea OR on the foreign field. You are to be witnesses, when you have the Holy Ghost, "BOTH in Jerusalem, AND in all Judea, AND in Samaria, AND unto the uttermost part of the earth." Suppose you are a pastor. You have a responsi-

bility to your people to be a shepherd to the flock. You also have a responsibility for people in other countries. You have to be concerned. The only reason you are not out there telling them about Jesus Christ is because you're training the lay people to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ in your city, your state, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

I close with this...a little of the Nav story. I used to have a map of the world that I kept before me. I'd put my fingers on some of the islands—Australia, New Zealand, Okinawa, Formosa—and say, “Lord, let me win men for you in these places.” I wasn't challenged to do this by hearing a sermon, but by a verse of Scripture, Jeremiah 33:3, “Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” It was in the previous chapter Jeremiah had said to the Lord, “Ah Lord God! behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for Thee.” Ten verses later the Lord says to Jeremiah, “I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for Me?” Then just a few verses later He says, “All right, if you believe Me, call unto Me and I will answer.”

I asked a buddy, “Do you believe this verse?” He said, “Yes.” I said, “I do, too, but I've never seen these great and mighty things, and I'd like to.” So we started a prayer meeting every morning. We decided to meet at a certain spot, have a fire built, and be in prayer by five o'clock. Not one minute after five...we just made it a date. We prayed two hours on weekdays but met at four on Sundays to pray for our Sunday school boys by name and for the Sunday school. We prayed for Harbor City, Torrance, Long Beach, San Pedro, Los Angeles, Pasadena, and the surrounding cities from which I had received calls from young Christian fellows saying, “Come over here and show us how you're reaching these boys.”

The third and fourth weeks we started to include cities up the coast—San Francisco, Oak-

land, Seattle and Portland. We said, “Lord, use us in these cities.” By the fourth or fifth week we had covered every state in the Union. As we listed them we prayed, “Lord, use us to win young men to You in the State of Oregon. Use us to win young men in Massachusetts.” Every morning we prayed for every one of the forty-eight states. Then about the sixth week one of us said to the other something like this: “If we believe God is big enough to let us win men in every one of the forty-eight states, let's go all out!”

We bought a world map and left it up in the Palos Verdes hills. Each morning we'd pull this old map out and pray that the Lord would use us in China and in Japan and in Korea. At the end of forty-two days I felt a burden lift. We stopped asking God to use us and began thanking Him that He was going to do so. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,” and substance is substance. It's reality; it's something you can believe in. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. We claimed the promises as we prayed. These promises were the brick and prayer was the mortar that put them together.

After forty-two days we discontinued our prayer meeting. Forty-eight hours later I was in the hospital, flat on my back, for a week, and I had a lot of time to think. The Minute-Men idea came and from that The Navigators work was born.

Three or four years later I was rummaging around in a drawer of the living room table when I found a little purple card...“Washington, Oregon.” In another drawer was a list of names—Les Spencer from Illinois, John Dedrick of Texas, Gurney Harris from Arkansas, Ed Goodrich of Wisconsin. I discovered that men from every one of the forty-eight states had come to the Saviour during those three or four years. God had answered, and these men were being trained as disciples. Then I thought of the world. “Why, Lord, am I permitted to have a part in this?” For the same reason you are.

“All power in heaven and earth is Mine. It’s Mine for you to appropriate.” This is not only a privilege; it’s an order. He wants nothing less. God doesn’t want you to take an island...He wants you to take the world. For what are you asking God? What do you want? Do you want to win a few? You’ll have to start with a few, and you’ll have to be successful with the few. You **can** be because Jesus said, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” No man ever followed Jesus who didn’t become a fisher of men. He never fails to do what He promised. If you’re not fishing, you’re not following. You have to win one before you can win five, and five before you can win five hundred. The world is before you. How big is your faith?

The need of the hour is men who want what Jesus Christ wants and believe He wants to give them the power to do what He has asked. Nothing in the world can stop those men. Do you believe that? Do you want to be one of them? You may, but you will have to ask. “Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” Years ago when I prayed for Formosa I couldn’t have comprehended what I’m seeing now. But that’s the way He has promised it will be, so when you call, ask big!

**W  
E  
E  
K**

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

**1**

NKJ

**The Saints in Ministry**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

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

**2**

NKJ

**The Great Commission**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

**3**

NKJ

**Laboring as a Priest**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

**4**

NKJ

**Biblical Perspective on Time**

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

NKJ

**Assurance of Salvation**

**Ephesians 5:15,16**

**1/5**

**John 16:24**

**1/5**

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**5**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Answered Prayer**

**Matthew 4:19**

**1/6**

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

**1/6**

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**6**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Victory**

**Romans 10:9,10**

**1/7**

**1 John 1:9**

**1/7**

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**7**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**2 Timothy 1:7**

**1/8**

**Proverbs 3:5,6**

**1/8**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**8**

**NKJ**

**Boldness in Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Guidance**



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Disciple Application Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area \_\_\_\_\_ The Layman and the Great Commission \_\_\_\_\_  
 Topic \_\_\_\_\_ The Priesthood of Every Believer \_\_\_\_\_

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
<i>Review The Priesthood of Every Believer</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<i>Read The Great Commission...Pole Town U.S.A. (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
Pray for two people to win to Christ		
Pray for one person to disciple		
<i>Write a one hundred word essay on your convictions about the Great Commission and whose responsibility it is to see that the nations are discipled.</i>		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
<i>Memorize Colossians 1:28,29</i>		
<i>Review all previous verses</i>		



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Convert Application Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area Basic Christian Living  
 Topic Quiet Time

Convert's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
<i>Review Quiet Time (1/10)</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<i>Complete Assurance of Forgiveness (1/7) (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<i>Do 6 AWG (Appointments With God)</i>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<i>Read Appointment With God (1/10) (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<i>Read Planned Appointment With God (1/10) (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
<i>Memorize Mark 1:35</i>		
<i>Memorize 1 John 1:9</i>		
<i>Review all previous verses</i>		



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## THE PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER

NOTES

### Introduction

If we are discerning Christians we must, at one time or another, address the issue of our “calling” or vocation in life as a born again believer or obeyer of Jesus Christ. We must ask ourselves whether God has a specific plan for our lives, or whether we can do whatever we want to do as long as we obey God’s commandments.

People who are not diligent in their study of the Scripture and who have never addressed these issues may be bothered by verses that appear frequently in sermons of Bible-teaching pastors.

#### *Verses like:*

*“He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.”*

*Matthew 10:39*

*Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”*

*Luke 9:23*

*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

*Galatians 2:20*

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

*1 Corinthians 6:19,20*

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

*Romans 12:1*

All these verses seem to indicate that God has designs on our lives beyond just saving us and getting us into Heaven to be with Him forever.

In our first lesson we learned that God's plan for us is that we invest our lives in the eternal things of God, and *realize* that the work of ministry is ours. In the second lesson we learned that the fulfilling of the Great Commission is the *individual responsibility* of each believer. If we are to exchange our lives for things that are eternal, we *must* be involved in the winning and discipling of people for the fulfilling of the Great Commission. We saw that by making disciples, we bring a multiplying factor into the Kingdom. The first two lessons focused on what God wants us to do. This lesson focuses on who we are, and the power and authority we have to engage in the ministry God has chosen for us.

Paul addresses this issue as he writes to Timothy.

*...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.*

*2 Timothy 1:9*

From this passage we learn that we have been saved and **called** to a holy **calling**, not because of any works on our part, but because of God's purpose and grace. Before the foundations of the world were ever brought into being, we were conceived in the heart and mind of God and given a calling or vocation in life. If we examine the most famous passage of Scripture, the Ten Commandments, we gain some insight as to the nature of this calling.

With only a superficial reading of the Ten Commandments we see ten separate instructions which are to guide our lives. A careful study of this passage of Scripture reveals really only two commandments. The first commandment is to love God with all your heart, mind and soul. This is what Jesus called the Great Commandment.

### ❶ Love God With All Your Heart, Mind And Soul

*You shall have no other gods before you.*

*You shall not make, worship or serve any graven images.*

*You shall not take the Lord God's name in vain.*

*Six days shall thou labor; honor the Sabbath; keep it holy.*

The first four commandments deal with our own personal relationship to God.

The second commandment is to love our neighbor as ourselves, which we recognize as the Great Commission. I love my lost brother and sister by sharing the Gospel and bringing them into the Kingdom. I love my saved brother and sister by bringing them to their full maturity in Christ so that the Kingdom is expanded.

## ② Love Your Neighbor As Yourself

*Honor your father and mother.*

*You shall not kill.*

*You shall not commit adultery.*

*You shall not steal.*

*You shall not bear false witness.*

*You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, servant, animals or possessions.*

The last six commandments have to do with our own personal relationship to other people. If we violate these commandments, we will not have a ministry to others.

In Matthew's account of Jesus' confrontation with the lawyer, Jesus confirms that there are really only two commandments.

*Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

*Matthew 22:37-40*

But notice carefully that it starts with our relationship to God. This is why Jesus tells us what is to have the first priority in life.

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

*Matthew 6:33*

We know Jesus' Kingdom is made up of people; He did not die for real estate, but for people. The only way I can walk with God in obedience is by being involved in the winning and discipling of those people. Jesus warns us that nothing is to have a higher priority in life.

## Prerequisites

### I Am Not My Own

As true followers of Christ we know that we are made in God's image and are His purchased possession. He may do anything He wants to do with us; we are not our own. All we have belongs to God. Like Jesus, we live to do our Father's will.

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

*1 Corinthians 6:19,20*

### I Am to be Dead to Self

This is a difficult teaching. Many people are not willing to turn their lives over to God for Him to do whatever He wants. They want to keep **their** lives, to do **their** will and to serve God as **they** see fit. This is not what Paul had in mind when he wrote this letter to the Galatian church:

*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

*Galatians 2:20*

### I Am to be a Living Sacrifice

In an existential age, most people know nothing about being a sacrifice. We live in a theological environment of grace, and many people don't understand how hardship, suffering, difficulties and sacrifice can be a part of God's love and plan for them. In Paul's day, to sacrifice meant to take something which was alive and put it to death, offering it to the gods.

When we come to grips with this concept of not being our own, when we are willing to be a sacrifice, to be dead to self so God's will can be accomplished through our lives and bodies, then we will be vessels that God can use.

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

*Romans 12:1,2*

## **I Am to Have the Mind of Christ**

Like Jesus, we are to surrender our lives to God and become His servants. We live to serve the will of our master, even as Jesus did.

*“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”*

*John 6:38*

Paul addressed this very same issue when he wrote his letter to the church of Philippi:

*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

*Philippians 2:5-11*

**Let this mind be in you...**, Jesus took the form of a servant and placed himself in a position for God to do with Him what He had planned from the beginning.

When we willingly choose to become a bond-servant of God, each of us is assigned an objective, vocation and a place of service in His Kingdom. That vocation is to be a priest of Almighty God.

## **I Am to be God's Priest**

This truth is set forth by God in the book of Revelation as He wrote to the seven churches of Asia.

*Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

*Revelation 1:4-6*

We have been made a Kingdom of Priests. This is our calling and true vocation as children and servants of God. We see this truth communicated again by the Spirit of God through Peter.

*You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

*1 Peter 2:5*

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

*1 Peter 2:9*

This is why Jesus tells us that we have been called and ordained by God.

*Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you.*

*John 15:16 (KJV)*

## **Understanding the Priesthood of the Believer**

### **Historical Development**

When sin entered the world after the fall, each man was his own priest. Cain and Abel functioned in the capacity of priests, offering their own sacrifices directly to God.

*And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstlings of his flocks and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.*

*Genesis 4:3-5*

Upon leaving the ark after the flood, Noah built an altar and offered sacrifices to God.

*Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.*

*Genesis 8:20*

Abraham repeatedly offered sacrifices to God.

*Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.*

*Genesis 22:9*

In this period of Old Testament history, **any man** in **any place** was able to act as a priest and offer his sacrifice unto God. However, at Mt. Sinai this changed.

## **Professional Priesthood Established**

Moses was instructed to institute a professional priesthood. This brought about a major change in God's plan. Only men born to the tribe of Levi were able to perform the priestly functions. An individual layman could no longer be his own priest, taking his sacrifices directly to God. His offering and sacrifice had to be made in a designated place, and with a Levite (priest) going before God on his behalf, an arrangement which lasted for some 1500 years. In this period of history, only **special people** in **special places** could offer the sacrifice.

## **Historical Overview of Priesthood**

When Jesus died, the curtain in the temple setting apart the Holy of Holies was torn from top to bottom, giving man direct access to the presence of God. My good friend, Walter Henrichsen, points out that the Scripture doesn't explain specifically why God tore the curtain in half, but two things stand out to an inquiring believer:

God demonstrated through the Levitical priest the inadequacy of man's effort to atone for his own sin. The repeated sacrifice of countless animals at the temple was a vivid reminder of man's futile effort to appease God for his sins.

The sacrificial system under the Levitical Order served as a picture of God's ultimate solution—Jesus Christ's death upon the cross for our sins. He died once, for all who would put their trust in Christ's finished atonement for sin.

## **Professional Priesthood Ends With Jesus' Death**

The Levitical Order which had engineered the death of Jesus was no longer worthy to represent God to mankind or to intercede for mankind to God. The destruction of the veil, which separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple, also destroyed and ended the Levitical Priesthood.

Once again the believer was free to represent himself directly to God. This is why both Jesus and Peter declared that all believers are a Kingdom of Priests, and that we are born again into a royal priest-

hood. This is why Jesus tells us that we are chosen and ordained.

NOTES

*“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”*

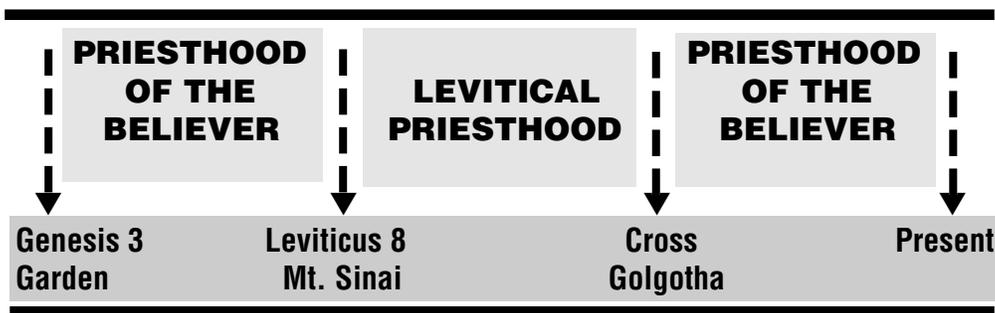
*John 15:16 (KJV)*

This is why the writer of the book of Hebrews admonishes us:

*Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

*Hebrews 4:16*

If Jesus is our Master and we are serving Him, we see that He has made us priests to God. Priesthood is our true vocation in life.



## The Priesthood of the Believer

### The Dynamics of the New Testament Church

The right and responsibility of each believer to function as a priest became a dynamic of the New Testament Church which brought explosive growth to the Church. The Church went from “adding” in Acts 2:41, to “multiplying disciples” in Acts 6:1, to “multiplying Churches” in Acts 9:31, to being accused of turning the world upside down in Acts 17:6.

The New Testament Churches were founded on the offices of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, as well as of deacons and elders. Ephesians 4:12 tells us how these offices were to function.

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

*Ephesians 4:11,12*

These full-time workers were charged with the responsibility of perfecting the saints or the individual priests who were, in turn, charged with the work of ministry. This word “perfect” means to train, to equip, to prepare the individual priest to do the work of ministry.

In the New Testament Church there is no priesthood apart from the priesthood of the believers. None of the offices is to usurp the believer’s role or his right and responsibility to function as God’s priest. When the offices function in their New Testament pattern we see results like those spelled out in the following verses:

*Till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

*Ephesians 4:13-16*

A properly functioning Church will result in unity of faith and in people growing to maturity, not being tossed to and fro by false doctrine. Every part of the Church functions so the objectives of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission are being accomplished. We see this repeatedly in the Book of Acts, where a New Testament model of maturing converts to disciples is established in Acts 2:41,42.

When the problem of the Greek widows arose in Acts 6, the Twelve didn’t have to leave their appointed roles. They simply allowed the people to choose some men to handle the matter. This was possible because all had been trained and were capable of functioning in this task. One of the men chosen was Philip. We find Philip again in Acts 8, down in Samaria preaching the Gospel. A revival broke out and the apostles up in Jerusalem sent Peter and John to help out. When God was ready to convert the Ethiopian, it was through Philip's ministry that he was won and baptized. Here was Philip carrying out his priestly function as mandated by the Great Commission without some special commission of the Twelve to do missionary work. Philip viewed wherever he was as an arena for representing Christ. He preached and baptized and was capable of doing whatever was necessary as a Priest of God. Under this order the Church of Christ penetrated the world in a very significant way.

## **Re-Establishment of the Levitical Order**

At the end of the first century an extra-Biblical word was introduced into the vocabulary of the New Testament Church. That word was “clergy” and with it came a hierarchical distinction between laity and professional clergy. This brought about a slow and unfortunate evolutionary change which has diminished the dynamic effectiveness of the Church. At first the clergy gave direction, which grew to managing, and ultimately to controlling the laity. Eventually that change brought about a reintroduction of a “Levitical Order,” and before long the priesthood of the believer slipped into oblivion. Once the structure was in place it was easy to accept, embrace and justify it from the Old Testament pattern. The pastor came to be called the priest; the believers, laity. The communion table became an altar, and the elements, a sacrifice. People were discouraged from reading and interpreting the Bible for themselves. Bible study, along with intercession and confession, became the domain of the professional clergy. Some laity, out of apathy and laziness, were happy to surrender the responsibility and privilege of the priesthood to a professional priest. This way they could give themselves to the building of their own kingdom and allow the professionals to build God’s Kingdom on their behalf.

The purpose of this lesson is not to place blame, but to help us see that we slipped from the New Testament pattern to the Old Testament pattern. If we want to regain our effectiveness it is imperative that we restore this New Testament pattern into the lives of our people as well as the Church.

## **A Return to the Priesthood of the Believer**

As godly men began to see and understand the change which had occurred they tried to return the Church to its New Testament pattern. At first they had little impact, but the seeds for reformation were being sown.

### **Waldo**

One of the first men that God used to sow these seeds was Peter Waldo. A merchant from Lyons, France, he lived in the 12th Century. Waldo raised up a large following who memorized the Scriptures and set about to preach the Gospel. This movement spread to some of the surrounding countries of Spain, Italy, Germany and Bohemia. The Church branded Waldo’s followers as heretics and their efforts finally dissipated.

### **Wycliffe**

John Wycliffe, an Englishman, translated the Bible into the language of the people. He taught that laymen could participate in the work of ministry and administer the sacraments. After his death, Wycliffe was condemned by the Church, which banned his writing, exhumed his bones, burned them and scattered his remains. This was done in an effort to destroy his dynamic influence.

**Hus**

John Hus, a Czech, was influenced by the writings of Wycliffe, and called for reformation of the Church to accommodate the New Testament pattern. Hus was condemned as a heretic and burned at the stake.

**Luther**

Not until the 16th Century did the seeds sown by reformation leaders begin to germinate. Through his study of Scripture, Martin Luther, an obscure German priest, came to many of these same conclusions. He nailed his grievances to the door in Wittenburg in 1517.

