



GROWING SPIRITUALLY

**Seven Growth
Lessons For Believers**

LESSON #1

WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR ME?

Memory Verse: Romans 10:13

I. What was I before God saved me?

1. How many folks in the world are righteous?

(Romans 3:10) _____

2. What does the Bible say about ALL MEN?

(Romans 3:23) _____

Does this INCLUDE you? _____

Sin is merely falling short of God's standard—or violating God's law—or refusing to do what God desires you to do.

3. What is the penalty for sin? (Romans 6:23) _____
_____ (The word "death" here means "destruction"
and is explained in Revelation 20:11-15.)

4. How many sins must a man commit to be condemned to Hell?

(James 2:10) _____

5. Were you on your way to Hell?

Are you now going to Heaven or Hell? _____

How do you know? _____

6. What did Jesus come to do? (Luke 19:10) _____

II. What God did to bring me salvation!

What is God's desire for those who are perishing?

(II Peter 3:9) _____

What, then, should the perishing do? _____

2. What did God do so that a man need not perish?

(John 3:16) _____

3. What did Jesus do for us when He came to earth?

(Romans 5:6, 8) _____

4. Did Christ ever commit sin here on earth? (I Peter 2:22) _____

You see, since Jesus (God's son) was perfect, He was not punished for His sin, but became the substitute for your sin. At the cross your sin was placed on Him (see Isaiah 53:6).

5. What, then, is the only way a man (or woman) can be saved?

(Ephesians 2:8-9) _____

6. In Whom should we place our faith?

(John 3:16) _____

III. How has my situation changed?

1. Can you know that you are on your way to Heaven? (John 5:13) _____

How? _____

2. Are you under the condemnation of God anymore? (Romans 8:1) _____

3. What is your status with God? (Romans 5:1) _____

4. Having received Christ as your Savior, to Whom do you now belong? (I Corinthians 6:19-20) _____

5. For Whom should you live? (II Corinthians 5:15) _____

Are you willing to live for Jesus? _____

If you are willing to live for the Lord, sign Here: _____

LESSON #2

WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT FROM ME?

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:33

God's Word, the Bible, is God's message to us today. All we need to know about God, the future, salvation, Heaven, Hell, the Christian life, etc, is in the Bible. God desired--requires--one thing of us: **OBEDIENCE**. God expects us to obey His Word (James 1:22). After all that Jesus has done for you, you should be grateful and love Him. Your gratitude and love is proven by your obedience to God's Word (John 14:21, 24).

In this lesson, we want to make a brief study of obedience in the Bible.

1. In Genesis 22:18, what was the basis for Abraham receiving God's blessing? _____

2. What did God promise in return for obedience? (Deuteronomy 11:27)

3. In Deuteronomy 27:10, what is God's command to His people? _____

4. What has God promised to those who don't obey Him? (Jeremiah 12:17) _____

5. What is God's promise to those who obey the Lord and walk in His commandments? (Jeremiah 7:23). _____

6. Does God lightly dismiss those who do not obey His work? (II Thesalonians 1:8) _____

As a Christian washed by the blood of Christ, to Whom do we owe obedience? (Acts 5:29) _____

What is the outcome of obedience according to John 15:10, 11? _____

The little phrase “*that your joy might be full*” (John 15:11) means “that you might have a full, satisfying life.” He has planned a life for you that will give you all you need in life. God’s plan for your life is perfect because He know the future. However, the only way you will receive God’s satisfying life--is to follow God’s perfect program--and that means **OBEYING** God’s Holy Word.

As you study the remaining lessons, remember this: The way of **true** happiness and blessing is **always** the way of obedience to God.

LESSON #3

WHAT KIND OF A CHURCH SHOULD I ATTEND?

