

# TEACHER'S MANUAL

LIVING FOR JESUS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

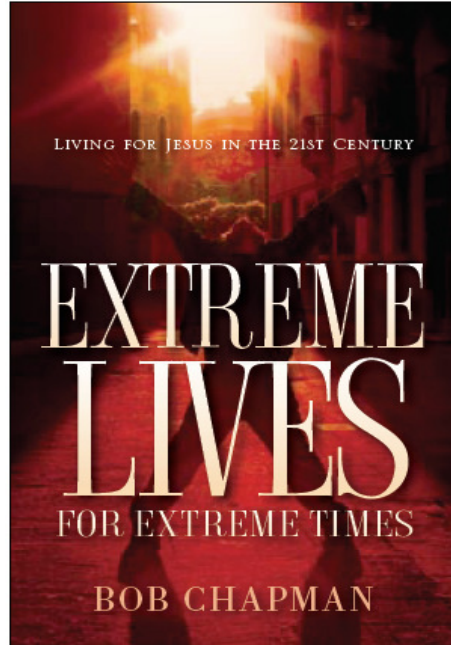
# EXTREME LIVES

FOR EXTREME TIMES

BOB CHAPMAN

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# ABOUT THE AWARD WINNING BOOK



You believed in Jesus, but you feel there's more. You worship regularly and pray often, but you're sure there's more. You read and study your Bible regularly, but you're convinced there's more. You preach, teach, or lead worship, and yet you're certain there must be more.

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**## Other books by Bob.** Soon to be published: **Extreme Power for Extreme Lives:** Spiritual gifts never ceased!

**\*\*Bob** is available to teach church and Bible College seminars on Christian living and discipleship from his book. Bob can be contacted at: [eastasia@inet.net.au](mailto:eastasia@inet.net.au)

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### Author Profile



**Bible Teacher Bob Chapman MA, BA, Dip.Th** graduated from Bible College in the USA in 1971 and began ministering in Australia that year. He has been actively involved in non-charismatic and charismatic ministry, local and international mission outreach and Bible College teaching for nearly 39 years. He and his wife, Marilyn, serve the Lord in China whenever possible and have lived there on two separate occasions teaching in several universities. He continues to plant churches and teach at the Bible College of Western Australia where he has lectured for the past 15 years. He is the founder of Extreme Life Ministries™ and currently holds revival meetings in Western Australian cities and country towns and discipleship training seminars around the world. Bob and Marilyn have an adult daughter and son.

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## **HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL**

This Manual is written to be used in conjunction with a reading of the book; **Extreme Lives for Extreme Times**.

Each part and point throughout this Manual originates from the book and corresponds with the Student's Handbook which is also taken directly from the contents of the book.

Each complete part or point is to be presented by the teacher and the student is expected to add to the portion printed in their Handbook so as to make up the whole part or point of the lesson.

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## **Introduction**

1. It is critical to understand the difference between being a believer and being a disciple.
2. Just believing and attending church does not satisfy disciples.
3. Disciples want to:
  - a. Become one spirit with Jesus.
  - b. Live victorious lives.
  - c. Live holy lives in unholy places.
  - d. Be in partnership with the Holy Spirit.
  - e. Experience the powers of the age to come.
  - f. Seek the lost wherever they are.
  - g. Love the unlovable.
4. Above all they want to live extreme lives.

# 1

## Who are disciples and what do disciples do?

### Who is a disciple?

1. Disciples should seek to develop an intimate relationship with Jesus (**1 Corinthians 6:17**).
2. Disciples should *know* Jesus so intimately that they are indistinguishable from Him (**Matthew 10:24-25; Galatians 2:20**).
3. Disciples embrace Jesus as their Saviour, Teacher, Lord and King (**Matthew 10**).
  - a. His life becomes their life.
  - b. His will, becomes their will.
  - c. His kingdom becomes their kingdom.
  - d. His glory becomes their glory.
4. Disciples realise that it is Jesus and them alone in life.

### Disciples hunger for the deeper things of God

1. Disciples willingly learn *of* Jesus (**Matthew 11:28-30**).
2. Disciples hunger to *know* Jesus, not know *about* Jesus.
3. Disciples consume Jesus (**John 6:32-51**).
4. Disciples shun religion and desire the person of Christ (**Philippians 3:7-14**).

### Surrendering all to learn *of* Jesus

1. Total submission cannot be feigned; the world will make sure of that (**Luke 12:1-12**).
2. When disciples claim Jesus is their Lord, they are claiming they live their lives in the context of faith (**Ephesians 1:15-23**).
3. Disciples thus become bondservants of Jesus who:
  - a. Denounce all that they are.
  - b. Denounce all that they have.
  - c. Do Christ's bidding regardless of the cost.

### What do disciples actually do in God's kingdom?

1. Disciples do not serve Jesus on a part-time basis; their lives are His 24/7 (**Luke 14:26**).
2. God has a plan for every disciple's life (**Ephesians 2:10**).
3. Disciples trust God's covenant promises.
4. Disciples know Jesus will not fail to provide when He calls (**Hebrews 13:5**).
5. A disciple's love for Jesus supersedes their love for others (**Luke 14:26**).
6. Disciples live contentedly with what pleases Jesus (**Philippians 4:10-12**).
7. Disciples put Jesus' priorities before their own (**Luke 17:7-10**).

### Disciples reject selfish lifestyles

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1. Abstinence differs from resisting selfishness.
2. Selfishness is known as “carnality” in the Bible (**1 Corinthians 3:1-4**).
3. Carnality enters a disciple’s life when “I” or “me” is enthroned in their hearts.
4. If believers want to become disciples, they must learn to distinguish between what a believer is and what a disciple is.
5. Read **Matthew 16:24**.
6. Mere abstinence does not accomplish much in the believer’s life.
7. Resisting selfishness, on the other hand, accomplishes much as the following suggests:
  - a. When a disciple resists selfishness they are embracing Christ’s life.
  - b. Christ’s life then becomes the only life they desire to live.
  - c. Resisting selfishness is to consent to Christ living His life through their life, anywhere and at any time (**Galatians 2:20**).
  - d. It allows God to shine Christ out of their life (**2 Corinthians 4:5-6**).
8. So resisting selfishness is:
  - a. The renunciation of the flesh’s kingship over the disciple’s life.
  - b. The renunciation of the flesh’s glory (**Romans 6:12-14**).

### **Disciples are earthly traitors**

1. Defining actions and ethics with the colour grey has no place in God’s kingdom.
2. Denying one’s self-nature cannot be compromised.
3. To deny one’s self-nature is to abandon one kingdom to take up allegiance in another (**Romans 6:16**).
4. For disciples, denial of their self-nature is to:
  - a. Surrender their lives.
  - b. Lay down their crowns of self-glory.
  - c. Take up the despised cross of their King (**Matthew 10:24-42**).

### **Living a crucified life is a lifestyle choice**

1. Read **Galatians 6:14**.
2. Choices always produce repercussions (**Genesis 3 and 4**).
3. Choices never cease (**Matthew 16:24**).
4. Jesus never said, “Invite me into your heart.”
5. Jesus said, “Come follow me.” (**Matthew 4:18-22**).
6. Such a call from Jesus is a call to war (**Revelation 19:11-16**).
  - a. It is a call to save the lost.
  - b. It is a call to make believers into disciples.
  - c. It is a call to suffer rejection and persecution.
7. Why? Because the gospel message is offensive.
8. Such is the life of a disciple who aligns themselves with Jesus.
9. It is a life of foolishness (**1 Corinthians 1:18**).
10. Can it be avoided? Yes.
  - a. If disciples just talk about God and not about Jesus they will offend no one.
  - b. If disciples talk about Jesus as God’s *only* appeasement they will offend many (**John 14:6**).
11. So believers don’t have to take up Christ’s cross if they don’t want to.

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- a. They can simply embrace Christianity as another religion, not a lifestyle.
- b. They can conform to the world rather than confront it (**Matthew 25:14-30**).

### **What the world wants disciples to do**

1. The world wants disciples to compromise the gospel.
2. The world wants disciples to dilute the offensive nature of the gospel.
3. The world wants disciples to challenge sinners to invite Jesus into their hearts.
4. But despite what the world wants, disciples are those who when they:
  - a. See wrong, they set about to make it right.
  - b. See needs, they seek to meet them.
  - c. See darkness, they seek to illuminate it (**John 3:16-21**).
  - d. See bound souls, they seek to free them.
  - e. Find the unlovable, they love them.
5. These are the choices disciples make every day.

### **Jesus, the first disciple by example**

1. Disciples must scrutinize Jesus if they want to live the life of the cross.
2. Why? Because, although a Hebrew, He was, by way of example, the first disciple of God's kingdom that was coming.
3. Therefore we should imitate Him (**1 Corinthians 11:1**).
4. Imitating Jesus is *learning* to obey God with tears, prayers, supplications, and much crying just as He did (**Hebrews 5:7-8**).
5. That's right; Jesus had to *learn* to obey His Father.
6. Jesus was not divinely empowered to overcome.
7. Jesus received no special exemptions because He was God's Son.
8. After immersion, Jesus was:
  - a. Filled with the Holy Spirit (**Luke 4:1**).
  - b. Led by the Holy Spirit (**Luke 4:1**).
  - c. Empowered by the Holy Spirit (**Luke 4:14**).
  - d. Anointed by the Holy Spirit (**Luke 4:18**).
9. Jesus then preached and His first sermon resulted in persecution and attempted murder by His own neighbours (**Luke 4:18-30**).
10. Disciples can also expect similar treatment when they align with Jesus (**John 15:18**).

### **Ministering with compassion**

1. Disciples, like Jesus, should be moved with compassion for the lost (**Matthew 9:35-38**).
2. When disciples take up their cross, others become the priority of their lives.
3. Compassion produces divine forgiveness (**Matthew 18:21-22**).
4. With compassion comes urgency (**John 9:4**).
5. God's work is for all disciples and it is urgent.
6. Disciples willing to minister compassionately will discover God's calling and God's provision to fulfil that calling (**1 Corinthians 12:11; Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 2:9-10**).

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### **Renouncing all for Jesus**

1. Read **Luke 14:33**.
2. Many believers do not believe this is applicable today.
3. For some, this teaching is too extreme.
4. This passage simply means:
  - a. Abandon what is not necessary beyond one's immediate needs so as to spread the gospel message.
  - b. Not to accumulate non-essentials, which may hinder a disciple's ministry?
5. Living such a life is not a life of dependence upon others.
6. Rather it is living a life of faith and trust, knowing God's promises are in the yea and the Amen (**2 Corinthians 1:20; Hebrews 13:5**).
7. While living this way, disciples bring glory to God and not to themselves.

## 2

### Obedience: The Most Demanding Requirement

#### Introduction

1. Obedience is a demanding requirement because:
  - a. It is imperative in the service of the Lord.
  - b. It is indispensable in the service of the Lord.
  - c. There are no acceptable excuses.
  - d. There is no compromising.
2. Unconditional presentation of one's body is the disciple's life (**2Timothy 2:1-5; Romans 12:1-2**).
3. Disciples cannot serve Christ and mammon [materialism] (**Matthew 6:24**).
4. Disciples are not ignorant of such an extremely difficult life (**Matthew 13:1-9; Luke 9:57-60**).
5. Disciples need to understand both the *perfect will* of God and the *specific will* of God.
  - a. His *perfect will* is revealed in His Word.
  - b. His *specific will* is revealed in disciple's lives.
  - c. Knowing God's *perfect will* equips disciples to faithfully face extremes every day.
  - d. Knowing God's *specific will* empowers disciples to minister *unto* Him every day.

#### Who becomes a disciple?

1. Jesus is not looking for believers in multiple gods.
2. Jesus is not looking for the almost persuaded.
3. Jesus is looking for committed believers (**John 3:1-21; Matthew 7:26; 2 Timothy 3:1-7**).
4. Jesus is looking for living sacrifices (**Romans 12:1-2**).