The basic tenets of the Reformation were:

- **The just shall live by faith,**
- **Priesthood of every believer,**
- **Right and responsibility of the individual to study God's Word,**
- **Involvement of the individual in the work of ministry,**
- **Direct confession to God for sin,**
- **Right of the individual to administer the sacraments.**

Martin Luther only accomplished half of the job. He reformed the doctrine of the Church without reforming the structure. Before long the restored priesthood of the believer with its accompanying rights and responsibilities once again began to fade into oblivion.

**Our True Vocation in Life**

We see from Scripture that the priesthood of the believer is more than a doctrine to which we pay lip service. If Jesus is our Master, our vocation is to be a priest. Avocationally, we may be doctors, lawyers, teachers, merchants, etc., but that has to do with *where* we function as priests, not *what* we are vocationally. In the Old Testament pattern some priests functioned inside the temple; others had duties outside the temple. In the New Testament Church some priests serve in the Church and some outside in the market place. On Sunday morning when the pastor steps into the pulpit he has just gone to work. On Monday when you step into your place of employment you just stepped into your pulpit. Like your pastor, God has given you a congregation where you may carry out your priestly functions.

God has beautifully scattered priests throughout the community. His plan was to surround unbelievers in a sea of priests so that everyone would not only hear the Gospel, but see it in action as the priests lived

in front of them. This allowed everyone to have the best presentation of the Gospel that was possible from priests in the family, neighborhood, on the job and everywhere the unbeliever went.

## **The Priest's Duties**

As priests, we have a two-fold responsibility. Our first responsibility is to represent God to people in our congregation—lost or saved. To those who are lost, we represent God through the Gospel in an effort to bring them to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. To those who are our brothers and sisters, we represent God by teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded, thereby making them disciples.

Our second responsibility is to represent the people to God by intercession. We bring the needs of our congregation to God asking for His help and mercy.

## **Conclusion**

In many places people have never learned that they are priests. It is of little wonder that they don't:

*act like priests,  
live like priests,  
or carry out their priestly functions.*

Several years ago while visiting a pastor in California, I noticed a bottle of Wesson Oil in the bottom of the pulpit. I was somewhat curious about what the oil was doing in the pulpit, but I didn't say anything. Later in our conversation, when we came to the priesthood of the believer, the pastor's eyes lighted up. He told me how he taught and trained people in their responsibilities of the priesthood and how the Church had a service at which they publicly anointed people into the priesthood of the believer. He was interested in **Equipping The Saints** because he felt it would help him prepare the priests for their two-fold work of ministry.

*My questions to you are:*

*How are you doing with your priestly function?*

*What kind of a priest are you?*

*Have you surrendered your life to serve God and become a responsible priest for Him?*

# The Great Commission... and Pole Town U.S.A.

The old wooden bridge, some 75 feet in length, arches over the railroad tracks and separates “Pole Town” from the rest of Grand Saline, Texas.

As a divider, the bridge is highly effective.

“Nobody,” a Pole Town resident once said, “Nobody, crosses that bridge unless they live over here.”

On at least one issue Grand Saline is in agreement: If ever God needed to do a work, He needs to do one in Pole Town. In a dry county, Pole Town is where the liquor is. That is where the drugs are, and much of the merchandise taken in burglaries on the north and west ends of Grand Saline, finds its way to Pole Town.

Even Pole Town agrees: “We need prayer over here, God knows!”

God may know it, but, apparently, the Body of Christ does not. In Pole Town there are no churches, no missions, no missionaries, no revival meetings, no visiting preachers. There is no evidence, whatever, that any of God’s children are in on the secret: The Kingdom of God needs to go to Pole Town.

There is a church in Grand Saline, that will contribute \$20,000 to mission efforts overseas and in other areas of the United States this year. Not a dollar will be spent in Pole Town, not even a little bit of gas for the van that picks up kids in other parts of town. Not that it would help, particularly, to send the van through this neighborhood.

“Those people in Pole Town don’t trust us,” a church deacon commented, “and, let’s face it, we don’t trust them.”

If tradition were to continue undisturbed, not one hand would be lifted, not a foot would fall in the name of Jesus this year—not in Pole Town.

“Go...teach all nations...”

How did Pole Town come to be excluded from our obedience to this instruction from Jesus? Could it be that it’s easier for us to believe that God can help the African heathen, whose sins, being farther away,

appear reasonably manageable; but that it’s nearly impossible for us to believe God can help the Pole Town heathen, whose sins are reeling at the back door, big and ugly?

Fact is, when Jesus gave us the news—“You shall be witnesses unto me”—He put the back door mission field first.

“In Jerusalem,” He said.

Right here at home, and in all Judea, that’s the surrounding cities, and in Samaria, that’s the surrounding counties which border our Judea. Because the emphasis was placed by Jesus on a geographical area no more than 55 miles from Jerusalem every believer could be a missionary involved in the fulfilling of the Great Commission because the emphasis was placed at our back doors. Sure, we’re to be involved in the “uttermost part” of the world, but we have to start with our Jerusalem.

“Pole Town.” It is Jerusalem. It’s our responsibility. It belongs first to the believers who live here in Grand Saline.

“We need to find out how many of these people are unchurched,” one Christian man said. “We need a religious census.”

Good eyesight will do as well. The need is plain.

“We need a committee,” a Christian woman said. “Somebody to organize a visitation plan.”

What’s needed is one person, one heart that loves, two hands to reach out, one mouth to speak, and two feet to walk the bridge. What about me? Pole Town is my Jerusalem, too, and the bridge is only 75 feet in length. What about my eyes, my heart, my hands, my mouth, and my feet? And what about your Pole Town? Have you taken a good look at it lately?

What are you doing to reach it? Or, will you try and soothe your conscience with a mission check to the uttermost part of the world?

Sandra Pratt Martin—August 1988



**W  
E  
E  
K**

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

**1**

**NKJ The Saints in Ministry**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

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

**2**

**NKJ The Great Commission**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

**3**

**NKJ Laboring as a Priest**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

**4**

**NKJ Biblical Perspective on Time**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Salvation**

**Ephesians 5:15,16**

**1/5**

**John 16:24**

**1/5**

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**5**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Answered Prayer**

**Matthew 4:19**

**1/6**

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

**1/6**

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**6**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Victory**

**Romans 10:9,10**

**1/7**

**1 John 1:9**

**1/7**

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**7**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**2 Timothy 1:7**

**1/8**

**Proverbs 3:5,6**

**1/8**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**8**

**NKJ**

**Boldness in Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Guidance**

# Convert Scripture Memory

## Book 1 Chapters 1-3

### Book 1 Chapter 1

**1 John 5:11-13**

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. [12] He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

[13] I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

### Book 1 Chapter 2

**Matthew 18:19**

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

**John 16:24**

Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

### Book 1 Chapter 3

**Mark 1:35**

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

**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.



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Disciple Application Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area Personal & Spiritual Management  
 Topic A Biblical Perspective On Time

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
<i>Review A Biblical Perspective On Time</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<i>Complete Assurance of Salvation (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<i>Read Beginning With Christ (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
Pray for two people to win to Christ		
Pray for one person to disciple		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
<i>Memorize Psalm 90:12</i>		
<i>Memorize 1 John 5:11,12</i>		
<i>Review all previous verses</i>		



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Convert Application Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area Basic Christian Living  
 Topic The Victorious Life

Convert's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
<i>Review The Victorious Life (1/12)</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<i>Complete Assurance of Victory (1/6) (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<i>Do 6 AWG</i>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
<i>Memorize 1 Corinthians 15:57</i>		
<i>Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:13</i>		
<i>Review all previous verses</i>		



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON TIME

NOTES

### Introduction

We have discussed the brevity of life and the importance of exchanging our lives for the fulfilling of Christ's Great Commission.

The problem is that most of us are already too busy and don't have enough time to do what we are already doing. We constantly feel we need more time but there isn't any more. Each of us is entrusted with only 24 hours per day, and there is NO WAY to extend the number of hours, no matter how hard we try.

The real difficulty is not the *lack of time*, but *what we do with the time we have*. Since we can never accumulate, stockpile, replace or turn back time, we must learn to control it as it passes. If we fail to manage our time, nothing else in our lives can and will be managed.

The Bible has a great deal to say about time. There is a time and season for everything under heaven.

*To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted.*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1,2*

We must know our priorities and apply our resources to the best opportunities.

*Teach us to number our days and recognize how few they are; help us to spend them as we should.*

*Psalms 90:12 (LB)*

*Live life then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning of life but as those who do. Make the best use of your time, despite all the evils of these days.*

*Ephesians 5:15,16 (JBP)*

*Another reason for right living is this: you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for the*

*coming of the Lord is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is far gone, the day of his return will soon be here. So quit the evil deeds of darkness and put on the armor of right living, as we who live in the daylight should! Be decent and true in everything you do so that all can approve your behavior. Don't spend your time in wild parties and getting drunk or in adultery and lust, or fighting, or jealousy. But ask the Lord Jesus Christ to help you live as you should, and don't make plans to enjoy evil.*

*Romans 13:11-14 (LB)*

## The Conflict

In God's plan there is **NO CONFLICT** between the objectives God has given to us and the **TIME** He has given us to accomplish them.

### It Lies With Us

We have the following:

- *The objective given to us by God in Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19,20),*
- *Limited time to accomplish the task (Romans 13:11),*
- *The knowledge that our rewards are based on our ability to accomplish the task (2 Corinthians 5:10),*
- *A lack of understanding as to the best method of accomplishing the task, and*
- *A lack of discipline to discern and major on the truly important things.*

### How to Resolve It

We must examine our vertical and horizontal relationships to God.

### Our Vertical Relationship to God

If I run my own life, I assume the responsibility to work it all out myself. I may be putting things into my schedule that God wants out or taking out things that are very important to Him.

**Result: One Giant Mess!**



- If I make Jesus Lord of my life and allow Him to plan my time as He sees fit, He assumes the responsibility to work it all out—and He makes no mistakes.

*Moreover, we know that to those who love God, who are called according to His Plan, everything that happens fits into a pattern for good.*

*Romans 8:28 (JBP)*

- Jesus is now living out His life in my body.

*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

*Galatians 2:20*

- My body is to be a living sacrifice lived unto God.

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

*Romans 12:1*

### **Our Horizontal Relationship to God**

- I am to be **Winning** and **Discipling** the world, training everyone I meet and teaching everyone I can.

*Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.*

*Colossians 1:28*

- Go and make disciples of all nations.

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

*Matthew 28:19,20*

- I am to be a **Stranger** and a **Pilgrim** in the world—and not investing my life for things of earth.

*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were as-*

*sured of them, embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

*Hebrews 11:13*

- As a good soldier of Jesus Christ I am not to entangle myself with the affairs of this life.

*You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*

*2 Timothy 2:3,4*

- I am to abstain from lusts which war against the soul.

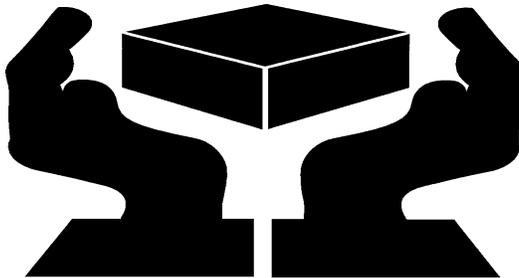
*Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul...*

*1 Peter 2:11*

- I am not to let the world squeeze me into its mold.

*Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.*

*Romans 12:2 (JBP)*



- I am not to love the world or the things in the world.

*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.*

*1 John 2:15,16*

- Pure and undefiled religion means I am to keep myself unstained by the world.

*Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.*

*James 1:27*

***When I try to have the best of both worlds, I lose both!***

## **Tools for Accomplishing Christ's Objective**

### **Time**

Time is the “Great Equalizer of the Race” (24 hours in every day). In Psalm 90:12, we are urged to “*consider each day of value.*” And an unknown author has described our time allotment in the following way:

If you had a bank that credited your account each morning with \$86,000—that carried over no balance from day to day—and allowed you to keep no cash in your account...and every evening cancelled whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day—what would you do? Draw out every cent, of course! Well, you do have such a bank—its name is ‘time.’ Every morning it credits you with 86,000 seconds...every night it rules off as lost whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purposes. It carries over no balance...It allows no overdrafts. Each day it opens a new account for you. If you fail to use the day’s deposit, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against tomorrow. You must live in the present—on today’s deposit.

Paul urges us to be good stewards of this resource.

*Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life but as those who do. Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties of these days.*

*Ephesians 5:15,16 (JBP)*

If you and I make the most of our time, it will be because we have learned the value of a day and how to spend it wisely.

“This is the beginning of a new day, God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for good. What I do today is very important, because

I am exchanging a day of my life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving something in its place I have traded for it. I want it to be gain, not loss; good, not evil; success, not failure, in order that I shall not forget the price I paid for it.”

## 2.4—Hour Principle

In the Old Testament, God gave to his people laws which they were to obey concerning the resources entrusted to their stewardship. In the New Testament we no longer live under the law but these laws now become guiding principles to direct us into God’s will.

In Deuteronomy, chapter 14, we are taught the purpose of the tithe.

*The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.*

*Deuteronomy 14:23 (LB)*

In tithing we are taught to return a portion of all that God blesses and prospers in our lives. In Deuteronomy the examples of grain, new-wine, olive oil and herds are given. If we don’t have any of these specific commodities, does that mean we don’t have to give? The answer to that question is NO. We quickly realize that God used these examples of resources to teach us the principle of the tithe. We are to return a tithe back to the Lord of *everything* that He prospers and blesses in our lives.

As followers and “obeyers” of Jesus Christ, we must also realize that our time is a resource made by God and belongs to Him. Most people struggle with this practical question, “How much of my time should be given to God on a daily basis?”

If we will learn to do with our time what we have been so carefully taught to do with our other resources, the 2.4 Hour Principle will come into focus. Just as we are to set aside a portion of our material assets for the building of God’s Kingdom, we are also to set aside a portion of our time for the building of the Kingdom.

During this “vapor” God gives us specific instructions for the use of each day. God commanded that six days of each week be given to work or labor and that one day be totally set apart for Him. If we invest the tithe of each work day for eternal things, we will set apart 2.4 hours per day or 14.4 hours per week. Add to that figure the 16 waking hours of the seventh or Lord’s Day, and you have a total of 30.4 hours per week for the building of God’s Kingdom. God has built this time into our daily schedules so that no one will have the excuse that I don’t have time for these eternal things. ***God has given us the time.***

6 days x 2.4 hours = 14.4 hours  
7th day - Sabbath = 16.0 hours  
30.4 hours per week

NOTES

*This is the time that God has placed in our week to build His Kingdom.*

If we want to achieve a proper balance in our lives regarding the time set aside for the Lord, then one-half of the time should be spent developing our vertical relationship with God, including public worship, private studies and devotions. The other half should go for our horizontal outreach to others through our ministry of winning and discipling.

It always concerns me when people tell me that they don't have time for the eternal things which we are so clearly called and commanded to do. God gave us the time! We may never have learned how to manage our time, or we may be simply mismanaging it, but God gave us the time for the building of His Kingdom.

Someday we will be held accountable for the stewardship of this time in light of the fulfilling of our eternal responsibilities. At the Judgment Seat of Christ all of this will come into focus, and the very words, "I didn't have the time," will freeze in our throats.

*How much time are you giving to God?*

## Talents and Finances

- God gave me **talents** or abilities not only to provide for myself but to be used in building His Kingdom.



*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.*

*1 Corinthians 12:7*

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

*1 Corinthians 6:19,20*

- God gave me **finances** for building His Kingdom by requiring that each of us return a tithe of God's provision to Him.

*And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstlings of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.*

*Deuteronomy 14:23*

- Following is a warning of the danger of trying to rob God.

*“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation.”*

*Malachi 3:8,9*

- Are you seeking the Kingdom of God first?

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

*Matthew 6:33*

Are you doing what God requires of you? Are you building your kingdom or God's?

## **All the Promises of God**

The Bible is full of God's promises to His children. The promises were given to assist us in our walk with Christ and the ministry God has called us to.

Matthew 28:18 tells us that “All Authority” is Christ's, and therefore, He is able to fulfill all these promises.

*Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”*

*Matthew 28:18*

## **Opportunities**

God sets multitudes of opportunities before us so that we can be involved in building His Kingdom. We must simply *capitalize* on these opportunities. But, we must make sure that the opportunities don't produce activity without productivity. We need to carefully seek God concerning His will so that we give ourselves to the opportunities He wants us to engage in. Satan will place opportunities that use up our time but produce very little for the Kingdom of God.

God wants us to invest some of our **TIME**, **TALENTS** and **TREASURES** (finances) to take advantage of the *opportunities*.

An unknown author put it this way:

Isn't it strange that kings and queens  
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings  
And common folks like you and me  
Each is a builder for ETERNITY  
Each is given a Book of Rules  
a Block of Stone  
a Set of Tools  
And each must make ere life has flown  
A STUMBLING BLOCK or a STEPPING STONE.



## Each Day Is a Short Life

An important principle to grasp with respect to time is—

***Life's Total Value is Equal to the Sum of Each Day Multiplied by the Number of Days of One's Life.***

If we were to take last Friday and multiply it by the number of days of your life, would you be willing to let this be the sum total of your contribution to God?

You may say, "Not last Friday! That was a bad day!"

O.K.! How about last Wednesday or a week ago Wednesday?

Suppose you could take one day next week and plan it so it could be multiplied by the number of days of your life. What kind of things would you ensure to be in that day? Certainly you want to make sure there is sufficient time for the eternal things of God we have talked about. What would you put into that day?

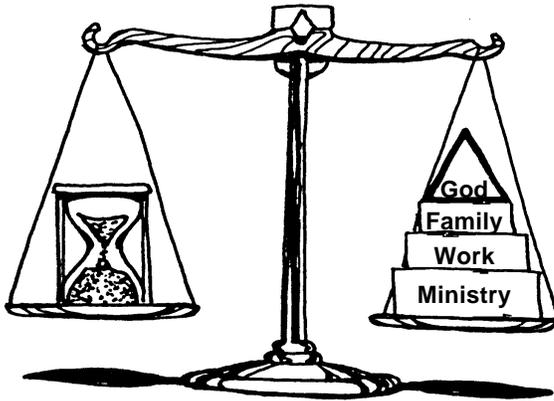
How much would you allot for your

- Quiet Time
- Witnessing
- Prayer
- Discipling
- Bible Study
- Tithing of Resources...?

NOTES

## A Proper Balance

We must have a Proper Balance in our lives regarding time.



### Program

Your Daily Routine should make allowance for your—

- Walk with God
- Family
- Work
- Study
- Play
- Ministry

### Poor Testimony

It is a poor testimony to work yourself to death.

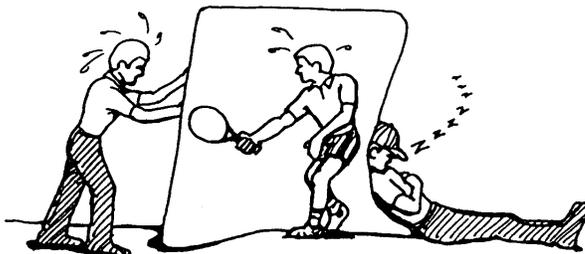
Robert Murray McCheynne died at the age of 30. Before his death, he made this profound observation about his life and lack of balance:

God gave me a message to deliver and a horse to ride.  
I beat the horse to death and now I can no longer  
deliver the message.