Memory Verse: Hebrews 10:25

A newborn child is taken into its home and there finds love, companionship, and the right kind of food. The home is the place of training growth. Even so, my friend, when you received Christ you became a part of God's family (John 1:12). If, as a newborn member of the family, you are to grow and be fed and find companionship, you must find a spiritual "home" (church) necessary. No baby can survive without proper physical care--nor can a young Christian become strong without proper spiritual care. God wants you in a spiritual home, a local church that will feed you the right food and help you to grow.

QUESTION: How do you know which is the right spiritual home? The following lesson will teach you Scriptural principles to use in deciding.

In Matthew 16:18, what did Jesus say He would do? _____

NOTE: The word "*church*" in the New Testament means "an assembly of born again believers." It is not a building (although churches meet in buildings.) It is not a denomination (although some are designated by a denominational name), nor is it a religion. A New Testament Church is merely an assembly of believers who have organized to worship, learn, and do God's work. This assembly is a local, visible assembly of baptized believers. Indeed, of the 117 appearances of the word "church" in the Bible, at least 112 refer to a local church--not a denomination, not a religious political structure, not an invisible, mystical body--but a **LOCAL CHURCH**.

What is the church called in I Timothy 3:15? _____

("Pillar" speaks of support. "Ground" is foundation. The church (local) then is that which God has ordained to be the foundation and support of the Truth (the Word of God) in the world.)

As a Christian, you must obey God and attend a local New Testament Church.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH SUPPOSED TO DO?

1. What should a minister, or pastor do according to Titus 2:15?

- (1.) _____
- (2.) _____
- (3.) _____

2. What is the special milk that God has prepared for your growth?

(I Peter 2:2) _____

3. After a Christian matures and outgrows milk, He receives spiritual _____. (I Corinthians 3:1-2)

4. Acts 8:3-4 and Acts 11:19-21 teach us another purpose of the church.

It is _____

5. What is the Body of Christ? (Ephesians 1:22, 23) _____

6. What are three important reasons for the ministry of a local church?

(Ephesians 4:12) _____

NOTE: “Perfecting” means maturing, growing up; “edifying” means to build up, strengthen.

Look around. Limestone buildings, little frame building, full buildings empty buildings, new churches, old churches, one-service-a-week churches, every-night-of-the-week churches--but which church is for you according to the Bible? Is there a way to evaluate and choose?

What is the basis for evaluating any organization that claims to be of God? (Isaiah 8:20). _____

A church that does not stand on the Word of God—and preach the Word of God is **NOT OF GOD**. This is Satan’s counterfeit to keep you from hearing and learning the Word of God and getting God’s blessings.

Many people today are deceived in this way.

Does the Bible say that churches will depart from the Faith (the true Gospel)?

(I Timothy 4:1-3) _____

There are some churches who put up a good front, a good ritual. What does the Bible say about these churches? (II Timothy 3:5) _____

What ought a Christian do in regard to other Christians who are not following God's Word? (II Thessalonians 3:6 and 3:14) _____

What should the Pastor of the church preach? (II Timothy 4:2)

NOTE: Here are a few quick questions to consider when looking for a church-

(A) Does it teach the Bible--or its own creeds, catechisms, traditions, or doctrines? **IT SHOULD TEACH THE BIBLE ONLY!**

(B) Does it concern itself with social and political issues more than reaching folks for Christ? **WINNING FOLKS TO JESUS SHOULD BE THEIR MAIN OBJECTIVE.**

(C) Do the people in the church go out calling and soul winning? **THEY SHOULD IF THEY ARE TRYING TO BRING PEOPLE TO CHRIST.**

(D) Is there an invitation at the end of the public services for folks to come forward and be saved? **THERE SHOULD BE.**

A church that meets these requirements is most assuredly a Bible preaching New Testament Church.

DO I HAVE TO GO TO CHRUCH TO BE AN **OBEDIENT** CHRISTIAN?