#### Committed disciples willingly put their lives on the line

1. The world will recognise frauds every time.
2. Disciples must be genuine when serving Christ and:
  - a. His interests have to be their interests.
  - b. His desires, their desires.
  - c. His loves, their loves.
  - d. His focus, their focus.
  - e. His pursuits, their pursuits.
3. Read **Luke 9:23**.
  - a. Most believers considered themselves *number one* in their lives before they met Jesus.
  - b. They couldn't say "no" to themselves.
4. Read **Matthew 22:34-40**.
  - a. It is impossible to love your neighbour without first loving God with your whole being.

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- b. Love God first and you will love others more than yourself.
- c. As disciples bring out the best in others they begin to understand the true meaning of *agape love*.
5. What gives Jesus the right to demand such commitment from disciples?
  - a. He paid their debt to God; at extreme cost to Himself (**Ephesians 2:13-22**).
  - b. Disciples choose to abandon Satan's realm and allow Jesus to control their lives (**Romans 6:12-14**).
  - c. Disciples choose His wisdom above their own.
  - d. Disciples choose to go where He leads them.
  - e. Disciples choose to commit to His sovereignty over all things, including their lives (**1 John 5:1-5**).
6. Committed disciples serve the King of Kings and Lord of Lords; not Jesus the carpenter from Galilee (**Revelation 19:11-16; Ephesians 6:10-20**).

### **Disciples desert Satan's army**

1. Believers are recruited to fight in Christ's battles.
2. Allegiance to Him means battles with:
  - a. Family.
  - b. Friends.
  - c. Workmates.
  - d. Fellow-believers.
3. Read **Matthew 10:16-23**.
4. Disciples can no longer entrust themselves to others (**John 2:24**).
5. Disciples can only entrust their lives to Jesus.
6. Disciples no longer serve men (**Galatians 1:10**).
7. Disciples form a life-long partnership with Jesus in opposition to Satan.

### **What happens after disciples join up with Jesus?**

1. Some believers are ready to abandon all immediately (**Matthew 4:18-22; 9:9**).
2. Some believers cannot commit to such extreme terms (**Luke 9:57-62; John 6:60-71**).
3. But the heart of discipleship is the believer being totally consumed with Jesus.
4. Read **Matthew 13:1-23**.
5. Shallow commitment will not sustain believers for long.
6. Shallow commitment will not turn believers into disciples.
7. Believers who are made aware at the very beginning about the extremes of discipleship will become dedicated disciples (**Luke 9:57-62**).
8. Repentant sinners need to know:
  - a. They are not joining a rock-n-roll Jesus nightclub.
  - b. They are abandoning Satan's kingdom.
  - c. They are entering God's kingdom
  - d. They are going to war with the one who gave all for them (**Philippians 2:5-11; 2:16**).

### **Living as a winner with Jesus**

1. Read **John 5:1-5**.

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2. Disciples live a life that is:
  - a. Confident in Jesus.
  - b. Committed to Jesus.
  - c. Consuming Jesus (**John 6:22-71**).
  - d. Controlled by Jesus (**Hebrews 11**).
3. Disciples understand Christ's commands are not tedious because they light their pathway through life.
4. Disciples trust Jesus knows all their needs before they ask or think about them (**Ephesians 3:20-21**).
5. Disciples do not fear life because Jesus has defeated all of life's circumstances (**Joshua 2:8-14**).
6. Such living does not assure disciples will be healthy, successful or prosperous.
7. Life for disciples is lived in God's armour and on their knees (**Ephesians 6:10-20**).
8. Victorious disciples find success with God because they live obediently (**Joshua 1:1-10**).
9. Disciples remain faithful to God's call because they live obediently (**Joshua 1:1-10**).

### **Disciples are the most powerful people on the planet**

1. Read **Ephesians 1:15-23**.
2. Paul assured the Ephesians that what he wrote was possible in their lives.
3. Disciples in all ages can expect to experience the same.
4. Nothing is held back from disciples.
5. The fullness of the Godhead and what the Godhead is capable of is available to all disciples (**Ephesians 1:23; Colossians 2:9-10**).
6. Disciples who offer themselves in service to Jesus can expect:
  - a. A spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowing the deeper things of God (**Ephesians 1:17**).
  - b. The enlightenment of the eyes of their heart (**Ephesians 1:18**).
  - c. To know and understand the hope of their calling (**Ephesians 1:18**).
  - d. To grasp and understand the glorious inheritance they have in Christ (**Ephesians 1:18**).
  - e. To know the immeasurable, unlimited and surpassing greatness of God's power (**Ephesians 1:19**).
  - f. To experience the demonstration of His power in their lives (**Ephesians 1:19**).
  - g. The same power that God used to raise Jesus from the dead (**Ephesians 1:20**).
  - h. The same power that God used to seat Jesus at His right hand (**Ephesians 1:20**).
  - i. To know that in the name of Jesus, everything in the heavens and on the earth is subject to Jesus' disciples (**Ephesians 1:21-22**).
  - j. To know that if all the disciples in God's kingdom were unified in their belief in the power of Jesus' name, nothing would be impossible to them (**Ephesians 1:23**).
7. If this is the case, then why aren't these promises more active today?
  - a. Because many believers resist the initial step of faith (**Matthew 17:20**).

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- b. They're very comfortable protecting their religious traditions.
- c. They resist the Holy Spirit's will in the body of Christ (**1Corinthians 12:11**).

### **Disciples entrust themselves to Jesus only**

1. Read **Luke 9:57-62**.
2. Childlike trust is where discipleship begins (**Matthew 18:3**).
3. Jesus knows faithlessness is endemic among adult believers.
4. Why did Jesus single out children?
  - a. Children follow good leadership.
  - b. Children respond to love.
  - c. Children don't worry about their needs.
  - d. Children don't get hung-up about irrelevant matters.
  - e. Children trust their parents.
  - f. Children are hungry to learn all they can.
5. Fear was the paramount reason for the faithlessness of the three disciples mentioned in **Luke 9:57-62**.
6. Those followers couldn't trust Jesus to manage their lives because:
  - a. The first follower was keen to begin, but had to be sure of his future.
  - b. The second was similar to the first, but had to be in control of all of life's necessities.
  - c. The third just couldn't give his whole heart to Jesus (**James 1:5; Matthew 10:34-39**).
7. Before they begin following Jesus, disciples should realise:
  - a. Discipleship is very costly.
  - b. Discipleship requires childlike, unquestioning faith.
  - c. Disciples do not turn back.
  - d. Disciples do not rely on themselves or on others for their future.
  - e. Disciples live only for the day (**Matthew 6:19-34**).
  - f. Their life belongs to Jesus and to Jesus only.

## 3

### Life in God's Kingdom

#### Introduction

1. Read **Matthew 16:24**.
2. Disciples are called to carry their crosses.
3. This is not commonly taught today.
4. When believers are added to God's kingdom they should take up their crosses and seek to save others (**Matthew 22:1-14**).
5. New believers should learn:
  - a. They are redeemed when they surrender to Jesus.
  - b. Redemption is followed by a life of faithful cross-bearing.
  - c. Cross-bearing involves obedience to the words of the prophet Jesus (**Acts 3:11-26**).
6. Such commitment leads to an uncomfortable lifestyle.
  - a. To avoid it, believers can just become church-goers.
  - b. To experience it, believers need to proclaim Jesus (**Matthew 5:11-12**).
7. Believers should remember:
  - a. The wicked and the religious despise the gospel message.
  - b. The wicked despise it because it shines light on their sinful lives.
  - c. The religious because it interferes with their control over mankind.
8. When believers are not willing to take up their crosses, sin will reign in the world and in the church.
9. Believers who do not take up their crosses are willing to celebrate with Jesus, but are not willing to go to war with Him.
10. Read **Ephesians 6:10-20**.
11. Note that there is no back armour in this passage.
12. Why is there no back armour?
  - a. Jesus and His disciples do not retreat.
  - b. Jesus and His disciples willingly face extremes.
  - c. Jesus and His disciples know when they face all enemies they overcome them.

#### Disciples die daily

1. Read **Matthew 16:24**.
2. When disciples align with Jesus they die daily.
3. Disciples no longer serve their flesh, but seek to be Spirit led (**Romans 8:1-17**).
  - a. In so doing they make the best choice (**Galatians 6:14**).
  - b. In so doing they overcome failure and depression.
  - c. In so doing they are guided by wisdom from above (**James 3:15-18**).
  - d. In so doing they avoid self-centeredness.
4. Those who die daily avoid carnality and go on to maturity (**Hebrews 5:11-6:5; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9**).
5. Believers who die daily discover God's will for their lives.
6. Believers who are reluctant will discover:

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- a. Real life will elude them.
- b. They will fall short of their full spiritual potential.
- c. They will miss out on the filling, leading, empowering and anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- d. Their life in Christ is burdensome, not joyful.
- e. They will serve Jesus out of duty, not love.
- f. They will be critical, rather than spiritual.
- g. They will try to control God rather than be controlled by God.

### **But, do disciples have to die daily?**

1. No!
2. But no disciples of Jesus will go through life without having to war with either their flesh or the devil.
3. Even Jesus had to *learn to be obedient* to His Father (**Hebrews 5:7-8**).
4. Jesus was not divinely empowered to overcome temptation.
5. Just like Jesus, disciples are called to fight the good fight and finish the course (**2 Corinthians 7:5; 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:7**).
6. How does a disciple avoid carrying their cross?
  - a. They can refuse to do it.
  - b. They can live selfishly.
  - c. They can live by the dictates of their bodies.
  - d. They can sit in comfortable church pews until Jesus comes.
7. Why does God allow persecution and death to come upon His disciples?
  - a. God always sees the beginning and the end of His plans (**Revelation 1:8**).
  - b. Because He is the Alpha and Omega He expects faith from His disciples despite the circumstances and outcomes.
8. Read **Acts 7:51-60**.
  - a. Notice Jesus was standing – it could be that He rose to greet Stephen’s spirit.
  - b. God’s outcomes are always the best outcomes.
  - c. God’s best outcome will be that all are saved and come to a knowledge of the truth – but that may require discomfort and persecution of His disciples (**1 Timothy 2:4**).

### **A closer walk with Jesus**

1. Read **2 Corinthians 11:23-30**.
2. Those who walk close to Jesus are hated by the world (**Matthew 10:24-42**).
3. Walking close to Jesus will result in warfare (**Revelation 19:11-16**).
4. But walking close to Jesus also results in maturity and allows grace to abound.
5. Disciples should not ignore the fact that God allows discomfort and disappointments (**Hebrews 12:1-13**).
6. Why does God allow such discomforts?
  - a. Because He loves those He disciplines.
  - b. The end of it all is unspeakable joy (**Matthew 5:11-12**).
7. Disciples can only bear this when they know God’s covenant promises.

### **God’s grace is sufficient**

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1. It is natural to fear.
2. But God's grace enables disciples to take up their crosses and overcome fear (**Philippians 4:10-12**).
3. Disciples understand God does not force them to carry their crosses, but they willingly choose to do so.
4. Disciples carry their crosses for the Lord because He carried His for them.
5. Jesus loves those who are willing to suffer for the glory that is yet to be revealed (**Romans 8:18-25**).
6. Above all, He loves those who offer themselves as living sacrifices (**Romans 12:1-2**).

## 4

### God Watches Over His Word to Perform It

#### Introduction

1. Read **Psalms 119:105; John 8:12; John 1:14**.
2. People today are looking for lasting purpose in their lives.
3. These people want to know three things:
  - a. Where did they come from?
  - b. What are they doing here?
  - c. Where are they going?
4. The real answer to all that matters in life is found in **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**.