### Efficiency

A steel mill once hired an efficiency expert to increase their ability to move steel. The expert had the men work 12 minutes and rest 3—then work for 12 minutes more. The company went from moving 10 tons to 30 tons a day.

Sometimes we are more effective if we stop to rest, take a nap, a day off or a vacation.



*We should work hard, play hard and rest well!*



# *EQUIPPING THE SAINTS*

## **BIBLE STUDY: LESSONS ON ASSURANCE**

### **Introduction**

To assure is to “put beyond all doubt.” *Lessons on Assurance* is designed to assure you or “put you beyond all doubt” regarding some basic promises God has made to Christians. This will be accomplished as you memorize, meditate on, study and apply the verses presented in *Lessons on Assurance*. By memorizing, meditating on and studying God’s Word, you will be able to better understand God’s promises.

First, memorize the verse presented at the beginning of each lesson. Be sure to memorize the topic and reference as well as the verse. One good way to do this is to quote the topic and reference at the beginning and the reference at the end of the verse—Assurance of Salvation, 1 John 5:11, 12...1 John 5:11,12.”

Learn one phrase at a time. Say “Assurance of Salvation, 1 John 5:11,12 ‘And this is the record...’” and repeat it several times until you think you know it. Then, repeating what you have just learned, add the next phrase, “Assurance of Salvation, 1 John 5:11,12, ‘And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life...’” Repeat this several times until you know it. Then add the next phrase. Repeat this process until you have memorized the verse.

An essential part of Scripture memorization is review. This will help you retain what you have memorized. Be sure to review each verse daily. You can take advantage of spare moments by writing the *Beginning With Christ* verses on verse cards and carrying them with you wherever you go.

### **You’ll notice that each of the studies in this series has four sections:**

- The meditation section is designed to help you think over what the verse says and means.
- The question-and-answer section amplifies your meditation by relating each key phrase of the verse with other passages of Scripture.
- The section for writing out the verse gives you a chance to check up on yourself to see if you have memorized the verse word perfectly.
- The application section will show you one way to apply the verse you have memorized and studied to your life.

Going through the process of memorizing, meditating, studying and applying will help you “put beyond all doubt” the principles presented in the verses of *Beginning With Christ*.

# Assurance of Salvation

Begin Memorizing 1 John 5:11,12

VERSES Pg. 395

## Meditation on 1 John 5:11,12

Who gives eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_

Where is eternal life found? \_\_\_\_\_

Who has eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_

Who does not have eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_

*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life...*

1 John 5:13

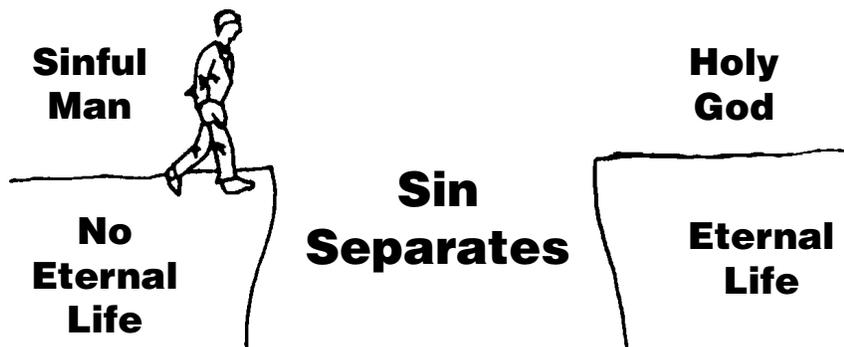
***“...this is the record...”***

1. How has God shown that He loves you? Romans 5:8 \_\_\_\_\_

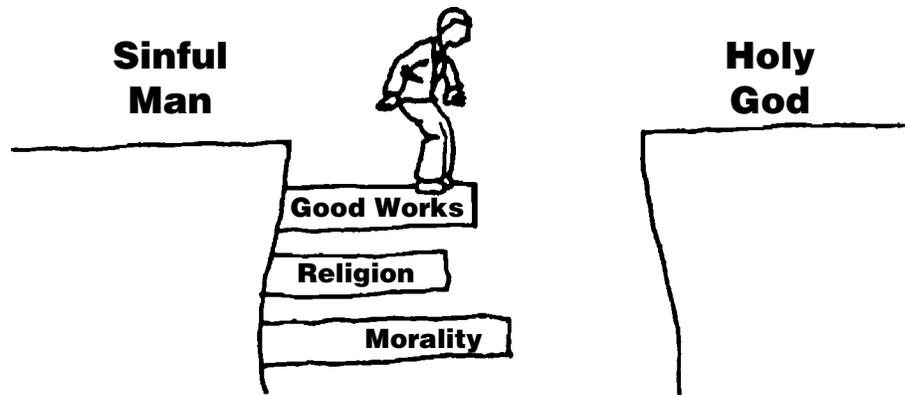
2. Why was the Bible written? John 20:31 \_\_\_\_\_

***“...God hath given to us eternal life...”***

3. What are the results of man's sinfulness? Isaiah 59:2 \_\_\_\_\_



4. Why do human efforts to reach God fail? Ephesians 2:8,9 \_\_\_\_\_

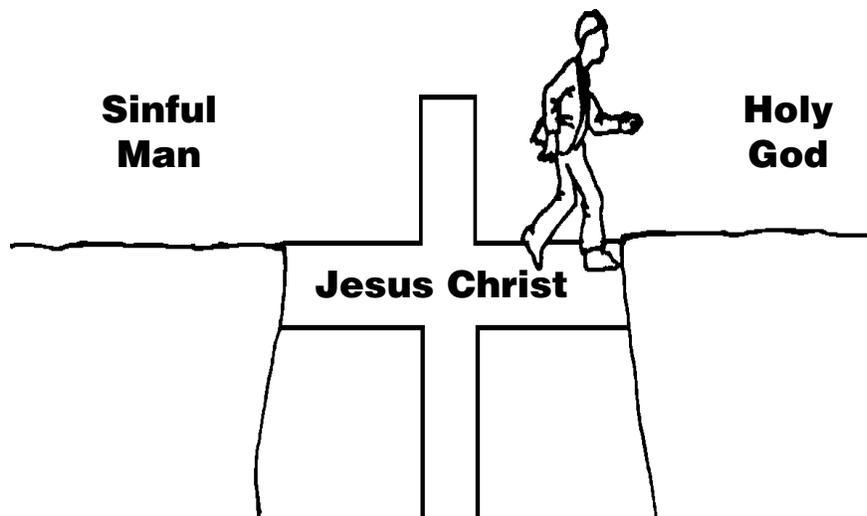


5. What provision has God made to bring men to Himself? 1 Peter 3:18

---



---



6. According to John 5:24, what three things are the result of hearing and believing?

Present \_\_\_\_\_

Future \_\_\_\_\_

Past \_\_\_\_\_

***“...He that hath the Son hath life...”***

7. How does a person receive the gift of salvation? John 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_

---



---



---

8. What did Jesus promise His followers in John 10:27-29?

---

---

---

9. What takes place when a person becomes a Christian? 2 Corinthians 5:17

---

---

Which of the following changes have you experienced in your life? (Circle appropriate ones).

- Inner peace
- New awareness of sin
- Victory over sin
- New love for God
- Desire to read Bible
- Attitude changes
- Sense of forgiveness
- New concern for others

Write out 1 John 5:11,12 from memory. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**Application of I John 5:11,12**

How do you know that you have eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

Now take a few moments to thank God for all that He has given you in Jesus Christ.



**W  
E  
E  
K**

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**5**

NKJ

Evangelism

NKJ

Assurance of Answered Prayer

Matthew 4:19

1/6

1 Corinthians 10:13

1/6

**W  
E  
E  
K**

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**6**

NKJ

Evangelism

NKJ

Assurance of Victory

Romans 10:9,10

1/7

1 John 1:9

1/7

**W  
E  
E  
K**

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**7**

NKJ

Evangelism

NKJ

Assurance of Forgiveness

2 Timothy 1:7

1/8

Proverbs 3:5,6

1/8

**W  
E  
E  
K**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

**8**

NKJ

Boldness in Evangelism

NKJ

Assurance of Guidance



## **OUTSIDE READING ASSIGNMENT**

# **BEGINNING WITH CHRIST**

**Used by Permission**

# Beginning With Christ

Jesus Christ said, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20). Coupled with this wonderful truth is the statement in His Word that “...as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God...” (John 1:12).

If you have, to the best of your knowledge, received Jesus Christ, God’s Son, as your own Savior, according to the Scripture quoted above, you have become a son of God in whom Jesus Christ dwells.

Altogether too many people make the mistake of measuring the certainty of their salvation by their feelings. Don’t make this tragic mistake. *Believe God.* Take him at His Word: “These things have I written unto you that believe in the Name of the Son of God; that ye may *know* that ye have eternal life...” (1 John 5:13).

It is impossible in the short space of these few paragraphs to go into all the wonderful results of the transaction that took place when you received Christ. A child may be born into a wealthy home and become the possessor of good parents, brothers and sisters, houses and lands, but at the time of his birth it is not necessary that he be informed of all these wonderful things. There are more important matters to take care of first. He must be protected, for he has been born into a world of many enemies. In the hospital room he is handled with sterilized gloves and kept from outsiders that he might not fall victim to the myriad germs waiting to attack. It is the knowledge of such enemies which enable the doctors and nurses to take measures to protect the precious new life.

You have become a child of God; you have been born into His family as a spiritual babe. This is

a strategic moment in your life. It is our desire to share with you a few simple truths which will strengthen you for the battle ahead and keep you safe from the onslaughts of Satan.

In 1 Peter 2:2 you will read, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby.” In Acts 20:32 you will read, “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up . . .” His Word will now serve as your spiritual food and will build you up in the faith. You probably have a Bible or New Testament. If not, get one and begin to read it faithfully every day. It is most important that you have time set aside, preferably in the morning, to read and study the Word of God and pray.

Now let’s be more specific with regard to your intake of the Word of God. In the 9th and 11th verses of Psalm 119 we read, “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word,” and then the psalmist speaks to the Lord saying, “Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.” So we challenge you to hide His Word in your heart—to memorize it. Each section titled “Assurance of...” has included in it a Scripture with which you may begin.

But we have spoken only about your spiritual food. Let us consider for a moment this new enemy which you face.

Before you trusted Christ, Satan may not have bothered you particularly, but now he has seen you make the step which angers him more than any one thing in all the world. You have left his crowd and joined the ranks of those who believe and trust in the Son of God. You are no longer in Satan’s domain; you now belong to the One who has “bought” and paid for you “with a price,” the price of His own blood shed

on the cross. You may be sure that Satan will attempt to trouble you. His attacks assume many forms, but we wish to speak of some of the most common ones and give you help on how to resist him successfully.

We can overcome him only as we use the weapons which God has provided. Ephesians 6:17 says “And take ...the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” Not only is the Word of God spoken of as the sword of the Spirit but it is that through which faith comes as a shield to ward off the darts of the enemy (Romans 10:17, Ephesians 6:16). *The Word of God* then, is our weapon of defense as well as our weapon of offense.

For example, consider that our Lord was tempted by Satan in three specific ways, and He defeated him each time with Scripture, saying, “It is written ...” (see Matthew 4). If Christ deemed it necessary to meet Satan this way, how much more do we need this mighty weapon, the Word of God. How much more we need to be prepared to say to Satan, “It is written...” or “Thus saith the Lord...”.

### **Assurance of Salvation**

The five verses of Scripture we have suggested for memorization have been chosen to equip you for your first few encounters with the enemy. His first approach is often to cast doubt upon the work which God has done in your heart, and although you will not hear his audible voice, he will whisper in your heart:

“You don’t think you are saved and your sins forgiven just by believing and receiving Christ? Surely that is not enough?”

What will your answer be? Our only hope to withstand such an attack is to resort to God’s Word. What does God say about the matter? That is the important thing. And so the first memory passage, 1 John 5:11,12, entitled Assurance of Salvation, says:

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He

that hath the Son hath life; and He that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”

When this passage has been written on the table of your heart so you are able to use it every time a doubt arises during the next few days, and when on the basis of this “record”—God’s written word—you are thoroughly convinced that you now have the Lord Jesus Christ and with Him eternal life, you will have overcome in one of the first tests. This attack may recur, but now you have the Word of God in your heart with which to meet it.

### **Assurance of Answered Prayer**

Another attack of Satan may be to cause you to doubt the effectiveness of prayer. He may whisper to you:

“You really don’t think God is personally interested in you? He is far away and is concerned about more important things. Surely you don’t think He’ll hear you when you pray—much less answer your prayers?”

Now that Jesus Christ is your Saviour and Lord, you have the unique privilege of speaking directly with your heavenly Father through Him. He wants you to come confidently into His presence (Hebrews 4:16) and to talk to Him about everything (Philippians 4:6). He is intensely interested in you and your needs. In the second verse, John 16:24, Jesus gives us His Assurance of Answered Prayer:

“Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My Name; ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”

Jesus did not say His disciples had never asked before. You yourself have probably asked many times, especially when in trouble. But now you can ask “in Jesus’ Name,” because you belong to Him. To ask in His Name means to ask in His authority and on His merit. Just as the Father answered Jesus’ every prayer, so will He answer you when you ask in Jesus’ Name. He *delights* to answer your call and meet your needs. Memorize this wonderful promise, ap-

ply its truth and experience the joy of answered prayer.

### **Assurance of Victory**

Still another attack may be along this line. Satan may whisper to your heart:

“You have life, all right, but you are a weakling; you have always been a weakling.”

He will remind you of some sin which has gripped you throughout the past years of your life. He will point to something of which you are keenly aware, and say:

“You are weak; you will not be able to stand against this particular temptation. Perhaps you will be able to stand against others, but not this one.”

How will you answer him? Will you attempt to reason? Will you try to produce your own arguments? Will you run to see what this person or that one says, or will you resort to the invincible Word? The third verse, 1 Corinthians 10:13, is chosen especially to meet this attack of Satan:

“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.”

This gives Assurance of Victory. God promises victory. It belongs to you as a child of His. Believe it and you will see that things impossible with men are possible with God. It will thrill you to see that chains of lifetime habits can be broken by His mighty power. Memorize this verse; write it on the table of your heart.

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

This brings us to the next attack of Satan. Although victory is rightfully yours, you will likely fail at some point. Sin will suddenly crop up and immediately your enemy will be on the job to say: “Now you’ve done it. Aren’t you supposed to be a Christian? Christians don’t do those things.”

Nevertheless, God makes provision in His Word for the failures of His children, and so the fourth verse speaks of the Assurance of Forgiveness, 1 John 1:9:

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

To *confess* a sin means to uncover it by calling it exactly what God calls it. Implicit in honest confession is the willingness to forsake the sin (Proverbs 10:13). God promises not only to forgive us, but also to cleanse us. What a gracious provision!

### **Assurance of Guidance**

The four preceding assurances have been given to help you meet the principal attacks of Satan. However, the fifth passage for you to memorize is for a different purpose. You may have questions about the future, wondering how this new life of yours is all going to work out. What about God’s will for your life? Will He really lead you? Hence, this verse comes to give you Assurance of Guidance, Proverbs 3:5-6.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”

God promises to lead you and direct your path when you rely on Him completely. Memorize and apply this Scripture and you will surely experience His guidance in your life.

We suggest this procedure as you memorize these verses:

Start with the first one, 1 John 5:11,12. Read it over several times to help grasp the passage as a whole. Then break it into natural phrases. Memorize the reference and the first phrase. Then add the second phrase, then the third and so on. Each time you go over it, state the reference, the verse and the reference again at the end. Repeating the reference “fore ‘n aft” will prevent future difficulty in remembering the location of the passage.

When you are able to quote the first passage, tackle the second in the same way and review the first. Then when you can quote these two, start the third. When you can repeat the three perfectly, work on the fourth, and so on.

The secret of mastering these verses is *review*. So each day as you work on your newest verse, review the ones you have already learned. One of the best ways to do this is to carry this pack with you in pocket or purse so that it is handy to use during spare moments.

After you have memorized these verses and learned to apply them, you will be aware of the strength and blessing that comes from hiding God's Word in your heart. You may continue a systematic Scripture memory program that will help you grow in your Christian life by purchasing the Topical Memory System.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

**1**

NKJ

**The Saints in Ministry**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

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

**2**

NKJ

**The Great Commission**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

**3**

NKJ

**Laboring as a Priest**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

**4**

NKJ

**Biblical Perspective on Time**

NKJ

**Assurance of Salvation**

**Ephesians 5:15,16**

**1/5**

**John 16:24**

**1/5**

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**5**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Answered Prayer**

**Matthew 4:19**

**1/6**

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

**1/6**

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**6**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Victory**

**Romans 10:9,10**

**1/7**

**1 John 1:9**

**1/7**

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**7**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**2 Timothy 1:7**

**1/8**

**Proverbs 3:5,6**

**1/8**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**8**

**NKJ**

**Boldness in Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Guidance**



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Disciple Application Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area Personal & Spiritual Management  
 Topic How to Organize My Time

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
<i>Review How to Organize My Time</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<i>Complete Assurance of Answered Prayer (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<i>Do 5 PSMA</i>		
<i>Write out your life objective (How to Organize My Time - p. 2)</i>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
Pray for two people to win to Christ		
Pray for one person to disciple		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
<i>Memorize Ephesians 5:15,16</i>		
<i>Memorize John 16:24</i>		
<i>Review all previous verses</i>		



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Convert Application Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area Basic Christian Living  
 Topic The Word of God

Convert's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
<i>Review The Word of God (1/13)</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<i>Complete Assurance of Guidance (1/8) (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<i>Do 6 AWG</i>		
<i>Fill Out Objective for the Word (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
<i>Memorize Matthew 4:4</i>		
<i>Memorize Proverbs 3:5,6</i>		
<i>Review all previous verses</i>		



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## HOW TO ORGANIZE MY TIME

NOTES

### Objectives

What is your objective for life?

Most people have never really thought about this question and would find it very difficult to define a lifetime goal or objective. As a result, when daily decisions come up, they are unable to make choices in a way that will move them toward their specific goals.

**Decisions that are not made on the basis of one's objectives are wasted energy—activity without productivity.**

The only way a person can make sound decisions for his life is to know clearly what his objective in life is. Then he must make EVERY decision on the basis of that objective.

The Apostle Paul was very clear about his life objective:

*So naturally we proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about Him, so that we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ. This is what I am working at all the time, with all the strength that God gives me.*

*Colossians 1:28,29 (JBP)*

Paul knew what his basic objectives in life were.