Does the Bible command church attendance? See Hebrews 10:25. _____

Then, if we skip the services of our local church, is this sin? (James 4:17)

Should our church attendance increase as the Lord's return
draws closer? Hebrews 10:25b _____

What are two prerequisites for membership in a New Testament
Church--as demonstrated in the early church at Jerusalem in (Acts 2:41)?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____

LESSON #4

WHAT'S THIS THING ABOUT BAPTISM?

Memory Verse: Romans 1:16

In our memory verse, the Bible says we ought not to be ashamed of the Gospel. That means that we shouldn't hide what has happened to us; rather we ought to let others know that we have been saved. Later, we'll talk about sharing Christ verbally, but now we want to talk about a different means of public testimony.

What does the Bible say a person should do (one who is to be acknowledged in Heaven)? Matthew 10:32 _____

What does the Bible say about a man who refuses to confess Christ before men? Matthew 10:33) _____

When you receive Christ, you should let it be known. Usually, at the close of the church service (in a New Testament Bible Preaching Church) there is an invitation for folks to come forward and receive Christ. This is a public testimony. But beyond that, Christ has commanded another **ACT OF OBEDIENCE** to publicly show your salvation;

BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

Notice how clear and easily understood the Bible's teachings are on this subject.

Is baptism commanded in the Bible? Matthew 28:19, Acts 10:48, Acts 2:38 _____

In Acts 2:41, when were the believers baptized? _____

In Acts 8:12, when were the people baptized? _____

Acts 8:36-37 gives the only condition in the Bible for baptism.

What is it? _____

The Bible teaches that baptism is only for believers (those who have received Christ) – this is a commanded step of obedience for every believer - and that baptism is after salvation; it did not bring salvation. Many folks are confused as to whether baptism washes away sin – or gets folks saved, but the Bible **NOWHERE** teaches that baptism can take away sin.

In John 1:7 what does the Bible say washes away sin? _____

Revelation 1:5 teaches us similarly that the _____
_____ has washed away our sins.

What is the **ONLY WAY** of coming to God? John 14:6 _____

WELL, THEN, WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?

Romans 6:3-5 teaches that Believer's Baptism is: (1) a memorial, (2) a symbol and (3) a prophecy.

A Memorial - Romans 6:5 says a baptized believer has been planted (or placed) in the _____ of Christ's death. Water baptism pictures the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It is a memorial of what He has done for you.

A Symbol - Romans 6:4 says that like Christ was raised from the dead, even so we should _____
This is a testimony that like as Christ died and rose again—so you have died to your old life of sin and have come alive to a new life in Christ. It is a symbol of what happened when you got saved.

A Prophecy - Romans 6:5 tells us that if we have been planted in the likeness of Christ's death, we shall also be in the likeness of _____

Baptism shows a picture of the time when we will be resurrected to be

with Christ. So, it can be viewed as a prophecy.

So you see, water baptism doesn't save you or get you special grace--it is just a testimony and a **step of obedience** to Christ.

HOW SHOULD A PERSON BE BAPTIZED? IS ANY METHOD ALL RIGHT? (sprinkling, splashing, pouring, immersion)

Of all the forms of baptism prevalent today, which one fits into the following Scriptures about baptism?

Where was Jesus when He was baptized? Matthew 3:13. _____

Does Matthew 3:16 indicate that Jesus was under the water? _____

How? _____

Does Mark 1:10 indicate that Jesus was in the water or on the bank? ____

In Acts 8:37 where did Phillip take the Ethiopian eunuch to be baptized?

In fact, the **ONLY** meaning of the Greek word translated "baptize" is "immerse" "to dip" "to plunge under". That is, the Greek word "baptize" (the only word in the Bible translated "baptize") has only one meaning--to immerse or submerge. So, when you see the word "baptized" in the Bible the meaning of that word is "immerse". Now sprinkling and pouring don't fit the description. Dear Friend, shouldn't you be baptized--immersed--as a testimony and in obedience to Him Who saved you?