#### Studying the Word of God

1. Disciples find that God's Word:
  - a. Satisfies and sustains their life.
  - b. Controls their thinking.
  - c. Controls their speech.
  - d. Controls their actions.
  - e. Controls their habits.
2. When disciples do not study God's Word:
  - a. Their resolve to serve Jesus weakens.
  - b. They forget God's covenant promises.
  - c. They strive to sustain themselves.
  - d. They get distracted by mammon (**Matthew 6:19-34**).
  - e. They begin to follow worldly wisdom (**James 3:13-8**).
  - f. They begin to compromise.
  - g. They begin to be known as hypocrites.
3. When disciples do desire to study God's Word they should remember that:
  - a. Reading God's Word will not be a major concern to Satan.
  - b. Studying and committing to God's Word concerns Satan most.
  - c. Such commitment threatens Satan's kingdom (**2 Corinthians 4:1-4**).
  - d. Such commitment turns believers into disciples.

#### Abide in God's Word because He watches over it

1. Read **John 8:31**.
2. Disciples abide in, consume and experience God's Word.
3. Disciples exercise their senses to discern good and evil (**Hebrews 5:12-6:5**).
4. They take God at His Word and attack the gates of hell.
5. Read **Jeremiah 1:12**:
  - a. Disciples can live this promise of God.
  - b. Disciples can experience God's promises.
  - c. God is committed to fulfil the intent of His Word (**Luke 1:37**).
6. Read **2 Corinthians 1:20**.
7. Can disciples really rely on God's Word?
  - a. Most assuredly they can.

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- b. If God's Word is not trustworthy, believers might as well return to the world.
  - c. Why waste time serving God if His Word is not true?
8. Read **2 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12**.
  - a. Disciples must remember God's Word speaks to one's whole being.
  - b. Also God's Word enlightens the eyes of the heart (**Ephesians 1:18**).

### **Disciples commit to knowing and living God's Word**

1. Disciples can go on to taste God's Word if they commit to knowing and living it (**Hebrews 6:3-5**).
2. Sadly, because the Bible is seldom read or preached in some churches today, alternative teachings take over.
3. Soon churches stand for nothing and fall for everything.
4. Such churches cultivate man's opinions instead of God's divine direction.
5. Eventually they address everything but the salvation of souls and the making of disciples.
6. The end result is confusion and chaos soon reign.
7. Also fundamental belief is rejected and spirit-filled leadership is removed.

### **Jesus was a fundamentalist**

1. Always be certain that what you are taught is biblical (**Acts 17:10-12**).
2. But how much of the Bible is the inspired Word of God?
  - a. Well, either the entire Bible is God's Word or none of it is.
  - b. Why should disciples lay down their lives for partial truth?
  - c. How can disciples preach God's Word if it is not relevant to all generations throughout history?
  - d. It is not possible for disciples of Jesus to compliment His Word with other religious scriptures.
3. It is false to believe that fundamental Christians do not exist.
  - a. The truth is: you can't be a Christian without being a fundamentalist.
  - b. A fundamentalist is one who believes the Bible is God's inspired Word from **Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21**.
  - c. Disciples must remember that Jesus was a fundamentalist.
4. Jesus taught about the actuality of:
  - a. The creation as recorded in Genesis.
  - b. Adam and Eve.
  - c. Noah.
  - d. Jonah.
  - e. Sodom and Gomorrah.
5. Therefore, as Jesus rose from the dead, whose word should we believe; man's or God's?

### **The Bible is the living Word of God**

1. Read **Proverbs 6:21-23**.
2. Two things disciples should learn from this passage in Proverbs:
  - a. If they abide in God's Word, it will lead them along spiritually rewarding pathways.

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- b. God has provided His Holy Spirit to lead disciples along those pathways.
3. God's Spirit is not given to restrict disciples, but to release them on new pathways as the Father wills (**1 Corinthians 2:11; Hebrews 6:3**).
4. Because disciples struggle to be holy, God has provided His Spirit who produces holiness to live in cooperative lives (**Romans 8:1-17**).

### **God's Word sustains disciples**

1. Read **Luke 4:1-14**.
2. God's Word has been given by Him to sustain His disciples.
3. Disciples should gorge themselves on God's Word because:
  - a. Physical and spiritual lean times will come to them.
  - b. During such lean times God's Word will provide all that disciples will need to survive.
  - c. When spiritual powers in the heavenly places rise up against disciples they will overcome (**Ephesians 6:10-20**).
4. Disciples must taste God's Word by acting upon its promises (**Psalms 34:8; Hebrews 6:5**).
5. The good thing about tasting God's Word is that it is fresh forever:
  - a. It is not a once-in-a-lifetime experience.
  - b. Active, realistic faith in God can be experienced over and over again.
6. Read **I Peter 1:23-25**.

### **What some of God's heroes had to say about His Word**

1. Read **Luke 24:32; Jeremiah 20:9; 2 Corinthians 4:13**.
  - a. When disciples abide in God's Word, a burning desire to share its wonderful truth wells up in them.
  - b. Disciples should always be ready to share their hope with others (**1 Peter 3:15**).
2. Read **Psalms 119:105**.
  - a. The hardest thing to do in life is to navigate the extremes.
  - b. Fame and riches will cry out to all disciples from time-to-time.
  - c. But disciples should not abandon their first love to pursue the world and what the world offers.
  - d. Jesus warned His disciples of such dangers (**Matthew 6:19-34; Matthew 7:13-14**).
3. Read **John 8:12**.
  - a. God's Word wonderfully illuminates sin and the sinner.
  - b. God's revealing light leaves sinners with two choices: repent or perish (**Luke 13:5; John 3:15-21**).
  - c. By repenting, sinners come to God's judgement now, not later and thus are saved.
  - d. Though dead in sins, sinners can be saved and have peace with God (**2 Corinthians 4:1-4; Ephesians 2; Colossians 2**).
4. Read **Psalms 119:25**.
  - a. Disciples should not believe Satan's lies that they are not useful in God's kingdom.

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- b. Nor should disciples become anxious when their material needs are not met in their time frame (**Matthew 6:25-34; Philippians 4:4-7**).
  - c. Such times as these call for more reading of God's Word (**Psalms 119:81; Matthew 4:4**).
5. Read **John 6:68**.
- a. Disciples can pray, fast, repent, confess, get involved in church programs and read Christian books, but there is nothing more faith building than reading the Bible.
  - b. Nothing else revives the whole being more than God's Word.

### **The Word of God is extremely active**

1. Read **1 John 1:1-4**.
- a. The apostle John had a personal encounter with Jesus.
  - b. He revealed His humanity and His divinity.
  - c. He scrutinized Jesus.
  - d. He was in no doubt that Jesus was who He claimed to be (**1 John 1:1-4**).
  - e. He was overjoyed because he had a physical and spiritual relationship with Jesus (**1 John 5:11-17**).
  - f. Disciples today can also experience the living Jesus (**2 Corinthians 4:6; Galatians 2:20 and 6:14**).
2. Read **Isaiah 55:10-11**.
- a. God always provides all the power to accomplish what He promises (**Luke 1:37**).
  - b. Young Mary had greater faith than her uncle, the priest (**Luke 1:30**).
  - c. Mary actually put her life in God's hands when she offered herself as His servant.
  - d. Faith that believes God's Word will always accomplish what God desires it to.
3. Read **Psalms 107:20**.
- a. When disciples seek to believe and taste God's Word they find out how active it can be in their life and ministry.
  - b. Therefore, it is vital for disciples to read, to study and to taste God's Word.

### **The Holy Spirit instructs disciples through God's Word**

1. Read **Isaiah 30:21**.
- a. Disciples will hear from the Holy Spirit who resides in them (**Romans 8:1-17**).
  - b. The choice is with the disciple to listen to the Holy Spirit's leading or ignore it.
  - c. Listening results in tasting the active Word of God and the powers of the age to come (**Hebrews 6:3-5**).
  - d. Not listening to the Holy Spirit results in wisdom that originates from beneath and not from above (**James 3:15-17**).
  - e. The Holy Spirit does more than warn disciples during times of temptation.

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- f. The Holy Spirit guides disciples in the performing of God's will for their lives (**Psalms 43:3**).
2. Read **Micah 2:7**.
  - a. Disciples should earnestly desire to walk uprightly.
  - b. Disciples should earnestly desire to read God's Word.
  - c. Disciples should earnestly desire to pray.
  - d. When disciples practice these disciplines they discover God's best for them.
3. Read **Matthew 5:6**.
  - a. The hunger and thirst mentioned herein refers to a desperate state of being.
  - b. Without desperation, disciples will not experience the Holy Spirit's leading.
  - c. Without desperation, disciples will not experience God's fulfilment of His promises in their lives.
  - d. When disciples satisfy their desperation they go on to be God's co-workers in His kingdom (**1 Corinthians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17-6:1**).

### **Disciples with pure hearts will see God**

1. Read **Matthews 5:8 and 15:7-20**.
  - a. What disciples permit to abide in their hearts produces the fruit of their lives.
  - b. If sin abides there; sin blooms.
  - c. If righteousness abides there; right-living blooms.
  - d. If God's Word abides there; it works effectively (**1 Thessalonians 2:13**).
  - e. It takes time for Jesus to perfect a disciple's heart (**1 John 2:14**).
  - f. When Jesus does perfect it, disciples become one spirit with Him (**1 Corinthians 6:17**).
2. Today Jesus is looking for:
  - a. Disciples who will walk where He directs.
  - b. Follow where He leads.
  - c. Proclaim what He decrees.

## 5

### Disciples Can Know God's Will for Their Lives

#### Introduction

1. The image disciples have of God makes a difference to their faith.
2. Disciples who envision a vengeful God should look deeper than His commandments.
3. Disciples who envision a merciful, loving God should seek intimacy with Him.
4. God wants a closer relationship with His disciples (**Romans 8:15**).
5. God wants disciples to enter His throne room with boldness (**Hebrews 10:19-25**).
6. God wants disciples to know He is appeased by all He has done in Jesus.
7. God wants disciples to know He hears and answers their prayers.
8. God wants disciples to know He holds nothing back because He has already given them His best: *Jesus* (**Romans 8:31-32**).
9. God wants His disciples to enjoy His finest (**Philippians 3:10**).

#### God's infinite will verses man's finite will

1. God has had plans for His disciples from before the foundation of the world (**Ephesians 2:10**).
2. Unfortunately so often disciples follow their own plans and not God's.
3. God knows all before disciples ask or think (**Ephesians 3:21**).
4. God is always conveying His will to His disciples (**Isaiah 1:18; Ephesians 4:11-16**).
5. Often the plans of men reign because they believe the Holy Spirit's gifts have been revoked.
6. Also God's will is ignored because disciples have a local church mentality instead of a kingdom of God mentality.
7. There are times when disciples do not use all God has equipped them with (**Ephesians 1:15-23; 4:14-15**).

#### God does not force believers to seek His will

1. Disciples have a choice to seek or, to refuse to seek God's will.
2. To consult with God is to choose His wisdom, not one's own (**Philippians 4:4-8**).
3. Without consultation with God, disciples can end up living in:
  - a. Confusion
  - b. Exhaustion
  - c. Depression
  - d. Anxiety
  - e. Frustration
  - f. Legalism
4. When disciples are concerned with God's kingdom and His will, all is provided (**Matthew 6:19-34**).

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5. Disciples who do not consult with God can often “go for God”, but never know specifically *where* they should go.
6. But if they consult with God, then all confusion will dissipate.
7. If they don’t consult with God they usually end up pleasing men and not pleasing God.

### **Developing intimacy with God**

1. Many disciples do not believe God is interested in them personally.
2. God is body minded and all disciples in Christ’s body matter to Him (**1 Corinthians 12:12-31**).
3. God forsakes no member of Christ’s body (**Hebrews 13:5-6**).
4. Even the least in God’s kingdom is greater than John the Baptist (**Matthew 11:11**).
5. God wants all His disciples to grow from a larva to a pupa and on into a butterfly.
6. God wants His disciples to arrest people’s attention to hear and see the gospel message.
7. But for a full transformation to occur, disciples must develop an intimate relationship with God.
8. They must cast off the old and put on the new (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).
9. They should strive to overcome public and private sin (**Romans 6:1, 15**).
10. They should strive to draw near to God (**James 4:8**).
11. Finally they will begin to discover the nature of God through His Holy Spirit as He strives to live in them (**Galatians 5:22-23**).
12. Soon they relax and no longer strive to be holy, but allow God to live out His holiness through them (**Ephesians 2:11-22**).