- Proclaim Christ
- Warn everyone he met
- Teach everyone he could
- Bring every man to his full maturity in Christ

Because he had defined his goal so well, Paul therefore wrote to the Philippians:

*...but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 3:13,14*

Paul had one great vision or objective to which he continually pressed, harnessing all his resources to accomplish it. This is why he could say:

*This is what I am working at all the time, with all the strength God gives me.  
Colossians 1:29 (JBP)*

For most of us, instead of saying, “this one thing I do,” we would have to say, “these many things I dabble at.” We may not even be sure what the objective is. It has never come into focus for us. We may be:

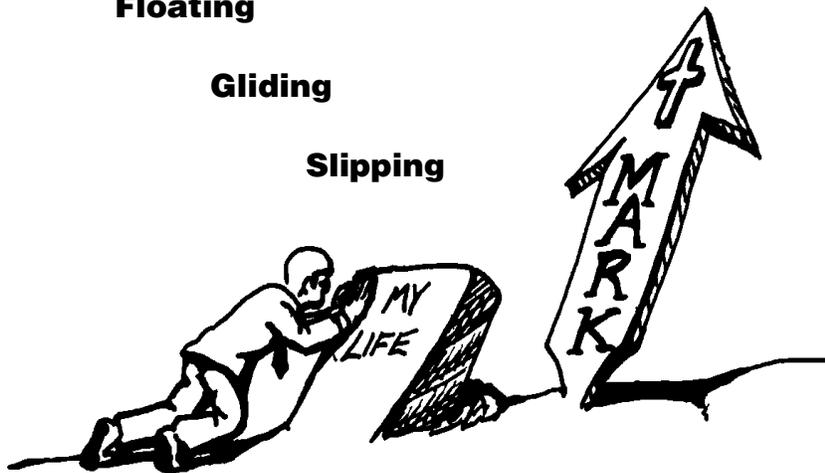
**Drifting**

**Sliding**

**Floating**

**Gliding**

**Slipping**



**But are we *pressing* toward the mark?**

If someone were to ask you to write out your objective for life, could you write it?

**My objective is:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## A Test to Discover Your Real Objective

Perhaps you have never even thought about your life objective—or perhaps you have thought of it a great deal. Perhaps you **think** your objective is spiritual and of God. Here is a little test:

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also!*

*Matthew 6:21*

This means simply that where you are investing your resources (**time and money**)—there your heart is. That is your real goal in life. Many Christians would be quick to say that their goal was to serve God and reach others for Him. But if you were to analyze the money and time they invest in their so-called goal, you would find very little given for this purpose.

- Are your goals temporal or eternal?
- When was the last time you evaluated the investment of your resources? Are they in keeping with your stated objectives?

## God's Objectives for Every Believer

### To Do His Will

This was His plan for Jesus, and it is His plan for us as well. Jesus said:

*For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*

*John 6:38*

- Are you doing God's will or your own?

### To Set God's Kingdom as First Priority

**The Kingdom of God** is people who allow Christ to rule in their lives.

**The Righteousness of God** is God's Word.

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

*Matthew 6:33*

- Are you one of the people who live under the Lordship of Christ? Are you seeking to draw others to Him, expanding His Kingdom?
- What priority does God's Word have in your daily schedule? What

percentage of every day is spent in the Word? (Remember: THE SUM OF ALL YOUR INDIVIDUAL DAYS EQUALS YOUR LIFETIME.)

### **To Bear Fruit**

*You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.*

*John 15:16*

- Are you bearing fruit—both the fruits of the Spirit as well as the fruit of other lives?

### **To Be Made a Fisher of Men**

*And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*

*Matthew 4:19*

- When was the last time you went fishing for people?
- When was the last time you “caught” a person for Christ?

### **To Make Disciples**

*Go ye into all the world and make disciples of every nation...*

*Matthew 28:19 (NASV)*

- Whom are you discipling now?

### **To Live for Him and Not for Ourselves**

*And He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.*

*2 Corinthians 5:15*

- Who are you really living for: **Self or God?**

It is not enough simply to have an objective. One must have an objective that is in keeping with God’s will for His children. God’s objectives are eternal, not temporal.

If you desire to find God’s will for your life, you must set aside a portion of time for Him daily. In this lesson you will be introduced to the “Personal and Spiritual Management Aid” which will help you schedule your day with God in it.

## How to use the PSMA

The Personal and Spiritual Management Aid (PSMA) is a tool designed to help you manage your life around the eternal things of God. It will be used five days a week during this training course to help you master time management. Learning to manage your time can keep you from dissipating your life on temporal things. If you are not able to control the use of your time, you will never be able to invest wisely in the eternal things of God. This battle is won, or lost, one day at a time.

The PSMA is divided into three sections—Quiet Time, Basics and Time Management.

### Quiet Time

In order to develop your relationship with God, the two of you must spend time together. As you pray you share your heart with God, and God shares His heart with you as you allow Him to speak to you through the Scriptures. Spend some time reading a passage of Scripture, and begin asking God to speak to you personally about various areas of your life.

The Observation Section gives you a place to record what God shows you. The Application Section gives you a place to record how you apply this in your life today.

If someone is discipling you, he or she will not read your private meditations, but simply make sure that you are diligently seeking to develop your relationship with God by meeting with Him daily.

### Basics

This section of the PSMA deals with the various elements of the Wheel. It begins with the vertical spokes of the wheel which deal with your devotional disciplines.

### Scripture Memory

Each week you are required to memorize passages out of the Bible. There are normally three stages to a memory program.

**Scripture Memory: Current**—the verse which you are now working to master. This stage requires daily work and review.

**Scripture Memory: Back**—verses which you have already mastered. This stage must still be reviewed regularly, but not daily.

**Scripture Memory: New Verses**—the verse in this week's lesson which must be memorized. These verses

will go from new verses into your current review and finally into your back review.

## **Bible Reading**

Many people have a program to help them read through the Bible in a one-year or two-year reading schedule. In Lesson 1/14, you will be introduced to a Bible Reading Program in Lesson 1/14 which you may desire to use in your Scripture reading, or you may select the passages or books you desire to read.

## **Bible Study**

Bible studies begin in Lesson 1/4 with a simple question-answer study, and progress to inductive book studies in Lesson 3/14. By the last lesson in Book Four you will have acquired a method to study the Bible book by book, one chapter at a time. You may do your study all at one sitting, or you may do one part daily, or at several sittings. The way you choose to do the Bible Study assignment will determine the number of times this box is checked for the week.

## **Prayer**

In Lesson 1/10 you will be introduced to a Prayer Guide which will help you to strengthen your prayer life. Until that lesson, this section is just to remind you to pray daily.

## **Witnessing**

This is to ensure that you become a “fisher of men.” From Lesson 1/10, evangelism is a regular part of this course. You may not witness daily, but if a week passes and you have not checked this box, it may mean that you need to share the Gospel with someone.

## **Follow Up**

As you begin Book Two, you should have a disciple with whom you are meeting weekly. Therefore, the follow up section should be checked weekly. It should also be used whenever you meet with other people to help them grow in their walk with God.

## **Exercise**

This section is to remind you that your body is a temple that God has given to you. It is your responsibility to care for this temple through exercise, diet, etc. Chart your progress in this area.

## **Blank**

Use this blank space for some area of life that God is speaking to you about.

It is important to realize when using the PSMA that every activity does not have to be done everyday. There are some things such as a

Quiet Time and Scripture Memory which should be done daily, but other areas, such as Bible Study and witnessing may only be done on certain days. However, each day the PSMA is a reminder of all the elements which make up both the vertical and horizontal spokes of the wheel in our lives. Our objectives for each of the various elements will determine how often you will check them on the PSMA form.

## **Time Management**

This is used to help plan your day with the eternal things of God scheduled into your life. This now provides you the basis to say “no” to the things which have nothing to do with your objectives in life. If you have not learned how to plan your day, the whole world is waiting to plan it for you with its priorities.

## **Daily Schedule**

This is a place to plan the various elements which are to occupy your day.

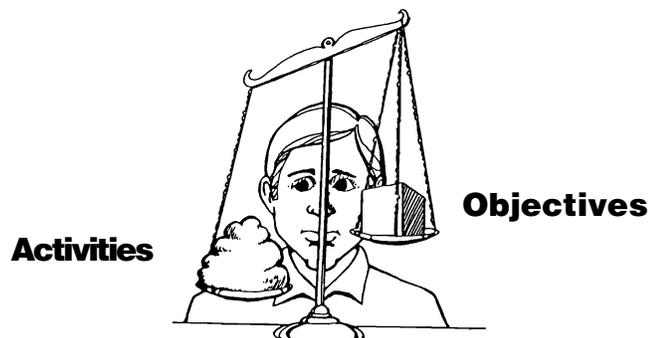
## **Priority**

It is important to place a priority on each element which is to make up the day’s activities. This helps you learn to do the most important things first and in a planned sequence.

## **Do List, Errands and Projects**

At the start of each day make a list of all the things which need to be done. This list gives you what you need to be able to plan and place priorities so you can write your daily schedule.

Successful people know what their objectives are and have learned to plan the priority activities into their daily lives so as to accomplish their objectives.



If you don’t finish checking off everything on the PSMA each day—remember, don’t panic. There are very few people who do. The important thing is to do the most important priority or priorities that you had to do. The unfinished tasks can be carried over to tomorrow’s list. Eventually, when they become priority issues, they will be completed.



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Personal & Spiritual Management Aid

Date *May 5*

Passage *Ps. 1*



Quiet Time

**Observations** *It is interesting to note the downward progression to sin. Walk—Stand—Sit. Blessed, or happy, is the person who doesn't walk where the ungodly congregate. If he does, before long he will be standing around fellowshiping with them. When this happens it isn't long before he is sitting, and finally his life is affected by their scoffing attitudes and ways.*

**Application** *Lord, this day help me not to let my mind walk where I have kept my feet from walking or dwelling. Help me walk, stand and sit in your presence.*



Basics

Area	✓	Description	Comments
Scripture Memory: Current	✓	<i>15 verses</i>	
Scripture Memory: Back	✓	<i>15 verses</i>	
Scripture Memory: New Verses	✓	<i>2 verses</i>	
Bible Reading	✓	<i>John 15-16</i>	
Bible Study			
Prayer	✓	<i>Monday's List</i>	
Witnessing			
Follow Up	✓	<i>ETS Lesson 2/2</i>	<i>Meet with Bill</i>
Exercise	✓	<i>2.5 miles</i>	



Time Management

Daily Schedule		Prior-ity	Do List	Errands & Projects
	<i>Quiet Time</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Quiet Time</i>	<i>Revise Estimates</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Basics</i>	<i>Work on Survey</i>
<i>8:30</i>	<i>Review verses</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Pick up cleaning</i>	<i>Yard needs cutting</i>
<i>9</i>				<i>Fix and paint door</i>
<i>9:30</i>	<i>Work</i>			<i>Clean the garage</i>
<i>10</i>				
<i>10:30</i>	↓			
<i>11</i>				
<i>12</i>	<i>Lunch (prayer)</i>			
<i>1</i>	<i>Write Joe</i>			
<i>1:30</i>	<i>Work</i>		<i>Write Joe</i>	
<i>2</i>				
<i>3</i>	↓			
<i>4</i>	<i>Review verses</i>		<i>Phone John</i>	
<i>5</i>	<i>Family Time</i>		<i>Grace</i>	
<i>6</i>				
<i>7</i>	↓		<i>See Sue &amp; Bob</i>	
<i>8</i>	<i>Meet with Bill</i>			



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Personal & Spiritual Management Aid

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Passage \_\_\_\_\_



Quiet Time

### Observations

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Application

---

---

---



Basics

Area	✓	Description	Comments
Scripture Memory: Current			
Scripture Memory: Back			
Scripture Memory: New Verses			
Bible Reading			
Bible Study			
Prayer			
Witnessing			
Follow Up			
Exercise			



Time Management

Daily Schedule	Prior-ity	Do List	Errands & Projects
8			
8:30			
9			
9:30			
10			
10:30			
11			
12			
1			
1:30		Write	
2			
3			
4		Phone	
5			
6			
7		See	
8			



## EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

# BIBLE STUDY: ASSURANCE OF ANSWERED PRAYER

Begin Memorizing John 16:24

VERSES Pg. 396

## Meditation on John 16:24

What is prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

In whose name should you pray? \_\_\_\_\_

What results from prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

*“Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My Name...”*

1. What does Jesus teach about prayer in Matthew 7:7,8? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is characteristic of God’s answer to prayer?

Jeremiah 33:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 3:20 \_\_\_\_\_

*“...ask, and ye shall receive...”*

3. What are some important conditions for answered prayer?

John 15:7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 John 5:14,15 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Read Matthew 7:9-11. What kind of gifts does God give His children?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do you think God would respond to a request for something He knew would be bad for you?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you think God would do if He knew the answer would be better for you at another time?

---

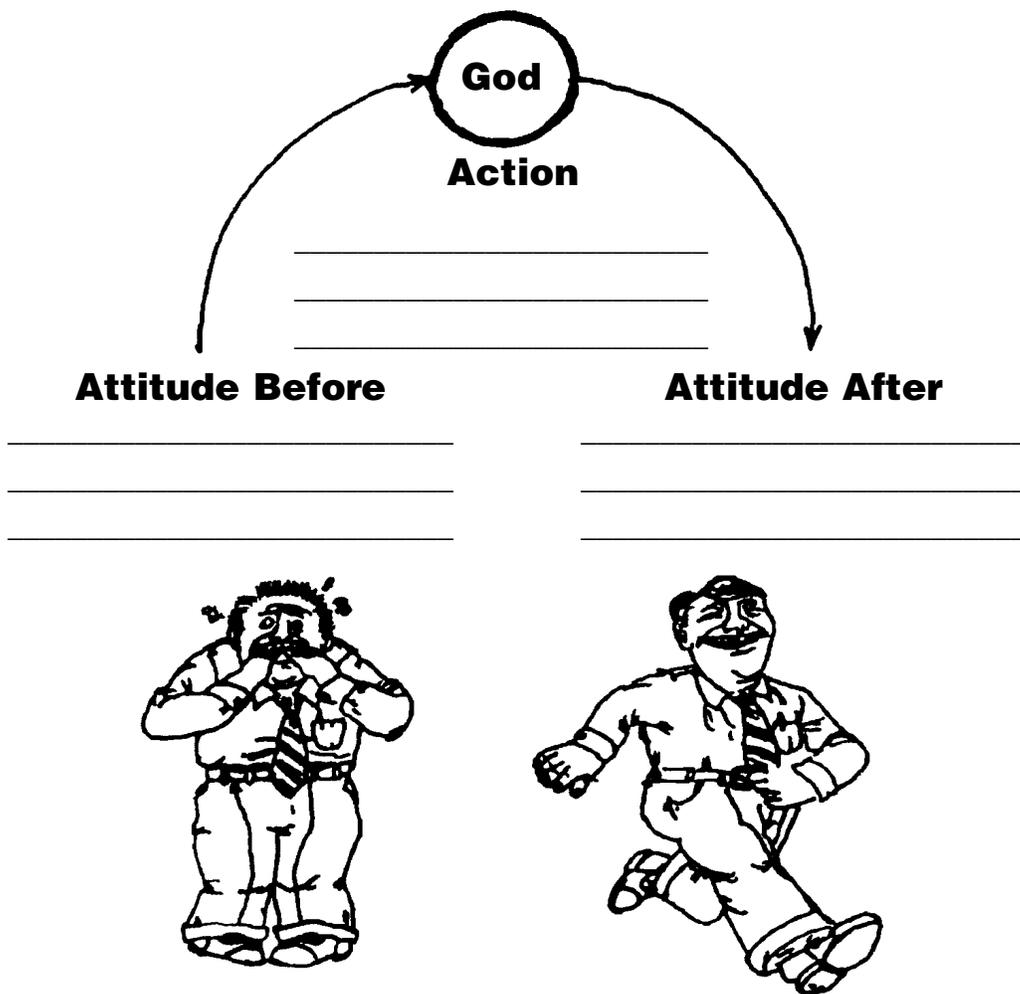
---

5. What are some hindrances to answered prayer?

James 4:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 66:18 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Fill in the appropriate attitudes and actions as presented in Philippians 4:6,7 in the illustration below.



*“...that your joy may be full.”*

7. What are some of the benefits of prayer? Philippians 4:6,7 \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

8. What resulted when Zacharias and Elizabeth prayed for a son? Luke 1:13,14

---

---

Write out John 16:24 from memory.

---

---

---

---

---

---

### **Four Important Areas of Prayer Are:**

- **A**doration reflection on God Himself. Praise Him for His love—His power and majesty—His wonderful gift of Christ.
- **C**onfession admitting to God where you have sinned. Be honest and humble. Remember He knows you and loves you still.
- **T**hanksgiving telling God how grateful you are for everything He has given—even the unpleasant things. Your thankfulness will help you see His purposes.
- **S**upplication making specific requests. Pray for others first, then for yourself.

The first letters of these four words form the word “**ACTS**.” Using this as a mental guide for prayer helps you maintain a balanced prayer life.

### **Application of John 16:24**

List four specific things that you can pray about today. Pause and talk to God about them right now.

Adoration \_\_\_\_\_

Confession \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving \_\_\_\_\_

Supplication \_\_\_\_\_

**W  
E  
E  
K**

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

**1**

NKJ

**The Saints in Ministry**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

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

**2**

NKJ

**The Great Commission**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

**3**

NKJ

**Laboring as a Priest**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

**4**

NKJ

**Biblical Perspective on Time**

NKJ

**Assurance of Salvation**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**5**

NKJ

Evangelism

NKJ

Assurance of Answered Prayer

Matthew 4:19

1/6

1 Corinthians 10:13

1/6

**W  
E  
E  
K**

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**6**

NKJ

Evangelism

NKJ

Assurance of Victory

Romans 10:9,10

1/7

1 John 1:9

1/7

**W  
E  
E  
K**

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**7**

NKJ

Evangelism

NKJ

Assurance of Forgiveness

2 Timothy 1:7

1/8

Proverbs 3:5,6

1/8

**W  
E  
E  
K**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

**8**

NKJ

Boldness in Evangelism

NKJ

Assurance of Guidance



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Disciple Application Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area Evangelism  
 Topic Introduction to Evangelism

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
<i>Review Introduction to Evangelism</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<i>Complete Assurance of Victory (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<i>Do 5 PSMA</i>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<i>Read Whatever Became of Evangelism?</i>		
(Be Ready to Discuss)		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
Pray for two people to win to Christ		
Pray for one person to disciple		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
<i>Memorize Matthew 4:19</i>		
<i>Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:13</i>		
<i>Review all previous verses</i>		



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Convert Application Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area Personal & Spiritual Management  
 Topic Biblical Perspective on Time

Convert's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
<i>Review Biblical Perspective on Time (1/4)</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<i>Complete Living in Christ (1/9) (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<i>Do 6 AWG</i>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<i>Read Going on with Christ (1/9) (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
<i>Memorize Psalm 90:12</i>		
<i>Memorize John 15:5</i>		
<i>Review all previous verses</i>		

**W  
E  
E  
K**

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

**1**

NKJ

**The Saints in Ministry**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

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

**2**

NKJ

**The Great Commission**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

**3**

NKJ

**Laboring as a Priest**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

**4**

NKJ

**Biblical Perspective on Time**

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

NKJ

**Assurance of Salvation**

**Ephesians 5:15,16**

**1/5**

**John 16:24**

**1/5**

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**5**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Answered Prayer**

**Matthew 4:19**

**1/6**

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

**1/6**

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**6**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Victory**

**Romans 10:9,10**

**1/7**

**1 John 1:9**

**1/7**

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**7**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**2 Timothy 1:7**

**1/8**

**Proverbs 3:5,6**

**1/8**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**8**

**NKJ**

**Boldness in Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Guidance**



# *EQUIPPING THE SAINTS*

## **INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM**

NOTES

### **The Command to Evangelize**

In Mark's Gospel Jesus says:

*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*

*Mark 16:15*

Jesus charges His disciples with the responsibility to see that every person hears the Good News of His saving love. This is a part of Jesus' plan for our lives. In John He goes on to tell us:

*Ye have not chosen me, but I have **chosen** you, and **ordained** you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain...*

*John 15:16 (KJV)*

### **Every Layman Called and Ordained**

We have been both **called** and **ordained** by Jesus to this task. Now evangelism may not be our primary spiritual gift, but every Christian is called and ordained to the task of evangelism. Many of us have convinced ourselves that we can't do evangelism, and we excuse ourselves from the task. Jesus not only gives the command to evangelize, but He also gives us the knowledge to be able to do it.