LESSON #5

FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

Memory Verse: Psalm 73:28

If a person is going to get the full benefit of his salvation, he must learn how to go about it. When we say “ full benefit “ we mean that Jesus wants to do more than just keep you out of Hell--He wants to help you with problem of this life, too. We do not receive the full blessings of God in our lives unless we are doing the things that God desires of us. There are only two ways to live--live obediently and get the blessings of God--or--live disobediently and miss God’s blessings.

“But,” you say, “how do I know what God wants me to do? How can I get those blessings that God has for me in **this** life”? The answer is: God has made it possible for you and Him to communicate--thus, you can find out what God has to say to you and you, in turn, can relate your needs to God. We communicate with God through the Bible (God speaks to us) and prayer (we speak to God). This communication and personal exchange sets a foundation for the whole Christian Life because salvation is a relationship with the LORD Jesus. Now, remember, reading the Bible and praying (as we will see) are commanded--not to do so is **SIN** (James 4:17)!!!

How often should a Christian meditate (read and think about) on God’s word? Joshua 1:8 _____

2. What does God promise to those who delight in and meditate in the Word of God? Psalm 1: 2-3 _____

In Psalm 119, we have the longest chapter in the Bible. This chapter is almost totally devoted to teaching concerning the Word of God—and the blessings received from it. Turn to Psalm 119 and (using the verses noted in parentheses) answer these questions:

How can a person cleanse his way of living (vs 9)? _____

How can Christian keep from sinning (vs 11)? _____

How can a Christian know what ways are true and which are false? (vs 104) (Precepts: God's Word) _____

How can a Christian gain greater understanding? (vs 130) _____

David set aside a time every day for being alone with the Lord. According to Psalm 63:1, David sought the Lord _____ in the day.

Throughout the Bible the word "meditate" is used (note Psalm 119:23, 97, 99). The word means "to think about, ponder, consider." Now most folks can't spend all day reading the Bible. However, what you have read, you can think about all day long.

Further, David said in Psalm 119:11 that he _____ God's Word in his _____.

That means he memorized verses from the Bible. If you memorize Scripture, you can take it with you wherever you go and can meditate on it always. In reading the Bible, David prayed (Psalm 119:34) "Give me _____ and I shall _____ thy law."

Every Christian should want to understand God's Word—but, when you understand it, you should obey it.

The second essential for living a full Christian life (full of peace and joy and blessings) is **prayer**. Now folks have a funny idea about prayer. They think that prayer is reciting or reading out of a little book. But prayer is just you talking to God. God has promised to answer the prayer of His children (Luke 11:9), but sin sometimes interrupts our lines of communication (Psalm 66:18). So sin must be confessed to God if God is to hear our prayers.

What should a Christian do when he sins? I John 1:9 _____

Psalm 51:1-4 tells us that when we sin we sin against _____. The word "prayer" means to "humbly ask." That's what God wants us to do--humbly ask and then wait for His answer.

God has promised to give if you will ask. But there are two conditions for our prayers to be answered (according to John 15:7). They are: _____ and _____

Can we come to the Lord with our problems?

I Peter 5:7 _____

Why? _____

Are there only certain times when we can pray? I Thessalonians 5:17

Our memory verse (Psalm 73:28) tell us it is good to draw near to God.. According to James 4:8, what is the first thing you must do for God to draw nigh to you? _____

This same verse gives us two requirements for drawing nigh to God. They are: _____ and _____

This speaks of outward uprightness--doing right--and inward uprightness - putting away all sin. The devil is never pleased to see a Christian reading the Bible and praying—these things make a Christian strong. So, Satan tries to keep you from doing these things daily and consistently. Diligently purpose in your heart to be faithful in these foundations of the Christian life, and God will bless you for it. I WILL PURPOSE TODAY TO READ MY BIBLE AND PRAY EVERY DAY.

Where to read in God's Word.

There is nothing wrong with starting at Genesis and reading straight through the Bible. Reading 4 chapters a day will put you through the Bible in one year.