### **The provision of God**

1. Read **2 Kings 13:14-19** and **2 Samuel 12:7-8**.
2. Disciples can learn the following from these two passages:
  - a. God is willing to provide.
  - b. God is willing to provide abundantly as needs arise.
  - c. He holds nothing back from the committed disciple.
3. God’s provision is not prosperity, but sustenance:
  - a. God prospers one disciple to sustain the needs of other disciples (**2 Corinthians 8:13-14**).
  - b. God’s desire is to meet the needs of all disciples (**1 John 5:13-14**).
4. Prosperity is not an entitlement; it is an extremely responsible ministry through which others are blessed (**Luke 12:48**).
5. Is it right for disciples to pray for material needs?
  - a. Yes it is. Disciples live in the physical world and need physical sustenance (**Matthew 6:19-34**).
  - b. God is attentive to the needs of His disciples; not their wants (**Philippians 4:19**).
6. God answers disciples’ requests in three ways: *yes*, *no* and *wait*.
7. Finally, disciples should trust God’s answers as He knows what is best for them.

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## Understanding God's will for you

1. Read **Proverbs 3:5**.
2. When disciples do not regularly read God's Word:
  - a. They can doubt God's perfect will.
  - b. They can doubt God's personal will.
3. The result will be double-mindedness (**James 1:5-7**).
4. God's desire is for disciples to know and experience both His perfect will and His personal will for them (**Ephesians 5:15-17**).
5. The Bible reveals many came to know God's will for their lives.
  - a. Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Jonah, Paul, Peter.
  - b. When God called them to specific tasks He sustained them.
  - c. Some conformed quickly to His call and some initially refused.
6. God is also calling disciples today to know His calling upon their lives (**Ephesians 2:10**):
  - a. Disciples need to always pray and ask what His will is for them.
  - b. It is then their responsibility to respond to it.
  - c. If they respond positively they will be filled, led, empowered and anointed to fulfil His will.
7. When disciples know God's will, His purposes becomes their only pursuit and:
  - a. They live to serve the lost.
  - b. They live to feed the hungry.
  - c. They live to heal the sick.
  - d. They live to clothe the naked.
  - e. They live to love the unlovable.
  - f. They live to free those who are bound by Satan.
  - g. They live to care for the fatherless and widows (**James 1:27**).

## 6

### Precious Moments with God

#### Introduction

1. Finding time to pray is hard for many disciples.
2. What happens when disciples take only a few moments to pray?
  - a. Their faith will eventually fade away.
  - b. It becomes harder and harder to determine God's will for their lives.
3. What happens when disciples stay longer in God's presence?
  - a. Their boldness increases.
  - b. They will determine His will for their lives.
  - c. They overcome the powers of darkness (**Romans 12:21**).
  - d. Their love for God and His love for them drives them into His presence (**John 14:23**).
  - e. They dwell without fear (**1 John 4:15-18**).

#### Making regular visits to God's throne room

1. Disciples don't come regularly to God's throne room to gain favour.
  - a. Their experience is that they rob themselves if they don't.
  - b. It does not matter when disciples spend time with God – what matters is that they do spend time with God (**Matthew 6:5-6, Daniel 10**).
2. Non-scheduled times are the most extreme.
3. During non-scheduled times, the Holy Spirit leads the disciple (**Romans 8:26-27**).

#### Scriptural examples of spending time with God

1. Read **Genesis 18:23-32**.
  - a. Abraham was not afraid to draw near to God and question Him.
  - b. Disciples are encouraged to do the same (**James 4:8**).
  - c. God wants His disciples to feel comfortable in His presence (**Romans 8:15-17**).
  - d. Disciples should rend their hearts and also be persistent (**Luke 18:1-8; Philippians 4:4-7**).
  - e. Drawing near to God acquaints disciples with God's nature.
  - f. Disciples who draw near to God learn how to communicate.
  - g. Disciples who draw near to God learn humility.
  - h. Disciples who draw near to God learn how to question God respectfully.
  - i. Disciples who draw near to God develop God's heart for the lost (**Luke 9:54-56; 1 Timothy 2:4; Luke 14:23**).

#### Time with God changes disciple's lifestyles

1. Read **Genesis 32:24-29**.

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- a. Jacob was a confidence man and was a master of deceit (**Genesis 25:19-26**).
- b. Rebecca roped him in to deceive others. *Noose* is the meaning of her name.
2. So what can disciples learn from Jacob's encounter with God?
  - a. Jacob wrestled with God all night until he was blessed.
  - b. Disciples should also stay in God's presence until the blessings flow.
  - c. Disciples shouldn't let their self-interest drag them out of God's presence too early.
3. Why don't disciples stay longer with God?
  - a. God's blessings don't always conform to the disciple's self-interests.
  - b. It is difficult for disciples to convince people of their personal encounters with God.
  - c. It is difficult to convince people they hunger to go on to new heights with God.
  - d. It is difficult to convince people they want to live God-controlled lives; regardless of the costs (**Matthew 5:10-12**).
  - e. It is difficult to convince people they are, by faith, living in the promises of God (**2 Corinthians 1:20**).

### **Two of God's servants who spent time with God**

1. Read **1 Samuel 1:10-11**.
  - a. Hannah was a woman who knew where to go when she was overwhelmed.
  - b. Rather than run to others for help, she ran to God.
  - c. Hannah was not ashamed to bear her whole heart before God.
  - d. Hannah focused on God's holiness, not her priest's or her own.
  - e. Disciples should learn to focus their prayers and wait for answers.
2. Read **Ezra 9**.
  - a. Ezra was so overwhelmed by the sins of the nation that he had no where else to go but to God.
  - b. When he publicly repented, the religious leaders got angry.
  - c. Ezra was so overwhelmed that he could not raise his head in the presence of God.
  - d. He called on the nation to repent and confess their sins because he knew the people were not beyond redemption (**Luke 18:7-8**).
3. Disciples should never doubt God's interest in them – He will always hear them.
  - a. Disciples must learn that repentance and confession precede blessings.
  - b. Following repentance and confession it is time to get on with God's calling (**1 John 1:1-10**).

### **When you spend time with God you shall willingly take up your cross**

1. Jesus was the disciple's prime example (**John 4:34-35**).
2. One thing and one thing only possessed Jesus – the fulfilment of God's will.
3. His fulfilling God's will was foretold by Isaiah (**Isaiah 11:1-6**).
4. But to fulfil God's will He had to be – filled, led, empowered, and anointed (**Luke 4:1,14,18**).

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5. What happens when disciples are called to fulfil God's will?
  - a. Many folks attempt to persuade disciples that God hasn't really called them.
  - b. Sadly these folks are usually relatives or other disciples.
6. Jesus resisted listening to others (**Luke 4:20-30**).
7. When disciples go forth like Jesus doing God's will, they shall experience His harvest.
8. Just knowing the will of God is not what God expects.
9. Doing the will of God is what He expects.
  - a. Disciples can know what God wants them to do.
  - b. Disciples can know how God wants them to do it.
  - c. Disciples don't have to run here and there hoping God will bless what they do.
  - d. Such faithful service can lead to persecution from the religious (**John 5:17-20**).
10. This is why God charges His disciples not to be ignorant of His will for their lives (**Ephesians 5:17-20**).
11. This is certainly extreme living, but that is what discipleship is all about.
12. All disciples need is faith to believe God will walk with them in this manner (**Matthew 17:20**).

### **Illuminating the world**

1. Disciples are called to be zealous for God's kingdom.
2. Jesus was a zealot for His Father's kingdom (**John 2:17**).
  - a. He was motivated night and day to tell of the kingdom to come.
  - b. His message of how to enter into it was offensive.
  - c. Regardless of its offensive nature He made no attempt to soften it.
3. Read **John 5:35**
  - a. Jesus was an intense light upon the world.
  - b. His light exposed man's love for the darkness (**John 3:16-21**).
4. Disciples are God's light in a dark world (**Matthew 5:14-16**).
5. How can disciples dim God's light from shining out of their lives (**2 Corinthians 4:5-6**)?
  - a. By generating their own lime-light.
  - b. By pursuing religious works.
  - c. By pursuing self.
  - d. By perfecting worldly talents.
  - e. By not pursuing true religion (**James 1:27**).
6. Works in God are usually:
  - a. Insignificant.
  - b. Unpleasant.
  - c. Costly.
  - d. Unnoticed by most people.
  - e. Without reward (**Titus 2:14**).
7. As far as disciples are concerned – all glory goes to Jesus (**2 Thessalonians 1:11-12**).

# 7

## Wrestling with the Mind

### Introduction

1. Read **Romans 12:1-2**.
  - a. God alone is the one who can renew and control disciples' minds.
  - b. Every day disciples are wrestling with their minds (**2 Corinthians 10:3-7**).
  - c. Disciples need to constrain their minds by their love for Jesus (**2 Corinthians 5:11-19**).
2. Read **Matthew 15:17-20**.
  - a. What a disciple is, originates from their hearts.
  - b. The world will always be watching what originates from a disciple's heart.
  - c. When believers become disciples, there are many who let them know how well they are living the disciple life.
3. The world does not want to see:
  - a. Mere church-goers.
  - b. Mimickers of religious rituals.
  - c. Hypocritical repentance.
4. What the world does want to see is:
  - a. Disciples who are truly born again.
  - b. Divine intervention in peoples' lives.
  - c. Genuine repentance.
5. Prior to renewal occurring there must be the desire for renewal.
  - a. The mind and the desires of the mind must be brought under Jesus' control (**James 1:15; 2 Corinthians 10:6**).
  - b. Only with tears, prayers, supplication and much crying will it be possible to renew one's mind (**Hebrews 5:7-8; 1 John 2:6**).
  - c. Beyond that there is the resistance of sin unto blood (**Hebrews 12:2-13**).

### Thoughts from the Old Testament

1. Read **Psalms 36:9**.
  - a. The discovery of real life is a continual journey.
  - b. Nothing in life is worth more than a disciple's relationship with God (**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**).
  - c. Victory over life's circumstances comes from a nurtured relationship with God.
  - d. To understand life, disciples need to learn from the Life Giver.
  - e. It is not wise to have worldly-enlightenment without divine direction (**John 8:12**).
2. Read **Psalms 51:10**.
  - a. Starting over is what being born again is all about.
  - b. God does not restore the sinner's old nature; He eliminates it (**Galatians 2:20; 6:14**).

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- c. The believer gets off to a brand new start in life (**Romans 6:2-4; Matthew 9:17**).
  - d. Believers must commit to a new life as ambassadors (**2 Corinthians 5:17-6:3**).
  - e. God also places His Spirit in the believer to renew their spirit (**Romans 8:1-17**).
3. Read **Proverbs 4:23**.
- a. Regrets can haunt disciples for years.
  - b. Failure to maintain control of certain areas of one's life can be a problem for all disciples.
  - c. If disciples listen to the Holy Spirit He will not lead them into regrettable actions.
  - d. When their body rules their lives; believers have regrets (**Romans 6:12-14**).
4. Read **Proverbs 16:1**.
- a. A disciple's heart and tongue will be synchronized when Jesus is their Master.
  - b. Jesus does not manipulate disciple's wills, He seeks cooperative participants.
  - c. Good fruit germinates in disciple's hearts. (**Matthew 7:17-20**).
  - d. Disciples should align with the good and flee from evil (**Philippians 4:8; Romans 12:9**).
5. Read **Jeremiah 24: 7**.
- a. God is seeking to develop a personal relationship with every disciple (**Matthew 7:7-8**).
  - b. Jesus wants disciples to experience His Lordship and its bountiful power.
  - c. Read **John 14:27**.
  - d. God is only looking for disciples' hearts, not their good looks, intelligence or money.
  - e. He wants disciples to agree to let Him be God in their lives (**Genesis 17:7**).
  - f. He is looking for believers who desire to be disciples (**Ephesians 4:21-24**).
  - g. He never fails those who allow Him to change them (**Hebrews 13:5**).
6. Read **Ezekiel 11:19-20**.
- a. Hard hearts can bring down whole nations.
  - b. God is looking for hearts that are pliable in His hands.
  - c. He wants disciples to realize His full potential through them.
  - d. God's vision for disciples cannot be fulfilled unless He shapes and moulds their lives (**Hebrews 12:1-13**).