### **The Knowledge to Evangelize**

Jesus said:

*Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

*Matthew 4:19*

In this passage Jesus promises to make us fishers of men. He is going to teach us how to do evangelism so that we can win people to Christ. The secret of learning to do evangelism is following Jesus and doing what He commands. If you are not a fisher of men, I don't know whom you are following, but I would wonder if it is Jesus. When you find the two words "**I will**" and Jesus is speaking, this constitutes a promise.

The Son of God says, "I will make you **Fishers of Men.**"

The Lord does not want us to be obnoxious, but He does want us to be ever at the task of reaching the lost. Everyone we know without Christ is to be a candidate for the Gospel. However, we are to use tact and wisdom in speaking with people. If they don't respond, we are not to force the issue. We must back off and continue to pray and wait for the Spirit of God to work in their lives.

## Definition of Evangelism

Lorne Sanny, the Chairman of the Board of the Navigators, says:

Evangelism is taking a good look at Jesus Christ and then telling someone what you saw.

This is what John is saying in his first epistle.

*That which we have **seen** and **heard** we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

*1 John 1:3*

A witness is one who reports what has happened. This is what God expects us to do. David expresses this very well when he says:

*Let the redeemed of the Lord **say so**, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.*

*Psalms 107:2*

## Evangelism Is Helping a Person

- To recognize his need for Jesus Christ
- To understand **how to** receive Jesus into his life

Our job is to proclaim the Gospel in such a way that people understand their need for Him. In doing this we need to remember that the Gospel is Good News and not hell, fire and damnation. Our job is to proclaim the Word of God. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to bring conviction of sin. Some Christians try to trade jobs with the Holy Spirit. We are most effective when we proclaim the Word in such a way that the Holy Spirit is not hindered in His work. If we are faithful in this task, oftentimes our efforts will be rewarded with the privilege of assisting a person to receive Jesus Christ.

*He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.*

*Psalms 126:6*

In Ephesians 4:11, we are told that God has given us evangelists. These are specifically instructed to perfect the saints: to instruct, prepare and equip the saints to carry out the work of evangelism. Their job is not simply to do the work for us, but to train us in evangelism.

Not only has Jesus commanded us to evangelize and given us the knowledge, but He has also given us the power.

## The Power to Evangelize

Jesus said:

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

*Acts 1:8*

When the Holy Spirit comes into the life of a believer at conversion, He gives him power to witness to others about Christ. We need this power since there is a natural reluctance to talk with others about Jesus. Also, God wants us to have a world-wide witness. He wants to use us to carry the Gospel to the uttermost part of the earth. He not only intends for us to start in our Jerusalem (home town) but then to be used in our county, state and eventually to the ends of the earth. If we are to do all this, we will need the Holy Spirit's power. God's plan for us involves a life style of evangelism.

## Life Style of Evangelism

Paul was a good example of someone whose life style was one of evangelism. In Colossians 1:28 Paul says:

*So **naturally** we proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about Him, so that, if possible, we may bring **every man** up to his full maturity in Christ. **This** is what I am working at **all the time**, with all the **strength** that God gives me.*

*Colossians 1:28,29 (JBP)*

## Both an Act and a Process

Oftentimes we think of evangelism as an act, as if it were something we do for a given time and then it is over, like giving out tracts for an hour, or doing church visitation one night a week! In Matthew 13:4-23 Jesus likens evangelism to a farmer sowing seed in his field.

Planting is a process for farming.

NOTES

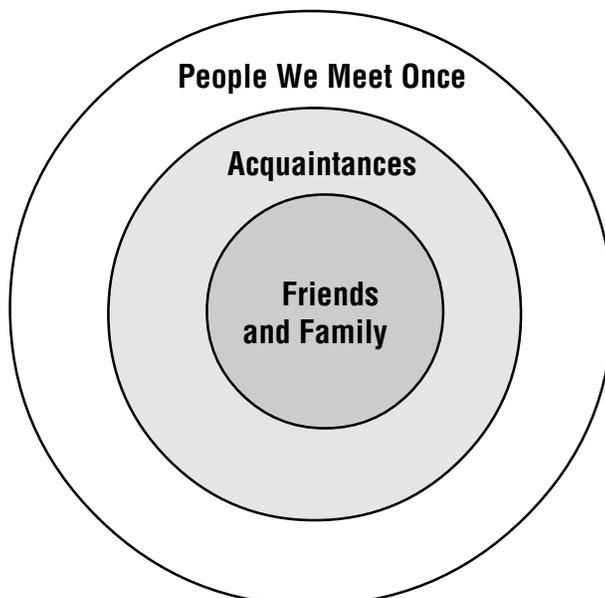
Farming	Evangelism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Select the field</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Find a person</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare the ground</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pray for the person</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sow the seed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Present the Gospel</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water and cultivate</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Friendship and help</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Harvest the seed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead person to Christ</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conserve the fruit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow-up</li></ul>

A good witness understands this process and learns to assess the situation and do what is needed to further the process. If we think that every witnessing situation is a harvesting situation, we will probably not be very effective.

## Relationships in Evangelism

In our lifetime we develop many types of relationships with people around us. Most of these relationships can be divided into three categories:

- People we meet once
- Regular acquaintances/friends
- Occasional acquaintances



God wants to use you in all of these relationships to win people to Christ. However, we are most responsible for people in the inner two categories. Listed here are some practical considerations for each of these relationships.

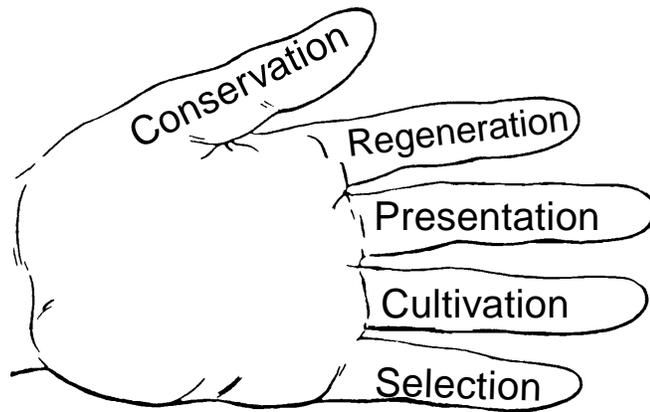
<b>Types of Relationships</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<p>People you meet only once in your life.</p> <p>(God often uses us to reap this kind of fruit if we are willing to be witnesses.)</p>	<p>We need to be constantly alert and prepared to present the Gospel briefly and concisely whenever we have an opening or opportunity.</p>
<p>Casual acquaintance you meet occasionally.</p> <p>(God has placed this person in your sphere of influence and wants to use you in the process of sharing the Gospel with him.)</p>	<p>Work at building the kind of relationship that allows conversation about spiritual issues. Ask God for wisdom as to where and how best to share the Gospel.</p>
<p>Colleagues and Friends you meet as a regular part of your daily sphere of influence. This includes family and relatives.</p> <p>(God will hold you most accountable for these.)</p>	<p>Be a living example of what you preach, as well as a dependable friend. Ask God for wisdom as to when and how to share the Gospel.</p>

*If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?*

*Proverbs 24:11,12 (KJV)*

## Evangelism Hand

To have good effective New Testament evangelism taking place in our own personal lives and ministries, at least five elements are of absolute importance. Let me illustrate this for you in the use of a hand on the following page.



## **Selection**

We need to have a list of people that we are talking to God about if we ever hope to talk to these people about God. This helps us realize that we are dependent on God to work in their lives if they are ever to trust in Christ for their salvation.

## **Cultivation**

As we pray for people we must also begin to cultivate a relationship with them. People are not normally willing to discuss such intimate relationships about spiritual matters with someone they barely know unless they are in a crisis situation. We must reach out to develop warm personal relationships that allow us to discuss every issue of life.

## **Presentation**

As we pray and cultivate relationships with lost people, situations will arise that will naturally open the door to share a personal experience such as a testimony and the Gospel. The Spirit of God will arrange these events so that we know that the time is right to walk through the door which God has opened and present the Gospel. You can use either the Bridge Presentation or John Study,

## **Regeneration**

This takes place when people understand the **FACT** of sin, the **PENALTY** of sin, that Christ has **PAID** for those sins, and that they must **RECEIVE** Christ. These are the basic tenets of the Gospel. When a person is ready to receive God's love and grace and turn from their sinful way, regeneration takes place and sinners are born again into the family of God.

## **Conservation**

Now that God has used us in this process of regeneration, He now wants to use us in helping this spiritual babe be established in a growing personal relationship to the Lord. If we don't teach them how to develop their relationship with God through the Word and Prayer they will end up practicing a religion and be lost, for any practical purpose, to the Kingdom of God. Their lives are nullified before they ever get started. The John Study and Convert Guide can aid you in this.



# *EQUIPPING THE SAINTS* **BIBLE STUDY: ASSURANCE OF VICTORY**

**Begin Memorizing 1 Corinthians 10:13**

VERSES Pg. 397

## **Meditation on 1 Corinthians 10:13**

What is true about every temptation you face? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who can give you victory when you are tempted? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who can keep temptation from leading to sin? \_\_\_\_\_

Does God remove temptation? \_\_\_\_\_

What does God do for you? \_\_\_\_\_

***“...temptation...common to man...”***

1. What is the purpose of trials and temptations according to James 1:2-4? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is a major source of temptation? James 1:13,14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What are three areas of temptation in the world? 1 John 2:15,16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. When the devil tempts you, what is he seeking to do? 1 Peter 5:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***“...God is faithful...”***

5. What does God do for you? 2 Thessalonians 3:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What does Hebrews 4:15 tell you about Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***“...a way to escape...”***

7. What are some of the things you can do to keep temptation from leading into sin?

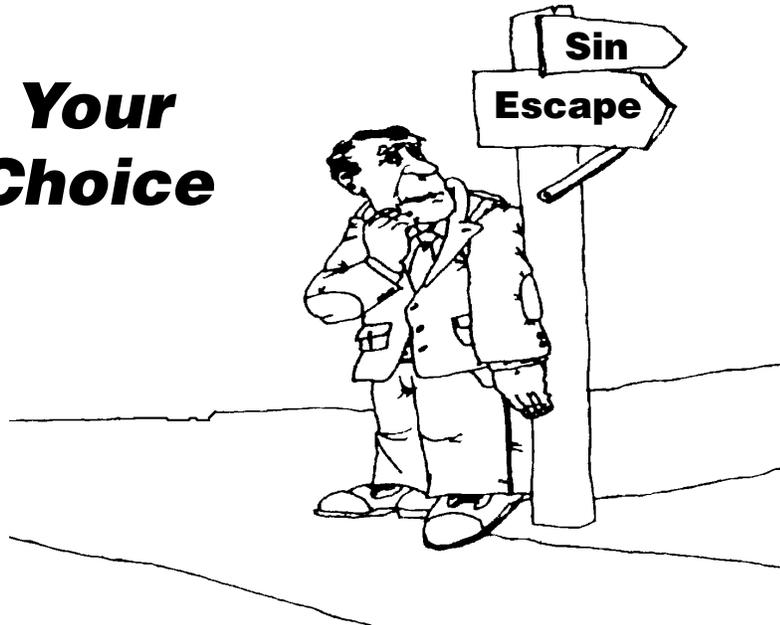
Matthew 6:9,13 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 119:9,11 \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 5:4,5 \_\_\_\_\_

James 4:7 \_\_\_\_\_

## **Your Choice**



Write out 1 Corinthians 10:13 from memory. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

### **Application of 1 Corinthians 10:13**

What is a temptation that frequently overcomes you? \_\_\_\_\_

---

What do you think God's way of escape is? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**W  
E  
E  
K**

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

**1**

NKJ

**The Saints in Ministry**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

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

**2**

NKJ

**The Great Commission**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

**3**

NKJ

**Laboring as a Priest**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

**4**

NKJ

**Biblical Perspective on Time**

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

NKJ

**Assurance of Salvation**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**5**

**Ephesians 5:15,16**

**1/5**

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**John 16:24**

**1/5**

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Answered Prayer**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**6**

**Matthew 4:19**

**1/6**

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

**1/6**

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Victory**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**7**

**Romans 10:9,10**

**1/7**

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**1 John 1:9**

**1/7**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**8**

**2 Timothy 1:7**

**1/8**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

**NKJ**

**Boldness in Evangelism**

**Proverbs 3:5,6**

**1/8**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Guidance**



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Personal & Spiritual Management Aid

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Passage \_\_\_\_\_



Quiet Time

### Observations

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Application

---

---

---



Basics

Area	✓	Description	Comments
Scripture Memory: Current			
Scripture Memory: Back			
Scripture Memory: New Verses			
Bible Reading			
Bible Study			
Prayer			
Witnessing			
Follow Up			
Exercise			



Time Management

Daily Schedule	Prior-ity	Do List	Errands & Projects
8			
8:30			
9			
9:30			
10			
10:30			
11			
12			
1			
1:30		Write	
2			
3			
4		Phone	
5			
6			
7		See	
8			

# Whatever Became of Evangelism?

Now it came to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen. And lo, there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes filled with fish. And the fish were hungry.

Week after week, month after month, and year after year, those who called themselves fishermen met in meetings and talked about their call to fish, the abundance of fish, and how they might go about fishing. Year after year they carefully defined what fishing means, defended fishing as an occupation, and declared that fishing is always to be a primary task of fishermen.

These fishermen built large, beautiful buildings for local fishing headquarters. The plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and every fisherman should fish. One thing they didn't do, however; they didn't fish.

In addition to meeting regularly, they organized a board to send out fishermen to other places where there were many fish. The board was formed by those who had the great vision and courage to speak about fishing, to define fishing, to promote the idea of fishing in far-away streams and lakes where many other fish of different colors lived. Also the board hired staffs and appointed committees and held many meetings to define fishing, to defend fishing, to decide what new streams should be thought about. But the staff and committee members did not fish.

Large, elaborate, and expensive training centers were built whose original and primary purpose was to teach fishermen how to fish. Over the years courses were offered on the needs of the fish, the nature of fish, how to define fish, the psychological reactions of fish, and how to approach and feed fish. Those who taught had doctorates in "fishology." But the teachers did not fish. They only taught fishing.

Further, the fishermen built large printing houses to publish fishing guides. Presses were kept busy day and night to produce materials solely devoted to fishing methods, equipment, and programs, to arrange and encourage meetings, to talk about fishing. A speakers' bureau was also provided to schedule special speakers on the subject of fishing.

After one stirring meeting on "The Necessity of Fishing," one young fellow left the meeting and went fishing. The next day he reported that he had caught two outstanding fish. He was honored for his excellent catch and scheduled to visit all the big meetings possible to tell how he did it. So he quit his fishing in order to have time to tell about the experience to the other fishermen. He was also placed on the Fisherman's General Board as a person having considerable experience.

Now it's true that many of the fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and bore the smell of dead fish. They received the ridicule of some who made fun of their fishermen's clubs and the fact that they claimed to be fishermen yet never fished. They wondered about those who felt it was of little use to attend and talk about fishing. After all, were they not following the Master who said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19).

Imagine how hurt some were when one day a person suggested that those who don't fish were not really fishermen, no matter how much they claimed to be. Yet it did sound correct. Is a person a fisherman if year after year he never catches a fish? Is one following if he isn't fishing?





# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Disciple Application Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area Evangelism  
 Topic The Bridge Presentation

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
<i>Review The Bridge Presentation (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<i>Complete Assurance of Forgiveness (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<i>Do 5 PSMA</i>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
Pray for two people to win to Christ		
Pray for one person to disciple		
<i>Memorize first half of Bridge presentation</i>		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
<i>Memorize Romans 10:9,10</i>		
<i>Memorize 1 John 1:9</i>		
<i>Review all previous verses</i>		



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Convert Application Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area Personal & Spiritual Management  
 Topic How to Organize My Time

Convert's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
<i>Review How to Organize My Time (1/5)</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<i>Complete Living by the Word (1/10) (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<i>Do 6 PSMA</i>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<i>Bible Reading Chart (BRC) (1/14)</i>		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
<i>Memorize Ephesians 5:15,16</i>		
<i>Memorize Acts 20:32</i>		
<i>Review all previous verses</i>		

**W  
E  
E  
K**

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

**1**

NKJ

**The Saints in Ministry**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

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

**2**

NKJ

**The Great Commission**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

**3**

NKJ

**Laboring as a Priest**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

**4**

NKJ

**Biblical Perspective on Time**

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

NKJ

**Assurance of Salvation**

**Ephesians 5:15,16**

**1/5**

**John 16:24**

**1/5**

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**5**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Answered Prayer**

**Matthew 4:19**

**1/6**

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

**1/6**

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**6**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Victory**

**Romans 10:9,10**

**1/7**

**1 John 1:9**

**1/7**

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**7**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**2 Timothy 1:7**

**1/8**

**Proverbs 3:5,6**

**1/8**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**8**

**NKJ**

**Boldness in Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Guidance**



## *EQUIPPING THE SAINTS*

# THE BRIDGE PRESENTATION

NOTES

### Introduction

The Great Commission will never be accomplished until every disciple is “fishing for men.” In this lesson we will be teaching you how to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to another person. The tool we use is called the **Bridge** illustration. We use the Socratic form of evangelism in which people are given basic information and then asked specific questions based on the information. This has proven to be a very effective method of presenting the Gospel for a number of reasons:

- It creates a deductive dialogue.
- To answer the questions people must **reason** from the information given.
- The answer establishes the premises from which we continue to reason.
- People tell you what you wanted to tell them.
- People discover the truth on their own rather than by your giving them the answers.
- You have immediate feedback on what people do and don't understand.
- The truth is visualized as you write the answer into the illustration.

You are asked to memorize the following sequence of questions. You need not memorize word for word as you would memorize a Bible verse. However, if you adjust the questions, make sure that the question extracts the answer you want. A sloppy question may extract the wrong answer and hinder rather than help you. Memorize the sequence of questions in bold print. The logical answers are printed in script. Both are printed together so you can see the flow of thought for the dialogue.