The book of **John** and **Romans** were written to help everyone understand how simple salvation is and what happened when you trusted Christ as your Saviour. If you have not read either one of those, then pick one of them.

I would also suggest that you read the New Testament first and then read the Old Testament. We have Bible reading guides that are printed at our church. Just ask for one.

NOTE: This is a sample Bible Study form. When you come to God's Word you should have a **pen** so you can underline and mark verses. You should also come with a **peice of paper** or a **notebook** so you can write down what the LORD speaks to your heart about and what He teaches you. You can use this sample sheet or ask Pastor for some devotional sheets that are blank and he will give them to you.

CHAPTER CONQUEST BIBLE STUDY SHEET

BOOK OF: _____

CHAPTER STUDIED _____

Prominent People (4 or less) _____

Main Thought _____

Precious Passages To Remember _____

Personal Application (Help For Me) _____

Problem Texts That Need More Study _____

LESSON #6

SHOULD I BE... DIFFERENT?

Memory Verse: II Corinthians 6:17

If you were a parent living near a great cliff, you would warn your child to stay away--for his own good. If you lived near quicksand, you would warn your child--for his own good. Again, if there were those children in the neighborhood who were constantly doing harmful things, you would advise your child against associating with them--for his own good. Even so, God warns against certain places and people who will harm us as Christians and destroy our peace, joy and Christian testimony. Our God is a Holy God. He hates sin and punishes sin. This is not because He delights to punish people, but as a just and Holy God His nature demands for their own protection and their own good, so God must punish our sin for our own good.

What does God command you--as His child--in II Corinthians 6:17? ____

What does God command in II Corinthians 6:14? _____

In I Peter 1:16, God commands Christians to: _____

Because God is Holy, He expects His children--those He loves--to be Holy. Having been saved, you have a new nature and your old desire to sin is replaced by a desire to serve God (II Corinthians 5:17). Certainly, sheer gratitude would dictate this. If God hates sin—and He does—then, after all He's done for us, we should want to please Him and not do those things which displease Him.

Because God has promised us eternal life, joy, peace, etc., what does II Corinthians 7:1 say we should do? _____

The “flesh” refers to the old desires to sin which we have always catered to. If you spell “flesh” backwards and drop the “h” then you have **S-E-L-F**. Now, however, we have been freed from that domineering old sin nature, through our salvation in Christ.

5. To whom does your body now belong? I Corinthians 6:19,20 _____

6. What is your responsibility before God--seeing as how He bought you (or saved you) by Jesus’ death? I Corinthians 6:20 _____

7. What is your body called in I Corinthians 3:16? _____

Since your body is the temple of God and belongs to God, it should not be defiled. (We ought not to do things which harm our body.) Now, smoking we know harms (defiles) the body. Drinking alcohol is harmful (defiles) to the body and may well cause death, because it makes us lose absolute control of our body and alcohol kills brain cells. Many sins defile the body--these we must give up to God. What does I Corinthians 3:17 say about defiling God’s temple?

In Romans 1:29-31 the Bible gives us a partial list of sins that we should clean ourselves of. List them:

If you don't know the definition of these words you can look them up in a good old dictionary or you can ask Pastor or one of the soul winners at the church and they will help you.

Romans 12:2 gives us a negative command and a positive command.

The negative command is -----

The positive command is -----

The "world" speaks of the unsaved society around us. It speaks of fashions, ethics, philosophies, religion and entertainment which are characteristic of the unsaved and opposed to God's commands.

Rather than conforming our thinking to the world's ideas, what does Romans 12:2 tell us to do? -----

What should fill your mind (renew it) if you are to be separated from sin? Psalm 119: 9,11 -----

Whatever fills our mind, whatever we think about, will control us. So, if we are to live as God desired, we must renew (or fill) our minds with God's Word. This separation of sin and turning to live for Jesus Christ is known as "sanctification"--it means to "set apart."