### Thoughts from the New Testament

1. Read **Matthew 18:3**.
  - a. There are no shortcuts into God's kingdom.
  - b. But there are shortcuts into active church membership.
  - c. God's kingdom can only be entered through new birth (**John 3:1-21**).
  - d. All must begin as spiritual infants in God's kingdom.

- e. All come into God's kingdom ignorant of spiritual matters (**1 Corinthians 3:1-3**).
- f. Many may know *about* God, but few *know* God (**John 17:3**).
2. Read **Philippians 3:1-21**.
  - a. Worldly talents should be considered as dung until God glorifies Himself in them.
  - b. Worldly talents originate in the world.
  - c. Worldly talents do not make a believer a disciple.
  - d. Prowess among believers can lead to discrimination in God's kingdom (**James 2:1-13**).
3. Read **Ephesians 4:11-16**.
  - a. God's plan is to institute spiritual leadership, not talented worldly leadership.
  - b. God works best in the darkness of this world.
  - c. Only spiritual leadership can cope with working where God works.
  - d. Leaders should never forget that heaven is also populated by social outcasts. (**Ephesians 2:1-9; Galatians 5:19-21**).
  - e. Trust in God is needed when working in such dark, sinful places.
4. Read **Matthew 22:1-14**.
  - a. The challenge to all disciples, no matter what their social standing, is to go into the *entire* world and preach the gospel.
  - b. Disciples must place everything in God's hands.
  - c. God is looking for *God-controlled* disciples – not *God-controlling* believers.
5. Read **Acts 26:18**.
  - a. Satan is always trying to rob disciples of their abundant life in Jesus.
  - b. He uses all the lusts of this world.
  - c. He uses peer pressure to lead believers on to the destructive broad way (**Matthew 7:13-14**).
  - d. Disciples are comforted during temptations because they know Jesus was tempted in like manner (**Luke 4:1-14; Hebrews 2:17-18**).
6. Read **Colossians 2:8-10**.
  - a. Disciples need to focus on Jesus to know and experience life's fullness.
  - b. When they do, they often see real life was in the things they rejected.
  - c. Busy lives and self-seeking lives so often fail to discover real life.
  - d. The most important thing to focus on in life is others – for they are the only thing disciples can take with them into eternity.
  - e. Disciples need to focus on that which is above, not that which is beneath (**Colossians 3:1-3**).
7. Read **Romans 2:28**.
  - a. Circumcision reminded God's servants many times a day that they were in covenant with Him.
  - b. They were unique among the nations.
  - c. Disciples today are also unique because they are in covenant with God through Jesus (**1 Peter 1:13-25**).
  - d. Their calling from God is for them to be different.
  - e. Being outwardly religious always fails.
  - f. A covenant relationship with God is of the heart and not of the flesh.
  - g. The world is looking for the converted believer, not the religious church-goer.

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- h. To accomplish true holiness, God places His Spirit, who produces holiness, within believers (**Romans 8:4**).
8. Read **Matthew 23:27-28**.
- a. The world is full of religions.
  - b. The church can be deceived into embracing teachings of other religions.
  - c. Outward religious practice is not what Christianity is all about.
  - d. Christianity is about inward change.
  - e. Religion binds up its followers.
  - f. Christ' message set sinners free from their bondages.
  - g. It is from the citadel of the heart that the gospel message changes lives.
  - h. It is from the citadel of the heart that Jesus turns believers into disciples.
9. Read **Romans 8:5-6**.
- a. Worldly advertising confronts disciples night and day.
  - b. Advertising is designed to be invasive.
  - c. The power source of advertising is lust and covetousness.
  - d. Disciples therefore should examine what they are exposing themselves to.
  - e. Disciples should learn the difference between a need and a want.
  - f. If disciples nurture godliness, they will be godly and God will bless them.
  - g. If disciples nurture ungodliness, they will be ungodly and will not be blessed.
  - h. Eventually ungodliness leads to disciples being ill-equipped and ineffective in God's kingdom (**2 Timothy 2:3-4**).
  - i. So disciples need to control their minds and reject mammon (**Matthew 6:24**).
10. Read **1 Corinthians 1:21-27**.
- a. Disciples need to discover what foundation people have built their lives on.
  - b. When those foundations are discovered they should be slowly dismantled and replaced with Jesus (**2 Timothy 2:19**).
  - c. For disciples to do this, they need patience, study and skill (**Acts 17**).
  - d. Adding Jesus to one's foundation of belief is not possible.
  - e. Christ's disciples cannot embrace other religions.
  - f. Christ's disciples have eternal life in Him and they know it (**1 John 5**).
  - g. For Christ's disciples, He is the only sure foundation.
11. Read **Ephesians 4:21-24**.
- a. Most people are not aware or concerned that they are sinning.
  - b. When they become enlightened about their sinful nature, they need help to live holy lives.
  - c. To enable their conversion from sin, God has placed His Holy Spirit in their lives to create holy living (**Romans 8**).
12. Summary.
- a. When the mind is renewed first – the body follows.
  - b. Without the renewing of the mind first – conversion will be slow.
  - c. The mind is the battlefield from which wars with Satan are lost or won.

## 8

### Emotions and Feelings Have Their Origins in God

#### Introduction

1. Disciples often talk about their valley and mountain top experiences.
2. Many of God's heroes experienced such highs and lows in their lives (**1 Kings 18-19**).
3. From the lives of God's heroes, disciples learn that such highs and lows are necessary for great service.

#### Coping with emotional highs and lows

1. Understanding God's nature helps disciples cope with highs and lows in their lives.
2. It is essential for disciples to base their relationship with God on His Word – not man's doctrines.
3. Disciples must develop a personal relationship with the Father and the Son if they are to cope with highs and lows (**Matthew 11:27-30**).

#### Knowing God rather than knowing about God

1. Read **Luke 15:11-32**.
2. The story here is more about a loving father than a prodigal son.
3. It is important to note that the father was continually looking for the return of his son.
4. When the son eventually came home the father embraced him, pig dung and all.
5. Sons and daughters of God are always welcomed by their heavenly Father when they return to Him.
6. God is willing to forgive and to forget all failings (**1 John 1:5-10; Isaiah 1:18**).
7. Only those whose discipleship is founded on *knowing* God and not just knowing *about* God will grasp this truth by faith.
8. Disciples must develop an intimate relationship with their heavenly Father (**John 17:3**).
9. From an intimate relationship with God, disciples will discover what He has prepared for them from the foundation of the world (**1 Corinthians 2:9; Ephesians 2:10**).

#### Overcoming condemnation from the inside

1. When people seek a new self-image, they usually start on their outside appearance.
2. Disciples are different; they start on their inside.
3. Why? Because when an inner change begins, outward change follows.
4. Disciples realize you cannot live the old and the new life style at the same time (**Matthew 9:17**).

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5. To try and live both the old and the new at the same time usually ends in resentment, frustration and eventually anger.
6. This kind of life-style can lead to rejection of others and sometimes rejection of God.
7. It can even lead to a Laodicean mentality (**Revelation 3:14-22**).
8. But disciples welcome inner change (**Hebrews 12; Colossians 3:10**).
9. It is up to each disciple to submit to God and change.
10. But to allow God to change them, disciples need to be well established in their faith (**Colossians 1:23**).

### **All disciples have personal needs**

1. Read **Hebrews 13:5**.
2. Having personal needs is natural.
3. But besides personal needs, disciples can also have wants.
4. Distinguishing between needs and wants is a life-time journey.
5. Going into the mission field often enhances a disciple's ability to discern between the two.

### **Understanding the gift of prosperity**

1. Is it a God given right to be prosperous?
2. God knows the dangers of making every disciple prosperous (**Nehemiah 9:25-26**).

### **Coping with and without God's gift of prosperity**

1. It is not difficult to understand God's gift of prosperity.
2. Prosperity, or the lack of it, is in God's will for His disciples.
3. Simply: those who are prospered are to provide for those who are not so that God's overall will for the kingdom can be accomplished.
4. Prosperity for any other reason is not God's will.
5. Acquisition of wealth and assets is in the mind of the believer; not God (**Matthew 6: 19-34**).
6. Judgement by disciples of either the one who has been prospered or the one who has not is also not of God.
7. God determines who He gives to and who He does not give to (**Job 1**).
8. All that matters is that disciples glorify God no matter what His will is for their lives.
9. Disciples must always be mindful that God meets their needs; not their wants (**Ephesians 4:25-32**).

### **God's role in disciples' lives**

1. Disciples realize God has a plan for their lives.
2. They are therefore willing to conform to His perfect plan for their lives.
3. So they can cooperate and live extreme lives or they can rebel and sit in pews till Jesus returns.
4. The reality is: God has their best interests at heart.
5. Without this realization, believers can become depressed.

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6. Therefore it is essential that disciples look beyond themselves and seek the best for others (**Galatians 6:2**).
7. They also need to saturate their lives with God's Word and His promises.
8. Disciples must also appreciate the fact that God is not there to condemn them, but to support them (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).

## 9

### Being filled With the Spirit

#### Introduction

1. Disciples should not confuse being Spirit-filled with the manifestation of spiritual gifts.
  - a. Being filled is an ongoing experience.
  - b. Spiritual gifts are always owned and manifested by the Holy Spirit as He wills.
2. Read **Luke 1:15**.
  - a. John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from the womb.
  - b. God had a ministry for John from the womb.
3. God desires to seal and fill every believer with His Holy Spirit throughout the ages (**Acts 2:39; Ephesians 1:13; Luke 11:13; Acts 5:32**).
4. In today's age not all seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit (**2 Timothy 3:5**).
5. But this age is in great need of disciples who are being filled, led, empowered and anointed with the Holy Spirit (**Luke 4:1, 14, 18**).
6. It is time the church heard the call to act in the power that God has granted to it (**Ephesians 1:15-23**).
7. Read **Luke 1:41-42**.
  - a. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit before her declaration.
  - b. The joy of the Holy Spirit flowed through John at the same time.
8. Read **Luke 1:67**.
  - a. The filling with the Holy Spirit preceded Zachariah's prophecy.
  - b. God also used him despite his unbelief.
9. Read **Luke 4:1**.
  - a. Jesus can be considered to be the prime example of discipleship.
  - b. Jesus' ministry call began with His baptism by John (**Luke 3:21-22**).
  - c. Jesus was filled, led into the wilderness and came out empowered and anointed to perform in the ministry as God willed (**Luke 4:1, 14, 18**).
10. This is no different from the life of disciples today.
  - a. They believe, repent, confess and are immersed also.
  - b. Then they become partakers of the Holy Spirit who fills, leads, empowers and anoints them as He wills (**1 Corinthians 12:11**).
11. Read **Romans 15:17-19**.
  - a. It is essential that disciples understand all that is mentioned above precedes ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - b. Therefore, disciples should desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit first and then wait on the Lord for the anointing and partnering with the Holy Spirit (**Hebrews 6:3-5; Luke 11:13**).

#### Jesus ministered in Holy Spirit power but what about disciples today?

1. Read **John 1:33**.
2. Jesus needed to take steps prior to this passage being fulfilled in His life.
  - a. He had to fulfil all righteousness and did so by submitting to God's will for His life (**Luke 3:21-22**).