### Gospel Presentation

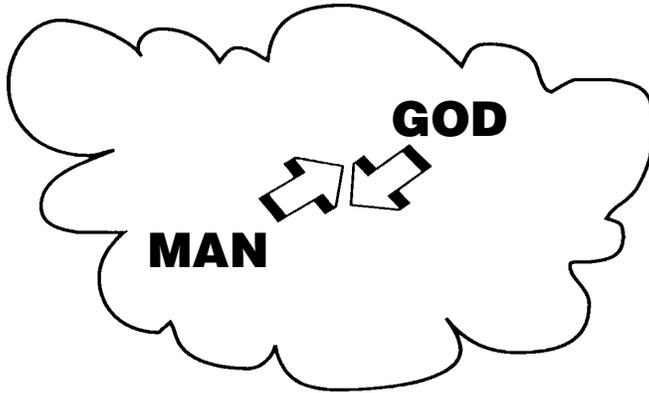
**A person must understand three things to become a Child of God or, in other words, a Christian. With your permission, I would like to show you from the Bible what these three things are.**

*Okay, if it doesn't take too long, I have a few minutes.*

NOTES

## **The First Thing**

The Bible records that God made Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden with clear instructions about the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. They lived in perfect harmony with God and had fellowship with Him.



One day however, something happened in the Garden that caused a barrier to be erected between them and their Creator so that they could no longer have fellowship with Him.

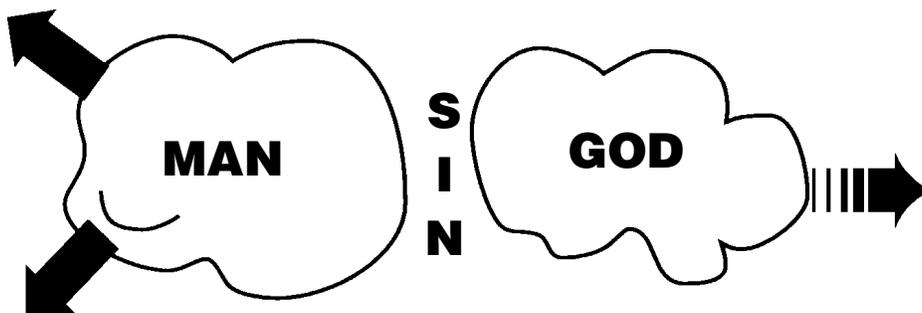
**Can you tell me what that was?**

*Was this when they ate the fruit and disobeyed God?*

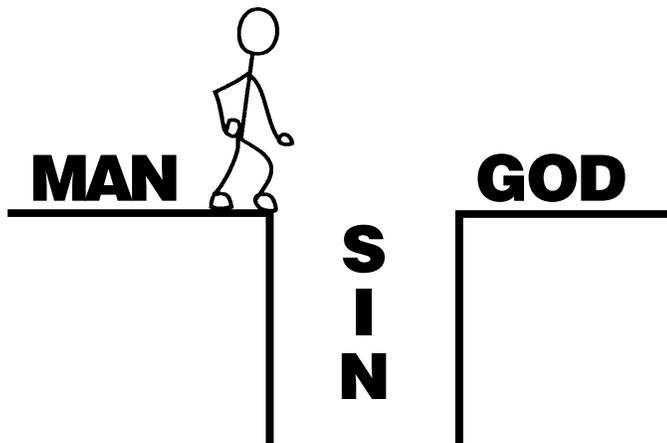
**Yes, Adam and Eve chose to listen to the serpent's reasoning rather than God's command. There is a special word the Bible uses for this disobedience. Do you know what the Bible calls it?**

*Was it sin?*

**That's right-it was sin.**



We could illustrate this another way; we could put man standing on one side of a cliff, God on the other side and SIN in between, separating them.



The Bible talks about this in Romans 3:23.

Would you please read this passage to me?

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

According to this passage, how many have sinned?

*It says “all.”*

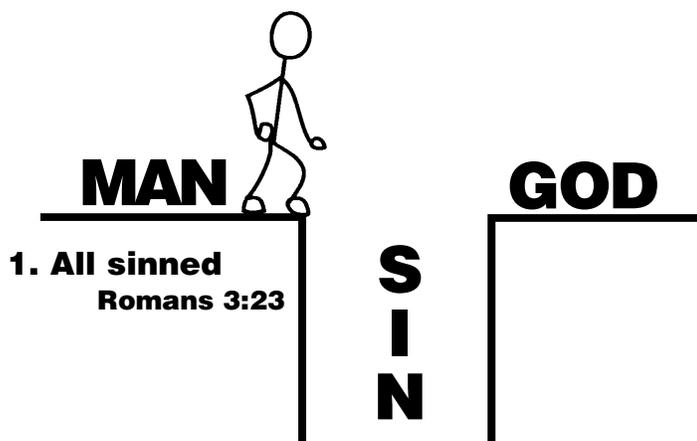
Does this mean I have sinned?

*It says “all,” so I guess that means you.*

Does it mean that you, too, have sinned?

*Yes, it means that I, too, have sinned.*

Now that’s the first thing a man must understand to become a Christian. Let’s write that down.



### The Second Thing

The second thing that a man must understand to become a Christian is found in Romans 6:23. Here the author draws a conclusion to this matter of sin.

Would you please read this passage to me?

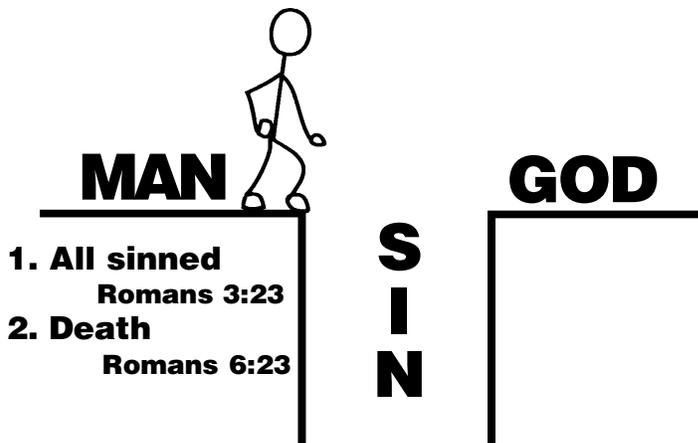
*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

**God does not expect us to labor and make this world a better place to live without paying us a wage. God fully intends to pay us a wage for all that we have ever done.**

**However, here God says that the wage for our sin is *what*?**

*It says “death.”*

**This is the second thing that a man must understand to become a Christian, so let’s write that down.**



**We could say many things about death. But if we reduce it to its simplest form, it is mere separation. Several years ago, my father-in-law died. Now he is in one place and I am in another; death has separated us. When Adam and his wife sinned, they died spiritually and were separated from God.**

### **The Third Thing**

**The third thing that a man must understand to become a Christian is found in Hebrews 9:27.**

Would you please read this verse to me?

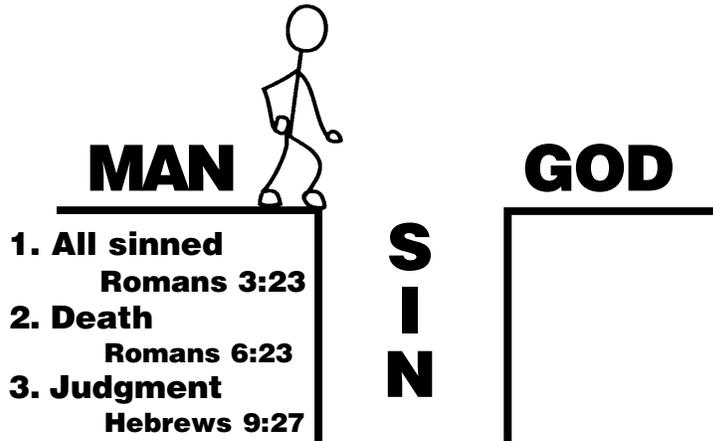
*“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”*

According to this verse, when a man dies he has an appointment with God, for what?

*Judgment.*

**Since that is the third thing that a man must understand to become a Christian, let’s write it down.**

NOTES



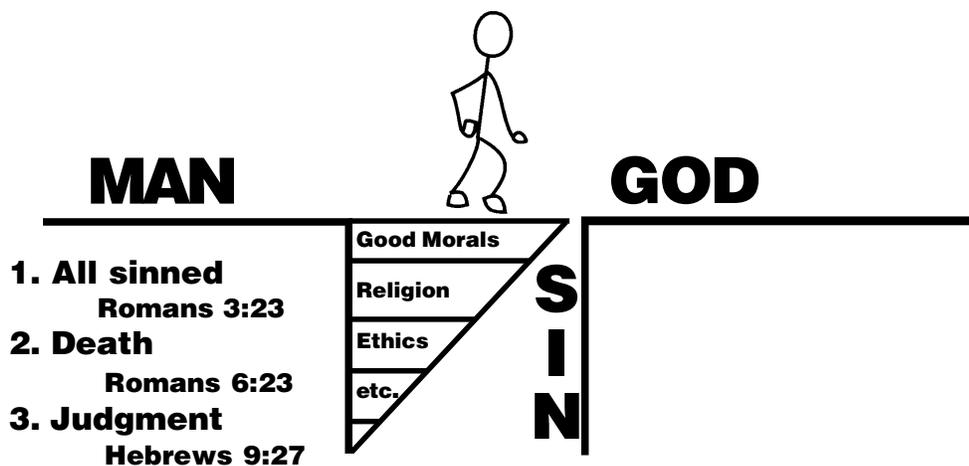
Now if it is true that all men have sinned, and that the penalty for sin is death and separation from God, and that the day is coming when man will be judged. This does not paint a very bright picture, does it?

*No, it certainly does not.*

Down through the ages, man has understood this and has tried to make his way back to God.

**What are some ways you think men try to make their way back to God?**

*By living a good moral life? Being religious? Helping his fellow man?*



You are right—this is how men try to make or work their way back to God. However, we learned in Romans 3:23 that all our efforts fall short of what God requires. In John 5:24, God reveals what is required. Here we learn three very interesting things that are relevant to what we have already learned.

I wonder if you would read this verse to me?

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me **has** everlasting life, and **shall** not come into judgment, but has **passed** from death into life.”

**Who’s speaking?**

*I guess it’s Jesus.*

**That’s right—Jesus says that if you will hear His Words...**

**Are these my words or Jesus’?**

Jesus’.

**And believe in Him who sent me...**

**Who sent Jesus?**

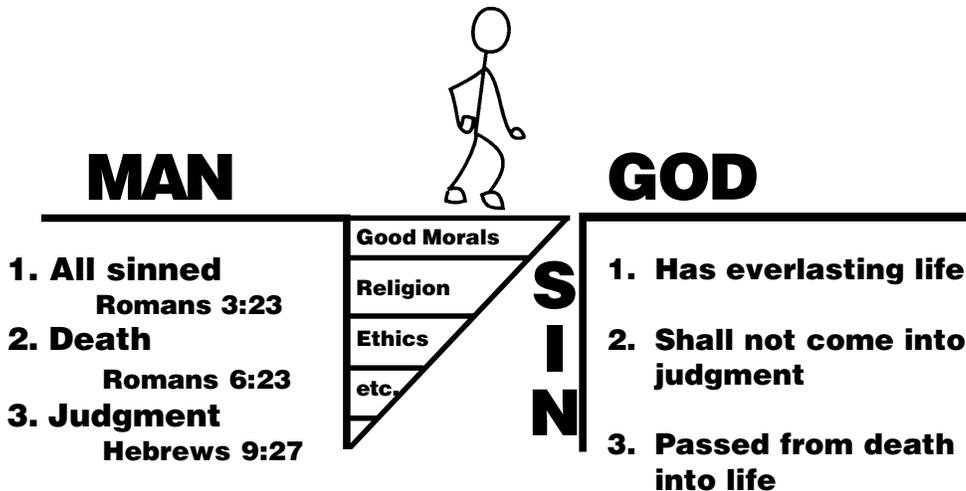
God.

**Three things would happen.**

**What are they?**

- *Has everlasting life*
- *Shall not face judgment*
- *Passed from death to life*

**So let’s write those down on the other side of the ravine.**



Notice the tenses of the verbs in each of the above phrases.

**In what tense is “has”—past, future, or present?**

*Present tense.*

**What does the present tense in this statement mean?**

*It means that right now, in the present, I can have eternal life.*

**That's right. Now in what tense is "shall not" - present, past or future?**

*Future tense.*

**So what does this phrase mean?**

*I will not be judged at some future date.*

**That's right. Now in what tense is "passed" - future, present or past?**

*Past tense.*

**And what does this phrase mean?**

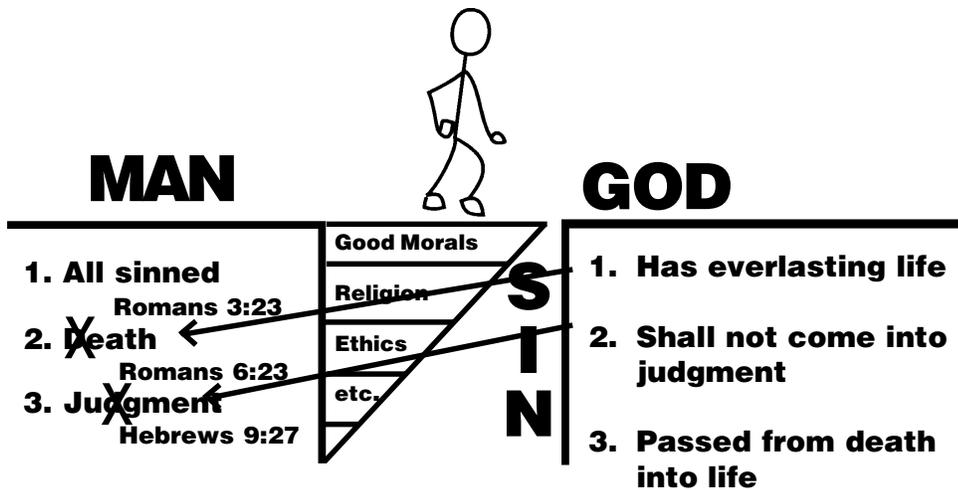
*I have already passed from death into life.*

**That's right. It is important that you understand this because if you now have everlasting life, what does that do to death?**

*It crosses out death.*

**If you shall not be judged, what does that do to judgment?**

*It cancels judgment.*



**When I hear God calling and believe, that means:**

- Intellectually I understand the facts of the Gospel;
- Emotionally I know and want to act on what I have heard;

- **Volitionally** I turn from man's side to God's side and place my faith in Jesus' finished work on the Cross for my sin.

NOTES

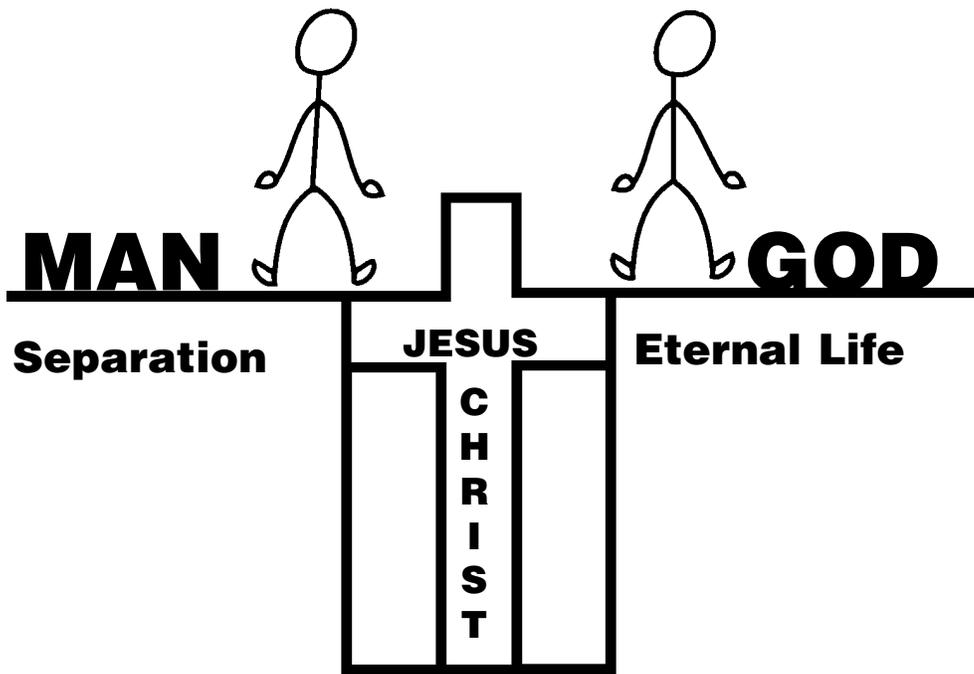
This allows me to pass over to God's side. The Bible says:

God is on one side and all the people on the other; Jesus, Himself man, is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind.

1 Timothy 2:5 (LB)

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures...

1 Corinthians 15:3,4



If you were to place yourself into this illustration, where would you draw yourself?

*I would place myself on man's side.*

Is that where you want to be?

No.

NOTES

**Where do you want to be?**

*Over on God's side.*

**Do you know how to get there?**

*I'm not sure.*

**Let's look at John 1:12.**

**Will you read this verse to me?**

*"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name."*

**What must a man do to become a Child of God?**

*He must receive "Him."*

**Must receive whom?**

*Jesus Christ.*

**Do you know how to receive Him?**

*I'm not sure.*

**Let's look at another verse in Revelation 3:20.**

**Will you read this to me?**

*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."*

**Who is speaking?**

*Jesus.*

**What is He doing?**

*He is knocking at the door.*

**What door?**

*The door to man's heart and life.*

**Why is He knocking?**

*Because He wants to come in.*

**The way to receive Christ is to open the door of your heart and life and let Him in. To get from man's side to God's side, all you must do when we pray is repent of your sins, and ask God to do three things:**

- **Forgive you for your sins.**
- **Come into your life and help you to become the kind of person He created you to be.**
- **Give you the gift of eternal life so that you might be with Him forever.**

**I am going to ask you to pray these three things loud enough so that when you have finished I can say a prayer to God for you. Let's pray.**



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## BIBLE STUDY:

# ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**Begin Memorizing 1 John 1:9**

VERSES Pg. 399

### **Meditation on 1 John 1:9**

What does God want to do about your sins? \_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean to confess? \_\_\_\_\_

In His act of forgiving us, how is God described? \_\_\_\_\_

What else does God do when you confess your sins? \_\_\_\_\_

*“If we confess our sins...”*

1. What should you recognize about yourself? 1 John 1:8,10 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What should be your attitude toward sin?

Psalm 139:23,24 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 38:18 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What should accompany your confession of sin? Proverbs 28:13 \_\_\_\_\_

*“He is faithful and just to forgive...and to cleanse...”*

4. How is God described in Psalm 86:5? \_\_\_\_\_

5. On what basis are you forgiven? Ephesians 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_

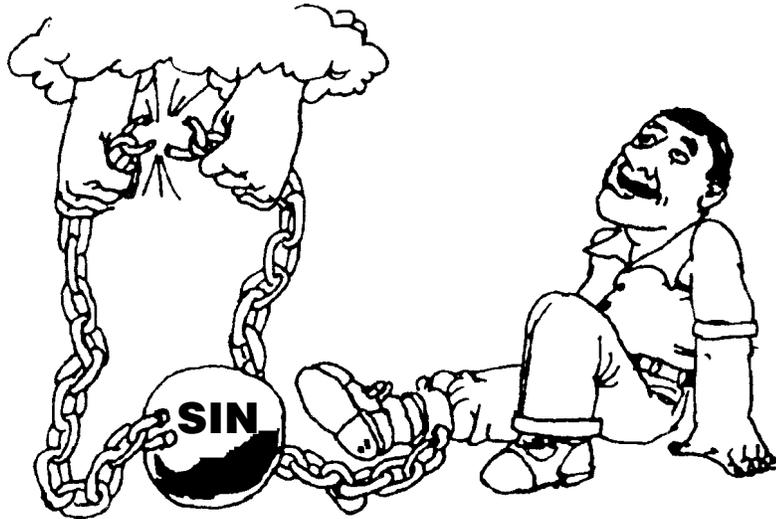
6. What does Hebrews 10:12 say about Christ’s sacrifice? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Why is it foolish for you to continue to feel guilty about confessed sin? Hebrews 10:17 \_\_\_\_\_

8. Since you have experienced God's forgiveness, what should be your attitude toward others?

Ephesians 4:32 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Write out 1 John 1:9 from memory. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Application of 1 John 1:9**

Can you think of any sin you have committed for which you have not asked forgiveness?