We become "set apart **FROM** the world and set apart unto god." What does God use to "sanctify us"? John 17:17 _____

After a person is saved, what should be his desires concerning the way he lives? Titus 3:8 _____

Christian, having received the great gift of God—eternal life let us be grateful and live for Him. Let it not be said of you: "*They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*" Titus 1:16

LESSON #7

TWO TOUGH SUBJECTS: MONEY AND WITNESSING

Memory Verse: Malachi 3:10 and Acts 1:8

Let's talk about **Money** first.

Is it necessary that a Christian give? Read Proverbs 3:9, 10 and Malachi 3: 8-10

Does this indicate that it is important for us to give? _____

What is God's promise about giving in Luke 6:38? _____

Read Matthew 6:33. How would you apply this to the subject of giving?

A "tithe" is 10% of our Gross income. What does Leviticus 27:30 say about the tithe? _____

What happens to those who **withhold** God's money?

They tend to _____ (Proverbs 11:24)

Obviously, the Bible teaches that we ought to at least tithe. But--does it matter **Where** we give our money? Should we send it to **any** minister, church or radio or television program?

Malachi 3:10 Bring the tithes into the _____

The “storehouse” was the House of God--the local assembly of God’s people.

What is the House of God today? _____

First Corinthians was written to a local church--a local assembly of believers--a “storehouse”. In I Corinthians 16:2, what does the Bible say about where to give our money? (“**Store**” is the Greek equivalent of “**Storehouse**” in Malachi 3:10)? _____

So--our tithes should be given to the local church **for God’s ministry and work!!**

NOW....what about.....**Witnessing**? Sound scary to you? I hope not. There is one thing that you should always remember.....

Romans 1:16 - What is the “power of God unto salvation?” _____

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 teaches us that the Gospel is: The Death, Burial and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ for our sins.

In Acts 1:8, what one thing did Jesus say that Christians shall do after the Holy Spirit was in them? _____

In Mark 16:15, Jesus said _____ ye into all the world.

Mark 16:15, To whom are we to witness?

NOTES

HOW TO BECOME A VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN

#1 - Read God's Word

The Bible says, "*Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.*" Reading the Bible is vital to the Christian life. As we read the Bible, we should search the Scriptures, comparing Scripture with Scripture. Also, set a goal to memorize Scripture and meditate on the Word of God. In our personal lives and with our families each day, we need to be reading the Word of God.

#2 - Pray

We believe that God hears and answers prayer. There is no doubt about it, the greatest untapped resource in the Christian life is the matter of prayer. The word "pray," means "to ask." Pray each day. Pray for loved ones. Pray for church leaders and their families. Pray for your church. Pray for our nation. Pray for the lost. Establish a prayer list. Pray!

#3 - Attend Church Faithfully

The Lord Jesus Christ deserves your faithfulness. Attend every service of the church. A great deal of strength of a church is based upon the faithfulness of the people. Support special meetings at the church with your faithful attendance.

#4 - Give

God's work is to be supported God's way. The Bible teaches that we should pay the tithe and give our offerings. Practice tithing as a conviction. Bring the Lord's tithe with you to church each Sunday. Support the ministries of the church with offerings. By faith give to worldwide missions. We cannot outgive God.

#5 - Witness to the Lost

Our Lord Jesus Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost. He left us on earth to tell others about the Saviour. Determine to bring others to the Saviour. Work to bring other families to Christ and to the church. Set a time to go. Make a list of names and addresses of people you want to reach for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Determine To Be A Victorious Christian

This is a time when you can be a real help and encouragement to your pastor. May God help you work together to see something beyond the ordinary accomplished for Christ through your church.

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Sunday School	10:00 AM
Morning Preaching Service	11:00 AM
Evening Preaching Service	6:30 PM
Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer . . .	7:00 PM
Saturday Soul Winning	9:30 AM