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- b. He obeyed God and set the example for all disciples who would follow His call upon their lives (**Matthew 28:18-20**).
  - c. Too often disciples want the anointed ministry power of the Holy Spirit before they have obeyed the basics of being born again.
  - d. Read **Acts 2:33, 37-39; 3:19; 8:22; 17:30; 26:20**.
  - e. Following His obedience in baptism Jesus was filled with and led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness.
  - f. Following His wilderness experience He was empowered and anointed (**Luke 4:1, 14, 18**).
3. Believers though often ignore these basic steps and:
    - a. Rush after the ministry anointing.
    - b. Fail to seek God's ministry will for their lives.
  4. The main thing disciples must remember is that Jesus is the primary example of submission to God.
  5. Without obediently following His example, disciples will begin depending on their own talents.
  6. Jesus couldn't glorify God in His life without first being filled with God's Spirit – neither can disciples.
  7. God wants disciples to live in the fullness of His Holy Spirit – why?
    - a. So they can minister as Jesus ministered.
    - b. But do disciples receive the same fullness today? Yes they do. (**Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:2-4; Colossians 2:9-12**).

### **Being filled with the Holy Spirit happens more than once**

1. Read **Acts 2:1-4**.
2. All who were gathered together were filled with the Holy Spirit.
3. Following their filling, the Holy Spirit exercised the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues as the means by which the gospel would be preached at that moment (**I Corinthians 12:11; Acts 2:5-15**).
  - a. There was filling, empowering and anointing on that occasion.
  - b. The result was 3000 souls were saved (**Acts 2:37-47**).
  - c. All this fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy and Joel's prophecy (**Isaiah 28:11; Joel 2:28-30**).
4. Peter was filled again with the Holy Spirit (**Acts 4:8**).
5. Without the filling of the Holy Spirit, Peter's preaching would have been ineffective.
6. If Peter needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit to witness effectively, how about disciples today?
7. The main emphasis of the Holy Spirit's activities is bold witnessing (**Acts 5:32**)?
8. To accomplish such witnessing, the Holy Spirit seeks willing disciples who will cooperate with Him.
9. Read **Acts 4:31**.
  - a. These disciples had a desire to witness.
  - b. To accomplish the witnessing, the Holy Spirit filled them (**Acts 4:29**).
  - c. Why doesn't this happen too often today?
  - d. Because few believers want to live extreme lives as disciples.
10. Read **Acts 13:52**.

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- a. Confirmation that a believer is filled is very often seen in the manifestation of the Holy Spirit's fruit, not only His gifts.
- b. But this does not mean either supersedes the other.
- c. They are both relevant and both are manifested by His will.

### **Disciples are commanded to allow themselves to be filled with the Holy Spirit**

1. Read **Ephesians 5:18**.
  - a. The choice to *be being filled* with the Holy Spirit lies with the believer.
  - b. They can hold to the ways of the world and be miserable.
  - c. They can *be being filled* throughout their Christian walk.
  - d. When disciples choose the latter, the fullness of the Godhead lives in them (**Ephesians 3:19**).
2. Read **Colossians 2:9-10**.
  - a. When believers are immersed, they enter into the fullness of the Godhead.
  - b. All that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are now resides in them.
  - c. Faith that believes it is so, exercises such positional truth.
3. Read **Acts 6:3-4 and Acts 11:19-26**.
  - a. Good leadership is associated with being filled with the Holy Spirit.
  - b. Teaching, exhorting, and evangelizing are associated with being filled with the Holy Spirit.
  - c. If disciples needed to be Spirit-filled to serve tables, how much more do they need to be filled so as to live extreme lives as disciples?

### **Summary**

1. Believers should be taught all these things about being filled when they first obey the gospel (**Acts 2:37-39; 9:17; 19:1-6**).
2. They should be taught to willingly obey the Holy Spirit's leading.
3. If they are willing to obey, they should be taught they will be filled, led, empowered and anointed to minister as He wills.
4. They should be taught that gifts of the Holy Spirit have not been revoked (**Romans 11:29**).
5. They should be taught they are commanded to *be being filled* (**Ephesians 5:18**).
6. They should be taught to allow the Holy Spirit to empower them as He wills (**Hebrews 2:4; 1 Corinthians 12:11**).
7. They should be taught the Holy Spirit is more than a mere seal unto salvation.
8. They should be taught the Holy Spirit will minister to the body of Christ until Jesus returns.

# 10

## The Disciple and Spiritual Gifts

### Introduction

1. **Romans 11:29** “For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”
  - a. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are imparted to disciples continually from generation to generation as the Spirit *wills*.
  - b. Read **Acts 2:39; 1 Corinthians 12:11; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Corinthians 14:3**.
  - c. The Holy Spirit’s ministry is to remain on the earth ministering to the church and convicting sinners (**John 16:8-12; Revelation 19:6-10**).
2. Disciples should realize that there are at least 22 gifts of the Holy Spirit.
3. These are spiritual gifts (charismata), not talents.
4. Disciples therefore should seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit to minister to the body of Christ (**Acts 6:3**).
5. If disciples claim spiritual gifts have ceased, then the body of Christ is being ministered to by talented believers with persuasive powers, academic qualifications, money, etc.
6. Surely if the world is to believe God is really with Christ’s disciples, those disciples should embrace charismata (**1 Corinthians 14:25**).
7. Finally, if one argues that charismata have ceased, they will also have to argue that the call of the gospel has ceased, for you cannot revoke one without revoking the other.

### Jesus, the disciples’ example

1. Disciples should always remember Jesus lived His life as disciples would live theirs in God’s kingdom, which came into being at Pentecost.
2. Following His baptism by John, Jesus lived the Spirit-filled life that His disciples would live in God’s kingdom (**Luke 3:21-22; Luke 4:1; 1 Corinthians 11:1**).
3. Following their belief, repentance, confession and baptism, disciples are also baptised and filled with God’s Spirit (**Acts 2:33-39; 9:17-18; 19:1-6**).
4. After such obedience, disciples can go on with the Holy Spirit like Jesus did or they can resist Him and He will remain *latent* in their lives.
5. Following His filling, Jesus was led into the wilderness and spiritual warfare (**Luke 4:1-13**).
6. The Holy Spirit did not force Him; Jesus willingly let the Holy Spirit lead Him.
7. When disciples follow the leading of the Holy Spirit they too can be led into spiritual warfare and “wilderness” experiences as God shapes and moulds them (**Hebrews 12**).
8. Once prepared by the Holy Spirit, Jesus was empowered in preparation for ministry (**Luke 4:14**).
9. This was a regular occurrence for Jesus as He was constantly being filled, led and empowered to minister.

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10. Just as it was for Jesus, so it is for His disciples (**Luke 8:46; Acts 2:4; 4:31; 13:52**).
11. The last thing the Holy Spirit did to Jesus was anoint Him for ministry (**Luke 4:18**).
12. Before His anointing, Jesus had to be willing to obey His Father by:
  - a. Being immersed in water.
  - b. Being immersed in the Holy Spirit.
  - c. Being filled, led, empowered and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
13. The result of all this was, people wanted to kill Him (**Luke 4:19-30**).
14. Disciples should not try to skirt around any of the above in an attempt to acquire the anointing of the Holy Spirit pre-maturely.

### **All disciples drink of one Spirit**

1. Read **1 Corinthians 10:1-4; 12:4-13**.
  - a. In God's kingdom there is no discrimination.
  - b. Every disciple receives all that the Godhead is (**Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:9-10**).
  - c. Similar drinking of one Spirit occurred when Israel was baptised into Moses during the Red Sea crossing.
2. Read **Acts 2:33**.
  - a. The Holy Spirit was poured out in His entirety at Pentecost for all flesh to receive.
  - b. He is the one and the same Holy Spirit which disciples receive today.
  - c. He was not given selectively or by measure.
  - d. He must dwell in and minister as He wills through the lives of disciples so as to equip, sustain, console, exhort and comfort the body of Christ (**1 Corinthians 14:1-5**).
3. The ministry gifts of the Holy Spirit are not selected by disciples.
4. The Holy Spirit always manifests His ministry gifts as and when He wills.
5. Such willing of charismata to disciples will continue until Jesus returns, as the Greek verb for "wills" indicates.
6. Read **1 Corinthians 14:1**. In this verse disciples are instructed to covet the charismata of the Holy Spirit.
7. Therefore, disciples either refuse to receive all that the Holy Spirit is and can do or they embrace all that the Holy Spirit is and can do.
  - a. The Holy Spirit remains latent in those who refuse to receive.
  - b. The Holy Spirit partners in God's work with those who do not refuse to receive (**Hebrews 6:3-5**).
  - c. Note the use of same Spirit and one Spirit in all of these verses in **1 Corinthians 12:4-13**.

### **All disciples have received the Holy Spirit of the promise.**

1. Read **Acts 2:37-39**.
  - a. The promise is for all repentant, immersed believers throughout the ages.
  - b. The promise is without discrimination or measure.
2. The promise in its entirety is for all peoples.

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3. Peter's instruction to the first believers was exactly what Jesus did at the Jordan.
4. What is *the promise*?
  - a. Read **Joel 2:28**.
  - b. Read **Luke 24:46-49**.
  - c. Read **Acts 1:4, 8; 2:1-4, 16, 33, 39**.
  - d. Read **Ephesians 1:13**, making sure to emphasise that the article *the* is in the original Greek text, but not in the English translation.
5. If all receive the Holy Spirit of the promise and all that the Holy Spirit is so that they can minister to the church as He wills, why would God retire Him after the last book of the New Testament was written?
6. The calling of the gospel remains.
7. The promise for all and the gifts associated with that promise have not been revoked either (**Romans 11:29**).
8. You cannot revoke one part of this verse without revoking the other.

# 11

## Loving Jesus: Loving Others

### Introduction

1. Read **Matthew 5:21-26**.
  - a. Jesus taught this lesson privately to His disciples (**Matthew 5:1**).
  - b. His audience were those who had chosen to forsake all, deny themselves, take up their crosses and follow Him.
  - c. This lesson applies only to disciples because the world is blind to spiritual things (**2 Corinthians 4:1-4**).
2. If this lesson in **Matthew 5:23-25** was followed, there would be little for elders and others to do about relationships between brethren.
3. What did Jesus teach in this part of His lesson?
  - a. The offended brother approaches the offender.
  - b. Paul even said they should never go to law against one another (**1 Corinthians 6:1-11**).
  - c. Is this hard to do? Yes it is – but it is the nature of God’s kingdom and the teaching Jesus wants disciples to follow.

### Judgement or discernment?

1. Read **Matthew 7:1-2** and **James 4:11-12**.
  - a. A fine line exists between discernment and judgement (**Galatians 5:16-21**).
  - b. Sin in a believer’s life is usually exposed when they challenge discernment with this response, “Don’t you judge me!”
  - c. God’s kingdom most certainly does not need merciless policeman either (**Matthew 12:7**).
2. Despite what some may think; spiritual discernment does have a place in God’s kingdom.
3. It has a place if:
  - a. Those who are discerning are righteous, humble and spirit-filled disciples.
  - b. Those who are discerning are constantly examining themselves in God’s light.
4. The right to discern emerges from humility.
5. The object of discernment is spiritual growth following sincere repentance.
6. God desires all mankind to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth, not be eternally separated from Him (**1 Timothy 2:4**).
7. God expects weak disciples to grow, and strong disciples to mature when disciplined (**Hebrews 12:1-17**).
8. Milk and meat are God’s staple diet for all disciples while they are on their pilgrimage upon earth (**Hebrews 11:13-16**).
9. Love is always ready with an outstretched hand and not a clenched fist.
10. Therefore, for the sake of edification, exhortation, and consolation, the offended must approach the offender.