\_\_\_\_\_

If so, confess it to God and thank Him for His forgiveness. Has God forgiven you and forgotten about your sin? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**W  
E  
E  
K**

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

**1**

NKJ

**The Saints in Ministry**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

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

**2**

NKJ

**The Great Commission**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

**3**

NKJ

**Laboring as a Priest**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

**4**

NKJ

**Biblical Perspective on Time**

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

NKJ

**Assurance of Salvation**

**Ephesians 5:15,16**

**1/5**

**John 16:24**

**1/5**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**5**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Answered Prayer**

**Matthew 4:19**

**1/6**

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

**1/6**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**6**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Victory**

**Romans 10:9,10**

**1/7**

**1 John 1:9**

**1/7**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**7**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**2 Timothy 1:7**

**1/8**

**Proverbs 3:5,6**

**1/8**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

**8**

**NKJ**

**Boldness in Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Guidance**



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Personal & Spiritual Management Aid

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Passage \_\_\_\_\_



Quiet Time

### Observations

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Application

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Basics

Area	✓	Description	Comments
Scripture Memory: Current			
Scripture Memory: Back			
Scripture Memory: New Verses			
Bible Reading			
Bible Study			
Prayer			
Witnessing			
Follow Up			
Exercise			



Time Management

Daily Schedule	Prior-ity	Do List	Errands & Projects
8			
8:30			
9			
9:30			
10			
10:30			
11			
12			
1			
1:30		Write	
2			
3			
4		Phone	
5			
6			
7		See	
8			



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Disciple Application Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area Evangelism  
 Topic Opening and Controlling a Conversation

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
<i>Review Opening and Controlling a Conversation</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<i>Complete Assurance of Guidance (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<i>Do 5 PSMA</i>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
Pray for two people to win to Christ		
Pray for one person to disciple		
<i>Memorize second half of Bridge presentation</i>		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
<i>Memorize 2 Timothy 1:7</i>		
<i>Memorize Proverbs 3:5,6</i>		
<i>Review all previous verses</i>		



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Convert Application Guide

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area Evangelism  
 Topic Introduction to Evangelism

Convert's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
<i>Review Introduction to Evangelism (1/6)</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<i>Complete Living by the Spirit of God (1/11) (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<i>Do 6 PSMA</i>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<i>Bible Reading Chart</i>		
<i>Read Whatever Became of Evangelism? (1/6) (Be Ready to Discuss)</i>		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
<i>Pray for two people to win to Christ</i>		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
<i>Memorize Matthew 4:19</i>		
<i>Memorize Romans 8:14</i>		
<i>Review all previous verses</i>		



## EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

# OPENING AND CONTROLLING A CONVERSATION

NOTES

### Introduction

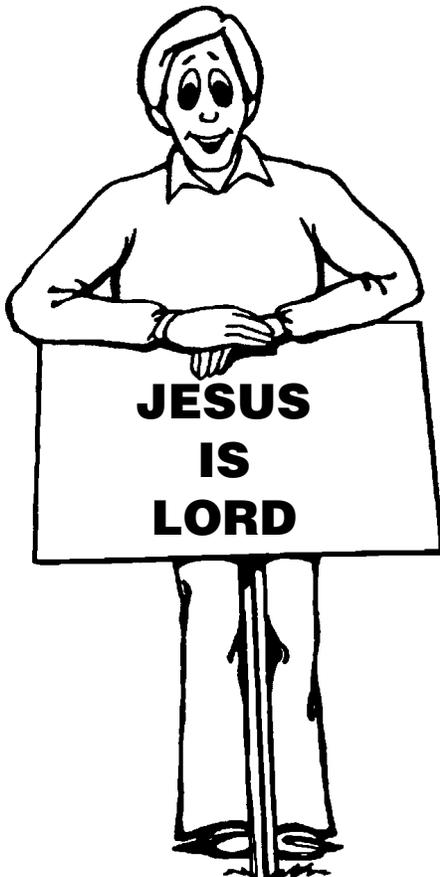
If Jesus Christ is first and preeminent in my life, it will be hard for me to tell you anything about myself without telling you about the **One** who is the center of my life.

A girl who is in love cannot talk at any length about herself without telling you about that special man who possesses her heart. How can we not share with others about Him who loves and died for us?

Paul had this type of bold unembarrassed freedom when he told others about Christ:

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

*Romans 1:16*



*According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*  
*Philippians 1:20,21*

This kind of freedom in proclaiming Christ is:

**TRUE BOLDNESS!**

If there is a natural fear of talking to people about Jesus Christ, we need to remember that fear doesn't come from God. The Bible tells us:

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

*2 Timothy 1:7*

So, if there is a fear rather than boldness, we need to understand where the fear comes from and deal with it. We learn from Acts 1:8 that God is empowering us to be witnesses. A part of the power is expressed in a boldness to be identified with Jesus and to share Him with others. It is wise to remember that we fear anything we don't know how to do. When we have learned how to do something, fear is often replaced by confidence and the joy that comes from obedience.

## Relationships with Non-Christians

Most people live behind a series of masks. Whatever the occasion or the company they are in, they put on an appropriate mask so they will be accepted in that situation. For example, a man in the military may put on his "military" mask when he is in camp, use coarse language and act tough to be accepted among his peers.

However, if the same man is in the company of the pastor or some religious people, he will guard his language and try to act in an acceptable way for that occasion. In other words, he puts on a religious mask.

If we as Christians can leave some word of witness with people we meet, they will soon learn that we are Christians and will probably put on a more "religious" mask when we are around. This is helpful for several reasons.

- It is easier to penetrate a religious mask because he, at least, is identifying with you in some areas.
- If the person knows you are a Christian, he will not embarrass himself by doing or saying something crude that he would never have done if he had known you were a Christian.
- When you take a stand for Christ, people will either seek you out or decide to stay out of your way. The ones who do seek after you are probably the ones being prepared by the Holy Spirit—these are the ones we want you to be available to help.



If your life is a constant witness for Jesus Christ, you will not become so likely enticed into adopting the non-Christian lifestyle as you would be if no one knew you were a Christian.

## Guiding a Conversation to Spiritual Things

Often we meet people and want to talk to them about Christ, but we just can't seem to turn the conversation to spiritual things. We end up talking about the weather, sports, current events, or gossip, but we would like to be talking about Christ. How can we turn a conversation to things of God? Let me suggest seven ways that have helped many:

### ① Ask Lots of Questions

When people get tired of answering questions, they will begin to ask you some. Also, asking questions to draw a person out indicates that you are interested in him as an individual.

### ② Volunteer Information

When you are asked a question, give more of an answer than you are expected to give. In this way you can turn the conversation to spiritual things.

#### Example:

Often when I travel and am meeting new people, I am asked what I do. I can answer by saying that I work for *Equipping The Saints*, a Christian training organization. This meets the requirement of an answer for the question. However, I could go on to say that my job is involved with training laymen in churches to share their faith in Jesus Christ. With this information it is easy for me to turn the conversation by saying, "Are you interested in spiritual things?"

If my work was with a secular company I could say, "By day I am a salesman (teacher, mechanic, housewife, secretary, or whatever). In my spare time, I am an ordained layman and work with my church at building the Kingdom of God. By the way, are you interested in spiritual things?"

Remember that Jesus said:

*Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

*John 15:16 (KJV)*

If you were an official of some secular group, you would have no problem or fear of sharing that with other people. We are ordained by God to be priests and should have no trouble sharing that either.

### ③ Invite People to Spiritual Activities

Every time there is a spiritual activity going on in the community, you have an opportunity to invite someone to attend. This automatically turns any conversation to spiritual things and gives you an opportunity to identify with Christ and try to share your faith. Even if the person you have invited can't attend the function you can still ask, "Are you interested in spiritual things?"

### ④ Tell People About Past Events

Every time you walk away from a spiritual experience, you take with you an opportunity to share your faith. When you meet a friend on Monday you can always say, "You know, we heard the *best* message yesterday in church." Then you can share briefly what impressed you about the message. At the end of your sharing you have an opportunity to say, "By the way, are you interested in spiritual things?"

Usually when one of your friends attends any activity, you are almost forced to listen to a blow by blow account of what happened. So, all we need to do is to exercise a little tact and wisdom and begin sharing ourselves.

### ⑤ Relate Testimony to People's Problems

So often when we interact with people, they share their problems. We can relate to about 80% of those problems through our own human experiences. We have faced similar events in our lives and can say to people, "You know, I faced a similar sort of thing in my life not so long ago and God really helped me with that." Then we can share with them how God helped us with a similar problem. This opens the door for us to ask, "Are you interested in spiritual things?"

### ⑥ Relate Current Events Back to Scripture

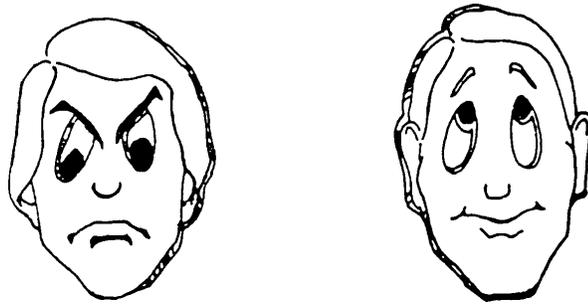
When we discuss world events with our Christian friends, we relate these events to what the Bible says. However, with non-Christians we say nothing. We need to capitalize on these opportunities and relate these events back to Scripture so we can ask people, "Are you interested in spiritual things?"

### ⑦ Develop an Approachable Attitude

Be a good listener.

Show interest in other people's activities, occupations, hobbies, problems, etc. Ask a thousand questions. You will be surprised at how much you can learn.

Be careful about body language and facial expressions when listening to people so that you express **NO CONDEMNATION** or shock over the things they share.



Don't place yourself on a pedestal where you always come out on top. Be as quick to share your failures as you are to share your successes. As people respond to your friendliness they will ask about your life and interest. As you share your life it will be natural to tell them about your involvement with Jesus Christ.

### **Questions to Take You to the Heart of the Gospel**

All through this lesson I have worked towards asking people, "Are you interested in spiritual things?" This is not without design. Many years ago I learned a series of questions which help turn a conversation to spiritual things. This set of questions does several very important things for you:

- Tells you if the Spirit of God is at work in this situation.
- Limits the conversation to **how** a person becomes a Christian.
- Takes you from the general to the specific in 30-90 seconds.
- Extracts everything people know about the subject.
- Creates the right setting so that the questions will be low-key and inoffensive.
- Permits you to proceed to the next question regardless of how the previous question was answered.
- Reveals to you that people don't know how to become a Christian when they answer you with what a Christian does.
- Allows you to agree with a wrong or shaky answer and relate their answers to what a Christian does.
- Allows you to refocus the questions when people give you an incorrect answer. You can reply, "Yes, but you're telling me what a Christian does. I am asking *how does a person becomes a Christian?*"

- Encourages people to ask the question, “So how does a person become a Christian?” This gives you the opening you need to say, “*With your permission I would like to show you three things a person must understand to become a Christian.*”

### Set 1

- **Are you interested in spiritual things?**
- **Have you ever considered becoming a *real* Christian?**
- **If someone were to ask you, “How does a person become a *real* Christian,” what would you tell him?\***

\*Make sure this question is indirect (i.e., in the third person).

### Negative Answer Examples:

**Are you interested in Spiritual things?**

*No, I am not. I am burnt out on the church.*

**Have you ever considered becoming a Christian?**

*No, I never saw much need for that in my life.*

**Suppose someone were to ask you, “How does a person become a Christian,” what would you tell them?**

*By going to church and reading the Bible.*

**You’re right—Christian people do go to church and read the Bible, but you’re telling me what a Christian does. What I am asking you is, “How does a person become a Christian?”**

*By believing in God. Living a good life.*

**Yes, Christians *do* believe in God and try to live a good life, but again, you’re telling me what a Christian does. That is not what I am asking you. My question is, “How does a person become a Christian?”**

*I guess I don’t know. How does a person become a Christian?*

**With your permission, I would like to show you three things a person must understand to become a Christian or a Child of God.**

**Positive Answer Examples:**

**Are you interested in spiritual things?**

*Yes, I am. I go to church every week.*

**Have you ever considered becoming a *real* Christian?**

*Well, I think I am a real Christian.*

**Great! If someone were to ask you how does a person become a *real* Christian what would you tell them?**

*By going to church. Living a good life.*

**Yes, Christians do go to church and live good lives, but you're telling me what a Christian does. That is not what I am asking you. My question is, "*How does a person become a Christian?*"**

*Well, I am not sure if those things don't make you a Christian.*

**With your permission, I would like to show you three things the Bible says a person must understand if they want to become a Child of God. Would you allow me to do that?**

*Yes, I would be interested in what the Bible says.*

(Then you start with the Bridge)

**Set 2**

This set is a good one, but you must know that the person at least recognizes some Higher Power. If a person doesn't believe in a Supreme Being, you will never get to the second question. I don't use this set if I think the person doesn't recognize a Higher Power. This is a good set to use with people who are religious, but not Christians.

**Do you believe there is a God or a Supreme Being?**

*Yes, I do.*

**Do you believe that one day man will have to give account for his actions?**

*Yes, I think that we may have to.*

**If today were that day, would you be ready to give account for yourself?**

*I am not sure.*

**Do you know what the Bible says a man must do to be ready for that day?**

*I am not so sure I have considered what the Bible has to say, though I have my own opinion.*

**With your permission, I would like to show you three things a person must do to gain entrance to Heaven. Would you allow me to do that?**

*Okay, I would be interested in those three things.*

(Go right into the Bridge)

### **Set 3**

This question tells you what people are trusting in for their salvation. I don't use this question very often. I mostly use it when I want to be very direct.

**If you were to arrive at Heaven's Gate and God were to ask you, "Why should I let you enter My Heaven?"—how would you answer Him?**

*I think you should let me in because I tried to do the best I could with what I had. I know I haven't been perfect, but I never did anything really bad.*

**Do you know what the Bible says a man must do to gain entrance to Heaven?**

*I'm not sure I know what the Bible says.*

**With your permission, I would like to show you three things the Bible says a man must do to gain entrance into Heaven.**

*Okay, I am willing.*

(Go to Bridge presentation)

## **Questions For A Visitation Ministry**

When I do church visitation I use the same questions, but with a slight modification, to turn the conversation to spiritual things. By incorporating the **FORM** Outline developed by *Evangelism Explosion*, the same questions become very effective for use in a visitation format.

**F**amily

**O**ccupation

**R**eligious

**M**essage

Background

In using the **FORM** Outline, we go from talking about **F**amily, to **O**ccupation, to **R**eligious Background. If the people we are visiting cannot give us a satisfactory answer on how a person becomes a Christian, our **M**essage would then be to present the Gospel.

**EXAMPLE:**

**From your religious background and training, what is your understanding of how a person becomes a Christian?**

*By going to church and living a good life.*

**Yes, Christians do go to church and try to live a good life, but you're telling me what a Christian does. What I am asking is, "How does a person become a Christian?"**

*I am not sure. How does a person become a Christian?*

**With your permission, I would like to show you from the Bible three things a person must understand to become a Christian.**

*Okay, what are they?*

(Go right to the Bridge presentation)

You will notice that we have bypassed questions one and two in the first set of questions and have modified question three. **From your own religious background and training**, what is your understanding of how a person becomes a Christian?

## **Conclusion**

If Jesus is Lord of all, we must be identified with Him twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.



*EQUIPPING THE SAINTS*  
**BIBLE STUDY:  
ASSURANCE OF GUIDANCE**

**Begin Memorizing Proverbs 3:5,6**

VERSES Pg. 400

**Meditation on Proverbs 3:5,6**

What three things are you told to do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When these conditions are met, what are you promised? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*“Trust in the Lord...”*

1. What can you trust God to do for you? Psalm 32:8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What steps should be taken in order to experience God’s will? Romans 12:1,2.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How is God’s will described? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. To whom does God promise special blessing? Jeremiah 17:7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*“...lean not on your own understanding...”*

4. What warning does God give in Jeremiah 17:5? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why shouldn’t you limit yourself to human understanding? Isaiah 55:8,9

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What principle did Jesus follow in making decisions? John 6:38

---

---

***“...He shall direct your paths.”***

7. What means has God provided for determining His will? \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 119:105 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 2:12 \_\_\_\_\_

8. What should you do about situations you don't understand? James 1:5

---

9. What precedes the fulfillment of God's promises? Hebrews 10:36

---

Write out Proverbs 3:5,6 from memory. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

### **Application of Proverbs 3:5,6**

Describe a situation in your life in which you are seeking God's guidance.

---

---

---

---

What are you doing as you trust God in this situation?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W  
E  
E  
K**

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

**1**

NKJ

**The Saints in Ministry**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

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

**2**

NKJ

**The Great Commission**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

**3**

NKJ

**Laboring as a Priest**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

**4**

NKJ

**Biblical Perspective on Time**

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

NKJ

**Assurance of Salvation**

**Ephesians 5:15,16**

**1/5**

**John 16:24**

**1/5**

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**5**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Answered Prayer**

**Matthew 4:19**

**1/6**

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

**1/6**

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**6**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Victory**

**Romans 10:9,10**

**1/7**

**1 John 1:9**

**1/7**

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**7**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**2 Timothy 1:7**

**1/8**

**Proverbs 3:5,6**

**1/8**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**8**

**NKJ**

**Boldness in Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Guidance**



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Personal & Spiritual Management Aid

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Passage \_\_\_\_\_



Quiet Time

### Observations

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Application

---

---

---



Basics

Area	✓	Description	Comments
Scripture Memory: Current			
Scripture Memory: Back			
Scripture Memory: New Verses			
Bible Reading			
Bible Study			
Prayer			
Witnessing			
Follow Up			
Exercise			



Time Management

Daily Schedule	Prior-ity	Do List	Errands & Projects
8			
8:30			
9			
9:30			
10			
10:30			
11			
12			
1			
1:30		Write	
2			
3			
4		Phone	
5			
6			
7		See	
8			



## *EQUIPPING THE SAINTS*

# THE BRIDGE PRESENTATION

NOTES

### Introduction

The Great Commission will never be accomplished until every disciple is “fishing for men.” In this lesson we will be teaching you how to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to another person. The tool we use is called the **Bridge** illustration. We use the Socratic form of evangelism in which people are given basic information and then asked specific questions based on the information. This has proven to be a very effective method of presenting the Gospel for a number of reasons:

- It creates a deductive dialogue.
- To answer the questions people must **reason** from the information given.
- The answer establishes the premises from which we continue to reason.
- People tell you what you wanted to tell them.
- People discover the truth on their own rather than by your giving them the answers.
- You have immediate feedback on what people do and don't understand.
- The truth is visualized as you write the answer into the illustration.