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### **Jesus desires mercy and not sacrifice**

1. Read **Matthew 9:10-13 and Matthew 12:1-8**.
2. These two passages are very profound in regard to on-going relationships between disciples.
3. When believers preach church doctrines and not Jesus, they can mercilessly sacrifice other believers.
4. Jesus wants disciples to look out for one another and as they journey together, learn from one another (**Acts 8:26-40**).
5. We should not leave our pathway through life strewn with sacrificed brethren.
6. Jesus has called all disciples to minister with compassion, grace and love and get to know one another as intimately as God knows each of us (**1 Corinthians 13:12-13**).
7. Thus the outcome will be love for one another (**1 John 4 and 5**).
8. This is not a call to compromise God's Word – rather it is a call to love one another with the heart of God.
9. Together then the eyes of disciples' hearts will be enlightened.

### **Disciplining the unruly believer**

1. Read **Matthew 18:15-17**.
2. There is no room for compromise in regard to discipline in God's kingdom (**1 Corinthians 5:1-8**).
3. Jesus wants a just outcome when this course of action is taken in the church.
4. Note the action is once again initiated by the offended and not by the offender.
5. Spirit-filled disciples have to be involved in this action of excommunication.
6. Excommunication is necessary for the health of the church.
7. Procrastination is not wise when such matters as these arise.
8. When action is delayed, so often the offender gains control and decimation of a congregation can occur (**Galatians 5:13-15**).
9. Discipline is the responsibility that goes with good leadership (**Ezekiel 3**).
  - a. Leaders who equivocate on this matter should not be in leadership.
  - b. When leaders equivocate, God sometimes multiplies their responsibilities (**Exodus 4:10-17**).
  - c. Leaders who protect their own interests in God's kingdom will be disciplined by God.
  - d. The unity of the body of believers must be maintained at all cost.

### **Maturing through Christian relationships**

1. Read **John 1:14-16 and I John 3:14-18**.
2. It is essential, in the first instance, for disciples to develop a one-spirit relationship with all members of the Godhead.
3. God wants all disciples to have a God-controlled relationship, not a God-controlling relationship with Him.
4. In this relationship He wants disciples to be filled, led, empowered and anointed with the Holy Spirit so that they can console, edify and exhort the church (**1 Corinthians 14:1-3**).
5. Such an intimate relationship with God will enable God to manifest Christ's nature through their lives (**2 Corinthians 4:5-6; Galatians 2:20**).

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6. Disciples therefore must be willing to live as Jesus did and would.
7. The only love that Jesus wants to manifest through disciples is agape love.
8. He wants His disciples to develop relationships which seek to:
  - a. Exalt others.
  - b. Develop the best in others.

### **The disciple's relationship with the Father**

1. Read **Leviticus 26:12**.
  - a. Disciples choose how close they want to get to God.
  - b. God desires their presence more than they desire His.
  - c. He is eager to participate in disciples' lives (**Isaiah 30:21**).
2. Read **Isaiah 57:15**.
  - a. Disciples, who seek a close relationship with God, choose a tough pathway.
  - b. They discover their body and soul still want to control the relationship (**1 Corinthians 3:1-9**).
  - c. But when, from time-to-time they fail in the relationship, God forgives and then motivates them (**Hebrews 10:19-23**).
3. Read **John 14:23**.
  - a. The portrait of God as solely an account keeping God is wrong.
  - b. God is willing to take up residence in believers and work effectively in their lives for His outcomes.
4. God is not in and out of disciple's lives because they are successful in His kingdom one moment and stumbling in sin the next.
5. When they stumble He forgives and when they succeed He rejoices (**1 John 1:5-10**).
6. As disciples mature, God does desire that they learn to resist sin (**Hebrews 5:7-8; 12:5**).
7. So disciples should first learn to relate to God and one another.
8. Read **2 Corinthians 6:16**.
  - a. The most rewarding relationship for disciples is to let *God be God* in their lives.
  - b. A disciple's walk will then be in God's light and not in their own power or wisdom (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**).
  - c. Christ wants to live His life out through His disciples – He does not want disciples to try and live *like He lived*.
9. Read **2 Corinthians 13:11**.
  - a. God wants disciples to be at peace with Him and to go on to maturity.
  - b. If they have such a maturing relationship with God, they will have it with others.

### **The disciple's relationship with Jesus**

1. Read **John 6:53-56**.
2. When Jesus preached this message many believers stopped following Him (**John 6:60-66**).
  - a. They suddenly realised that following Jesus was an extreme way to live.

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- b. Also they began to realize that they would have to be totally committed to His call on their lives.
    - c. They would have to be fully consumed by Him and Him by them.
  3. To follow Jesus meant:
    - a. They would be offside with their families, friends, workmates and religious leaders.
    - b. They would be removed from their synagogues (**John 6:41-59**).
    - c. Following Jesus was a serious, life changing commitment.
  4. Read **John 6:67-71**.
    - a. The faith of the twelve was personally challenged by Jesus.
    - b. They were willing to commit to Him because they wanted the eternal life He was offering.
  5. What about believing in Jesus today?
    - a. The real question should be: “Do believers want to become disciples?”
    - b. Do they really want Jesus as their Saviour, Teacher and Lord?
    - c. Are they willing to pay the cost of being cut off from their old life?
    - d. Are they willing to be God-pleasers and not men-pleasers?
  6. When believers enter God’s kingdom they die to all that is not of His kingdom.
  7. Without the desire to consume Jesus, believers will never become disciples.
    - a. Disciples do not desert Jesus at the sound of battle.
    - b. Disciples have no ambitions of their own.
    - c. Disciples willingly put their hands to the plough and do not turn back (**Luke 9:62**).

### **Disciples can have a close relationship with Jesus**

1. Read **John 14:20-23**.
2. A relationship with Jesus can:
  - a. Be birthed.
  - b. Be sustained.
  - c. Be classified in love.
3. The intent of a relationship with Jesus is not to gain salvation, but to interact with Jesus so that:
  - a. God can *be God* in disciple’s lives.
  - b. Jesus can live *His life* in them as He wills.
4. Read **Hebrews 2:11**.
  - a. Sanctification is possible in believer’s lives.
  - b. It is possible because of what God has done – not what believers do.
  - c. Man cannot appease God.
  - d. God places believers into Jesus because He is utterly satisfied with all that He has done in Jesus (**Ephesians 2:1-22**).
  - e. Therefore, disciples should live at peace with God – resting in what He has done to appease Himself.
5. Disciples should remember that Jesus is not ashamed to call them His brethren (**Hebrews 2:11-12**).
6. Disciples are one-spirit with Jesus because they are in Him (**1 Corinthians 6:17; Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:1-4**).
7. Developing a relationship that will go on into eternity is difficult – but not impossible.

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8. Jesus does all He can to maintain the relationship He has with disciples (**Revelation 3:20**).
9. Disciples should always be open to Christ's desire to develop the relationship.

### **Disciples developing relationships with other disciples**

1. Read **Psalms 55:14**.
2. The foundation stones of God's kingdom are:
  - a. Ministry to one another.
  - b. Love for one another.
  - c. Living in love for one another so that they become a sweet savour to a lost world (**2 Corinthians 2:14-17**).
3. Read **Galatians 6:2, 10**.
  - a. The needs of others should be the priority of disciples.
  - b. To truly minister to others, disciples should listen twice as much as they speak (**1 John 3:13-24; Matthew 19:13-30**).
4. Read **Philippians 2:1-2**.
  - a. Disciples are called to build Christ's kingdom – not their own.
  - b. Sinners will indeed enter God's kingdom when God's priorities become the disciple's priorities (**Acts 2:40-47**).
5. Read **1 Peter 3:8-9**.
  - a. Self-centred prayers are not acceptable.
  - b. The needs of others should be the primary focus of disciples' prayers.
  - c. When disciples focus their prayers on others, God meets their needs as well.
  - d. Disciples' needs were Jesus' main priority in the Garden of Gethsemane.
6. Read **Matthew 18:15-17**.
  - a. It would be an idyllic world if there were no disputes between people.
  - b. To maintain good relationships, disciples need to deal quickly with disputes.
  - c. Sin will fester and destroy relationships when disputes are not resolved (**James 1:12-16**).

### **Maintaining unity in God's kingdom**

1. Disciples must maintain unity and the bond of peace (**Ephesians 4:3**).
2. The offended must approach the offender when disputes arise (**Matthew 5:23; 18:15-17**).
3. Leaders must take immediate action against sin which is likely to devastate any congregation of disciples (**1 Corinthians 5:1-8**).
4. Leaders cannot hold a peace-at-any-price position when disputes arise between believers.
5. God has not failed to reveal how leaders should deal with disputes.
6. Settling kingdom disputes in secular ways or secular venues is not condoned by God (**1 Corinthians 6:5-8**).
7. The ways of the flesh are not the ways of God when it comes to settling disputes.
8. Such action by leaders is not so much as to cast brethren out, but rather to maintain unity in the congregation (**1 Peter 3:8-9**).

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9. When creating solid relationships in God's kingdom, His Word cannot be ignored as it must be the authority for all action taken.

# 12

## Disciples Making Disciples

### Introduction

1. Read **Matthew 28: 18-20**.
  - a. Disciples must be urgent about seeking to save the lost.
  - b. Paul sought to *persuade* men to be saved (**2 Corinthians 5:11**).
  - c. The Greek word of *persuade* means to fall down on one's knees and tug on the hem or another person's tunic.
2. Disciples need to realize that all they need to do to save the lost is to teach them *Jesus* (**Acts 8:35-40; 16:29-34**).
3. When sinners come to know Jesus and not just church and doctrines of men, they go on their way rejoicing in what they have found (**Acts 8:35-40**).
4. When sinners are saved and become disciples and know Jesus as their Saviour, Teacher and Lord, they become the most powerful people on the planet.
5. As they learn God's Word they can, by faith, go on to live extreme lives in Christ.
6. Believers who become disciples establish lives on God's foundation (**2 Timothy 2:19-26**).
7. The foundation they stand on must include:
  - a. Belief in Jesus as the only Son of God; the Messiah.
  - b. Repentance for past sin.
  - c. Confession of Jesus as the only Son of God; the Messiah.
  - d. Baptism into Christ the Messiah by immersion (**Galatians 3:27**).
  - e. Spiritual growth in partnership with the Holy Spirit.
8. Disciples who are taught *Jesus* (**Acts 8:35-40**) will have no problem responding to these acts of faith mentioned above because they want to abide in Jesus' commandments (**John 8:31**).
9. When making disciples of sinners, those teaching them should be attentive to:
  - a. All disciples abiding in God's Word.
  - b. Teaching *Jesus* and not the doctrines of men.
  - c. Belief in Jesus as the Messiah and only Son of God.
  - d. Repentance for past and present sin.
  - e. Confession of Jesus as the Saviour, Teacher and Lord of their lives.
  - f. To be immersed in water.
  - g. To discard the old ways and take up the new ways (**Romans 6:1-4**).
  - h. To accept their ambassadorship for Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17-6:2**).

### Believing in Jesus

1. Read **John 20:30-31**.
  - a. Much information and many sources of information are available to substantiate the Bible's authenticity.
  - b. It is up to disciples to become aware of these resources.
  - c. Belief in Jesus is not merely an acknowledgement that He existed – but an acknowledgment that He is the Messiah of God who was raised from the dead.

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2. Believing in Jesus is the belief that what John wrote in **John 14:1-6** is the truth and that truth is:
  - a. Jesus alone appeases God.
  - b. Belief *in* Jesus is what is required by God, not belief *about* Jesus (**Ephesians 2:1-22**).
  - c. Belief that results from hearing or reading God's Word (**Romans 10:17**).
3. Read **Ephesians 1:18**.
  - a. Christ's gospel appeals to man's spirit; not his intellect.
  - b. When the sinner's heart is cut by God's Word, repentance and new-birth follow (**Acts 2:37-39**).
  - c. Belief comes to sinners when they are taught *Jesus*.
  - d. When making disciples, those teaching should teach *Jesus* only to sinners and pray that God's Holy Spirit convicts them of sin, righteousness and judgement (**John 16:8**).