You are asked to memorize the following sequence of questions. You need not memorize word for word as you would memorize a Bible verse. However, if you adjust the questions, make sure that the question extracts the answer you want. A sloppy question may extract the wrong answer and hinder rather than help you. Memorize the sequence of questions in bold print. The logical answers are printed in script. Both are printed together so you can see the flow of thought for the dialogue.

### Gospel Presentation

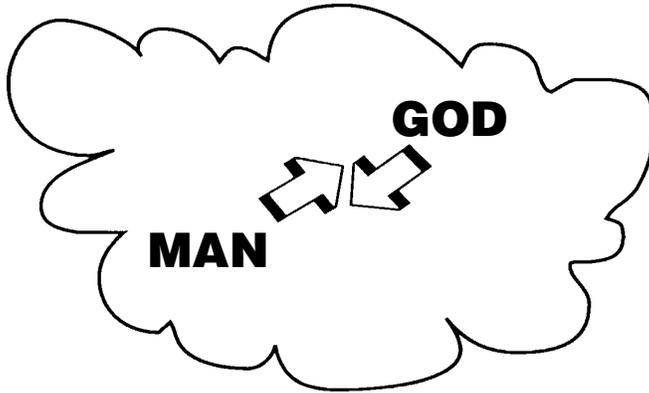
**A person must understand three things to become a Child of God or, in other words, a Christian. With your permission, I would like to show you from the Bible what these three things are.**

*Okay, if it doesn't take too long, I have a few minutes.*

NOTES

## **The First Thing**

The Bible records that God made Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden with clear instructions about the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. They lived in perfect harmony with God and had fellowship with Him.



One day however, something happened in the Garden that caused a barrier to be erected between them and their Creator so that they could no longer have fellowship with Him.

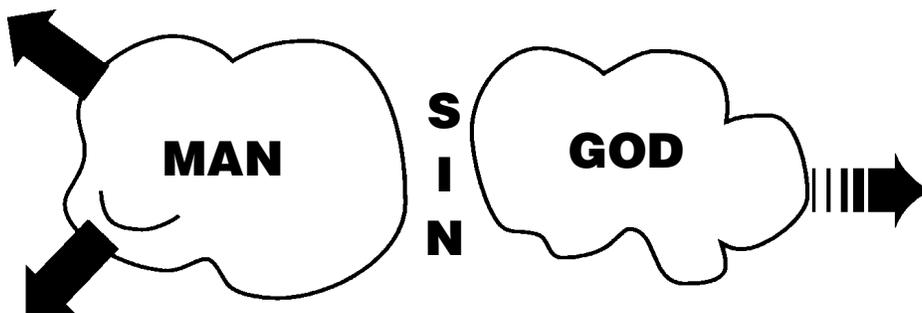
Can you tell me what that was?

*Was this when they ate the fruit and disobeyed God?*

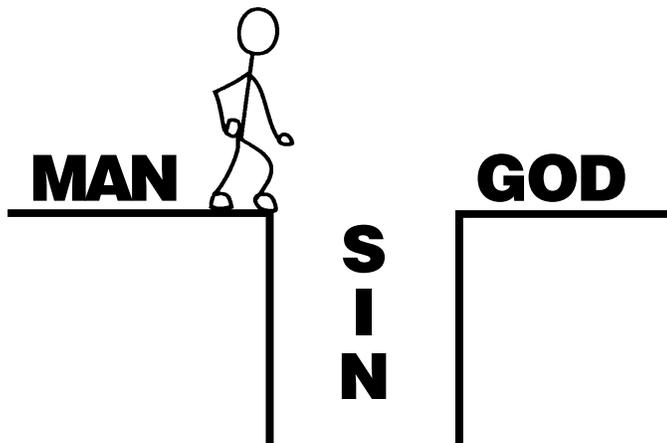
Yes, Adam and Eve chose to listen to the serpent's reasoning rather than God's command. There is a special word the Bible uses for this disobedience. Do you know what the Bible calls it?

*Was it sin?*

That's right-it was sin.



We could illustrate this another way; we could put man standing on one side of a cliff, God on the other side and SIN in between, separating them.



The Bible talks about this in Romans 3:23.

Would you please read this passage to me?

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

According to this passage, how many have sinned?

*It says “all.”*

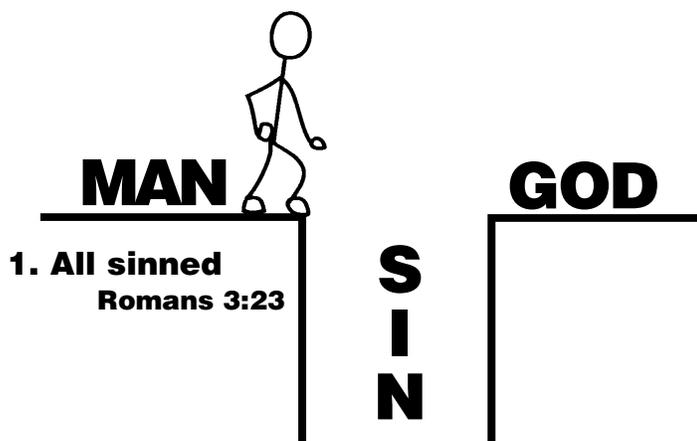
Does this mean I have sinned?

*It says “all,” so I guess that means you.*

Does it mean that you, too, have sinned?

*Yes, it means that I, too, have sinned.*

Now that’s the first thing a man must understand to become a Christian. Let’s write that down.



### The Second Thing

The second thing that a man must understand to become a Christian is found in Romans 6:23. Here the author draws a conclusion to this matter of sin.

Would you please read this passage to me?

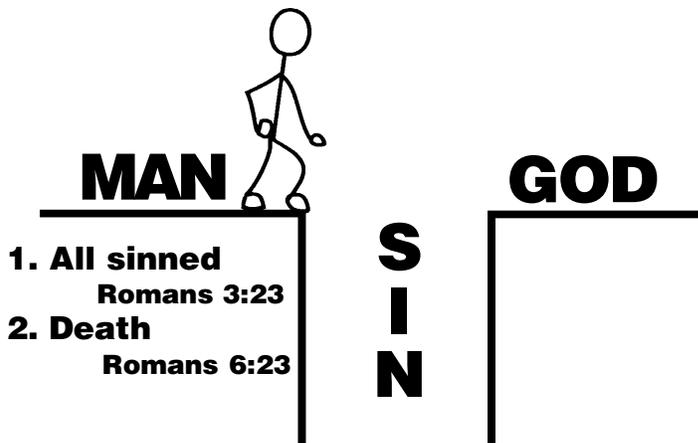
*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

**God does not expect us to labor and make this world a better place to live without paying us a wage. God fully intends to pay us a wage for all that we have ever done.**

**However, here God says that the wage for our sin is *what*?**

*It says “death.”*

**This is the second thing that a man must understand to become a Christian, so let’s write that down.**



**We could say many things about death. But if we reduce it to its simplest form, it is mere separation. Several years ago, my father-in-law died. Now he is in one place and I am in another; death has separated us. When Adam and his wife sinned, they died spiritually and were separated from God.**

### **The Third Thing**

**The third thing that a man must understand to become a Christian is found in Hebrews 9:27.**

Would you please read this verse to me?

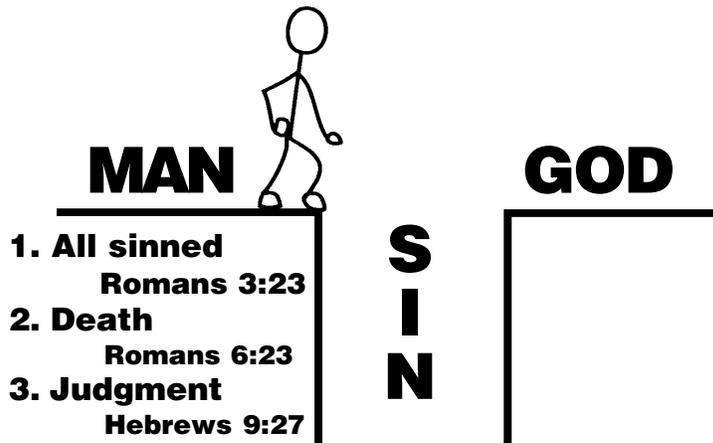
*“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”*

According to this verse, when a man dies he has an appointment with God, for what?

*Judgment.*

**Since that is the third thing that a man must understand to become a Christian, let’s write it down.**

NOTES



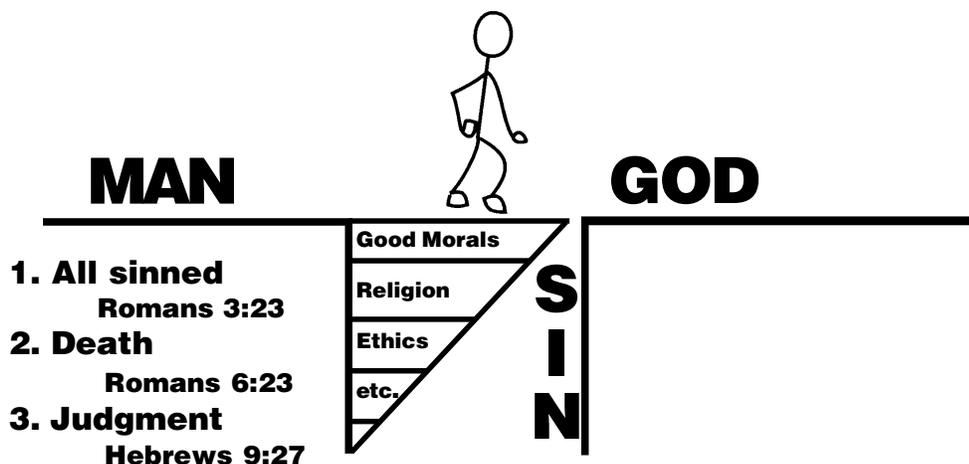
Now if it is true that all men have sinned, and that the penalty for sin is death and separation from God, and that the day is coming when man will be judged. This does not paint a very bright picture, does it?

*No, it certainly does not.*

Down through the ages, man has understood this and has tried to make his way back to God.

**What are some ways *you* think men try to make their way back to God?**

*By living a good moral life? Being religious? Helping his fellow man?*



You are right—this is how men try to make or work their way back to God. However, we learned in Romans 3:23 that all our efforts fall short of what God requires. In John 5:24, God reveals what is required. Here we learn three very interesting things that are relevant to what we have already learned.

I wonder if you would read this verse to me?

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me **has** everlasting life, and **shall** not come into judgment, but has **passed** from death into life.”

**Who’s speaking?**

*I guess it’s Jesus.*

**That’s right—Jesus says that if you will hear His Words...**

**Are these my words or Jesus’?**

Jesus’.

**And believe in Him who sent me...**

**Who sent Jesus?**

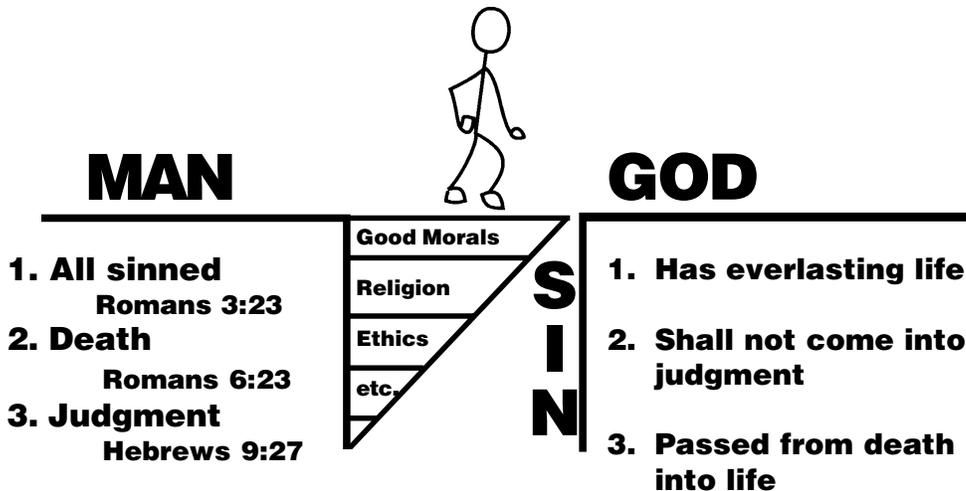
God.

**Three things would happen.**

**What are they?**

- *Has everlasting life*
- *Shall not face judgment*
- *Passed from death to life*

**So let’s write those down on the other side of the ravine.**



Notice the tenses of the verbs in each of the above phrases.

**In what tense is “has”—past, future, or present?**

*Present tense.*

**What does the present tense in this statement mean?**

*It means that right now, in the present, I can have eternal life.*

**That's right. Now in what tense is "shall not" - present, past or future?**

*Future tense.*

**So what does this phrase mean?**

*I will not be judged at some future date.*

**That's right. Now in what tense is "passed" - future, present or past?**

*Past tense.*

**And what does this phrase mean?**

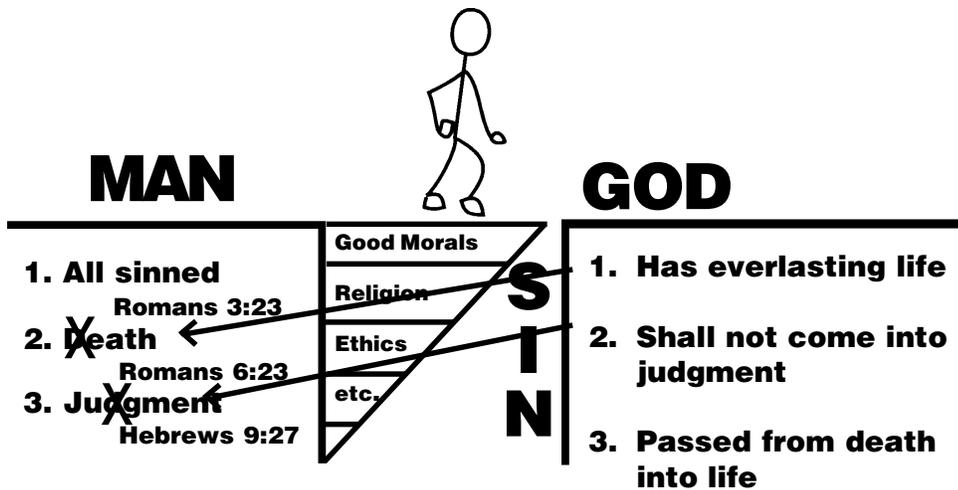
*I have already passed from death into life.*

**That's right. It is important that you understand this because if you now have everlasting life, what does that do to death?**

*It crosses out death.*

**If you shall not be judged, what does that do to judgment?**

*It cancels judgment.*



**When I hear God calling and believe, that means:**

- Intellectually I understand the facts of the Gospel;
- Emotionally I know and want to act on what I have heard;

- **Volitionally** I turn from man's side to God's side and place my faith in Jesus' finished work on the Cross for my sin.

NOTES

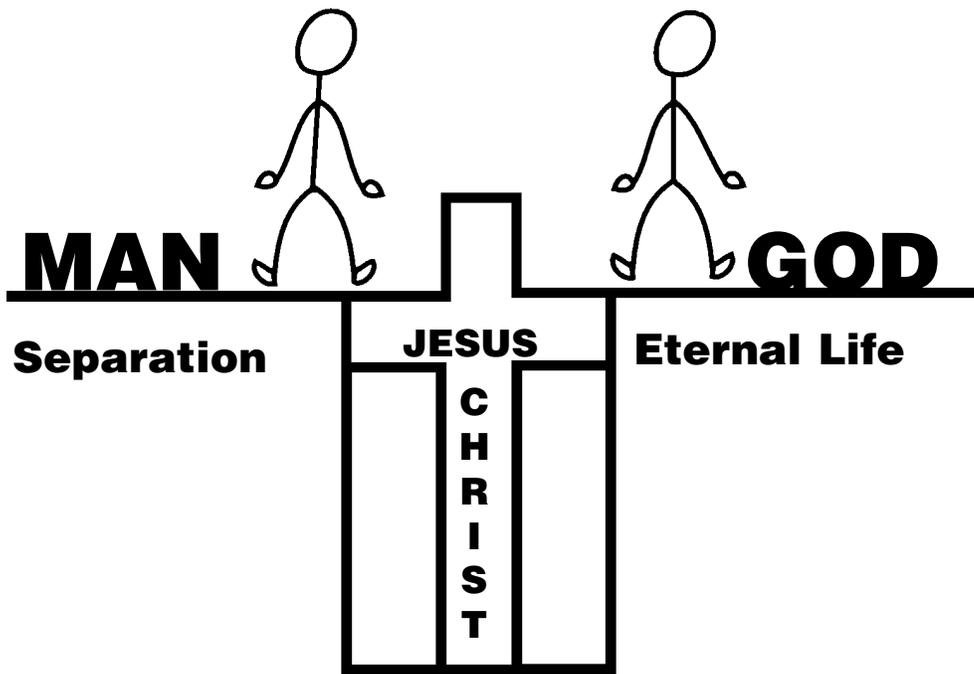
This allows me to pass over to God's side. The Bible says:

God is on one side and all the people on the other; Jesus, Himself man, is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind.

1 Timothy 2:5 (LB)

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures...

1 Corinthians 15:3,4



If you were to place yourself into this illustration, where would you draw yourself?

*I would place myself on man's side.*

Is that where you want to be?

No.

NOTES

**Where do you want to be?**

*Over on God's side.*

**Do you know how to get there?**

*I'm not sure.*

**Let's look at John 1:12.**

**Will you read this verse to me?**

*"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name."*

**What must a man do to become a Child of God?**

*He must receive "Him."*

**Must receive whom?**

*Jesus Christ.*

**Do you know how to receive Him?**

*I'm not sure.*

**Let's look at another verse in Revelation 3:20.**

**Will you read this to me?**

*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."*

**Who is speaking?**

*Jesus.*

**What is He doing?**

*He is knocking at the door.*

**What door?**

*The door to man's heart and life.*

**Why is He knocking?**

*Because He wants to come in.*

**The way to receive Christ is to open the door of your heart and life and let Him in. To get from man's side to God's side, all you must do when we pray is repent of your sins, and ask God to do three things:**

- **Forgive you for your sins.**
- **Come into your life and help you to become the kind of person He created you to be.**
- **Give you the gift of eternal life so that you might be with Him forever.**

**I am going to ask you to pray these three things loud enough so that when you have finished I can say a prayer to God for you. Let's pray.**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

**1**

NKJ

**The Saints in Ministry**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

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

**2**

NKJ

**The Great Commission**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

**3**

NKJ

**Laboring as a Priest**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

**4**

NKJ

**Biblical Perspective on Time**

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

NKJ

**Assurance of Salvation**

**Ephesians 5:15,16**

**1/5**

**John 16:24**

**1/5**

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**5**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Answered Prayer**

**Matthew 4:19**

**1/6**

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

**1/6**

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**6**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Victory**

**Romans 10:9,10**

**1/7**

**1 John 1:9**

**1/7**

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**7**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**2 Timothy 1:7**

**1/8**

**Proverbs 3:5,6**

**1/8**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**8**

**NKJ**

**Boldness in Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Guidance**