### **Belief is necessary**

1. Read **John 3:14-16**.
  - a. Sinners must be convinced they are lost or they will never become believers (**Romans 3:23**).
  - b. The Bible clearly identifies the sins of mankind (**Romans 1:18-32; Galatians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:5-10**).
  - c. Disciples are called to lead sinners to believe in Jesus (**Matthew 22:14**).
  - d. When sinners acknowledge they have sinned, they must become aware they are lost eternally (**John 3:18-21**).
  - e. All seekers of God must realize they fall short of God's glory (**Romans 3:23**).
2. Read **Hebrews 11:6**.
  - a. The sinner must be convinced in their heart that God exists.
  - b. Not only that He exists – but that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

### **The sinner and repentance**

1. Read **Luke 13:3**.
  - a. Jesus emphatically says, "Repent or perish."
  - b. Jesus doesn't ask sinners to receive Him into their heart – He calls them to repentance!
2. Read **John 16:8-11**.
  - a. What is the point of the Holy Spirit convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgement to come if preachers aren't willing to proclaim it?
  - b. Conviction of sin must precede the act of repentance.
  - c. Sinners have to denounce the reign of Satan over their lives and accept Christ's reign over their lives (**Romans 6:12-23**).
  - d. Repentance is not just *feeling sorry* for sin in one's life!
  - e. Repentance is turning about and going in an entirely new direction.

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- f. Disciples are called upon to preach repentance to sinners (**Luke 24:47**).
- g. The apostles preached repentance (**Acts 2:38; 3:19; 8:22; 17:30; 26:20**).
3. Read **Luke 24:46-47**.
  - a. Why do today's sermons lack the call to repentance?
  - b. Such a call does not produce good numbers on church roles.
  - c. As far as heaven is concerned, it rejoices over one sinner who repents.
  - d. Also the Godhead will not live in unrepentant lives.
4. Read **Luke 13:3 and Luke 24:46-47**.
  - a. John the Baptist and Jesus both called for repentance in Israel (**Matthew 3:1-2**).
  - b. Then Jesus sent the disciples out preaching the same message (**Mark 6:12**).
  - c. Then later they preached it as apostles, and often as the opening remark of their sermons (**Acts 3:19**).
5. Sinners can be deceived when they believe they are saved just because they raised their hands in a gospel meeting and welcomed Jesus into their hearts.
6. The command of Jesus is for preachers to preach repentance and remission of sins – *not* for sinners to receive Jesus into their hearts.
7. The truth is, sinner's hearts should be cut to the core (**Acts 2:37-39**).
8. What cuts hearts? The fear of judgement of one's sinful state in the presence of God (**John 3:15-21**).
9. Read **Acts 17:30**.
  - a. All sinners must come to repentance prior to conversion.
  - b. Such godly sorrow occurs when sinners hear and read the gospels (**1 Corinthians 7:9-10**).
  - c. Carnal, soulless lives result when sinners don't repent.
  - d. Without repentance believers can't go on to maturity (**Hebrews 5:11-6:3**).
  - e. God wants all mankind to repent (**2 Peter 3:9**).

### **The sinner and confession of faith**

1. Read **Matthew 16:16**.
  - a. When sinners confess Jesus is the Christ, they are confessing Jesus is the fulfilment of God's promises and the atonement for their sins (**John 1:18**).
  - b. Sinners should understand their confession of Jesus as the Christ will be heard in heaven (**Matthew 10:32-33**).
  - c. Confession is vital at conversion and throughout a disciple's walk with Jesus (**2 Timothy 4:7**).
2. Confession unto salvation is when sinners declare to others that Jesus is now the Lord of their lives; not Satan (**Romans 10:9-10; Romans 6:12-14; John 14:1-6**).
3. Confession of any future sin is essential in disciple's lives (**1 John 1:5-2:3; Hebrews 7:25**).
4. Confession unto other trustworthy disciples is also necessary at times (**James 5:16**).
5. Confession must come from a repentant, humble heart (**2 Chronicles 7:14**).

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### **The sinner and baptism by immersion**

1. Baptism by immersion is a command (**Matthew 28:18-20**).
2. Read **John 14:15; John 15:14**.
  - a. Jesus asks this question of every disciple, “Do you love me?”
  - b. If they respond in the positive, then He says, “Keep my commandments.”
  - c. If disciples love Jesus they will keep His commandments.
3. Jesus gave two commandments after His resurrection:
  - a. Repent was the first.
  - b. Be immersed was the second.
4. Peter called for such action at the end of his sermon on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:37-47**).
5. So the final step sinners have to take after they believe, repent and confess Jesus is the Christ is to be immersed and wash away their sins as Paul and the Romans did (**Acts 22:16; Romans 6:1-4**).
6. It is also important to note that you cannot *teach Jesus* without teaching immersion (**Acts 8:35-40; 16:31-33**).

### **Scriptural reasons for immersion**

1. Immersion is a command to those who love Jesus (**Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15-16**).
2. Immersion is a burial of the old man of sin and a rising to walk in newness of life afterwards (**Romans 6:1-11**).
3. Immersion is not a human work; it is an act of faith in the divine working of God and the circumcision of the heart (**Colossians 2:11-12**).
4. At immersion sins are remitted (**Acts 2:38**).
5. At immersion sins are washed away (**Acts 22:16**).
6. The believing, repentant, confessing sinner is immersed *into Christ* (**Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:1-4**). There are no scriptures that state sinners *believe into* Christ, *repent into* Christ, or *confess into* Christ.
7. At immersion the Holy Spirit is received to dwell *within*, not *upon* the disciple (**Acts 2:38; Acts 9:17-18; Acts 19:1-6**).
8. You can't teach *Jesus* without teaching immersion (**Acts 8:35-40; Acts 16:31-33**).
9. Salvation of the believing, repentant, confessing sinner is associated with immersion according to Peter (**1 Peter 3:21**).
10. Immersion was so necessary as far as Paul was concerned that he rebaptised disciples of John in the name of Jesus (**Acts 19:1-6**).

### **Summary**

1. The most reasonable policy with regard to immersion is to note that it was the teaching of Christ and the apostles in the first century.
2. You can't teach *Jesus* without teaching immersion.
3. Immersion is commanded by Jesus and if a believer loves Jesus, they will obey His command.

# 13

## Disciples and Prayer

### Introduction

1. Prayer always increases in believer's lives when difficulties increase.
2. In most of the world difficulties abound and prayer is intense.
3. In most first-world countries, prayer is not so intense and prayer meetings are poorly attended.
4. First-world Christians need to be taught to pray because desperation is not often their teacher like it is in third-world countries.
5. The only thing Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them was how to pray (**Luke 11:1**).
6. They could have learned first-hand from Him in the late night hours and early morning hours, but they chose to sleep (**Mark 14:32-42**).
7. Yet, after He ascended into heaven all they could do was pray (**Acts 2 and 4**).

### Prayer is the hardest discipline

1. Religious qualification of prayer is a hindrance to prayer.
  - a. Prayer is not about methodology and terminology.
  - b. Prayer is for all disciples and is birthed from a heart of faith.
  - c. God hears prayer from the heart (**Psalms 130:1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Luke 15:11-32**).
2. Prayer is the most extreme of all the Christian disciplines.
  - a. It is the most essential act disciples engage in.
  - b. During prayer, disciples discover themselves.
  - c. During prayer, the needs of others become paramount in disciple's lives.
  - d. During prayer, disciples develop their eternal relationship with the Father and the Son (**John 17:3**).
3. When praying, disciples need to be honest with God.
  - a. There is no compromise during prayer.
  - b. There is no self-glory during prayer (**Luke 18:9-14**).
4. What happens when disciples pray?
  - a. Joy flows into their lives.
  - b. They disturb others including their family, friends, workmates and brethren.
5. Prayer should always be specific.

### Jesus and Prayer

1. Read **Hebrews 5:7-8**.
2. Jesus went beyond mere moments in prayer to:
  - a. Supplications.
  - b. Vehement cries.
  - c. Tears.
3. In all these things Jesus set the example and He also:

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- a. Never hid the cost of prayer from His disciples.
- b. Prayed all night on occasions.
- c. Withdraw from the normalities of life when led by the Spirit to do so.
4. Jesus *made* time to pray.
  - a. No disciple finds extra time to pray – all get 168 hours per week.
  - b. Wasting time is easier than making time.
  - c. God's leading comes when disciples make time to pray (**Philippians 4:4-7**).
  - d. God's will is more clearly known when disciples pray (**Ephesians 2:10; 5:17**).
5. Prayer must become essential in disciples' lives (**Matthew 6:34**).
6. If disciples desire a life of prayer they have to make time for it to become a reality in their lives.

### **Developing a personal relationship with God through prayer**

1. Why do some disciples have a close relationship with God?
  - a. God does not discriminate about who He will communicate with.
  - b. It is just that some disciples are more urgent to develop a relationship with God.
  - c. They have tasted that a close relationship with God is good (**Psalm 34:8; Hebrews 6:4-5**).
  - d. These disciples have discovered God does indeed draw near to them when they draw near to Him (**1 John 3:21-22; James 4:4-8**).
2. Approaching God regularly opens up two-way communication.
  - a. Disciples are not restricted to only spending long periods with God.
  - b. Brief moments are just as important to God.
  - c. God doesn't count the hours disciples spend with Him, but rather the cost involved in making time to spend with Him.
3. Approaching God inconsistently brings little joy.
  - a. Because of business commitments, procrastination, disbelief etc., disciples can go from a time of prayer very disappointed.
  - b. Being force into prayer because of external circumstances is not rewarding.
  - c. Also disciples often go to God for their wants and not their needs and soon start to disbelieve prayer works.
4. Prayer is the embryo of eternal commitment.
  - a. God wants to provide disciples needs as He promises (**Matthew 6:19-34**).
  - b. He wants them to know His plan for their lives (**1 Corinthians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 5:16-6:1**).
  - c. He wants to know and experience His kingdom's power (**1 Corinthians 4:19-20**).
5. God only wants the best for His disciples (**Ephesians 5:17**).

### **All disciples have doubts from time to time**

1. All disciples will doubts from time to time because:
  - a. Circumstances will challenge their faith.
  - b. Loved ones will challenge their faith.

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- c. Fellow believers will challenge their faith.
  - d. Their relationship with God will weaken on occasions.
  - e. The kingdom of darkness will intensify its attacks on them (**Ephesians 6:10-20**).
2. Such doubts should not weaken disciples but strength them.
  3. The first step toward overcoming doubt is to spend more time with God.
  4. The second step toward overcoming doubt is to realize God is faithful, regardless of a disciple's faithlessness (**2 Timothy 2:13; Hebrews 13:5**).
  5. The third step is to realize their relationship with God is built on God's attributes, not theirs (**Isaiah 46:4**).
  6. Disciples are challenged to glory in their weaknesses, not their strengths (**2 Corinthians 12:9-10**).
    - a. Disciples do not trust their intellectual prowess.
    - b. Disciples are the ones who conquer all on their knees.
    - c. Disciples willingly lay aside talents, wealth, influence, education etc.
  7. Praying disciples trust in God's infiniteness and not their finiteness.
  8. Praying disciples believe they can do all things through Christ (**1 John 3:19-24; 5:13-15**).
  9. Disciples can do all things through Christ and that is what strengthens them (**Philippians 4:13**).
  10. Ultimately doubt is overcome when disciples come to know Him in whom they trust.

### **God is just waiting to answer disciple's prayers**

1. Read **John 14:14**.
2. Note Jesus said *anything*.
3. There are many reasons why God wants to answer disciple's prayers – refer to some of those reasons which are listed in the book.

### **Prayer and meditation are often linked**

1. Meditation is Biblical, not mystical.
2. Meditation is seldom practiced by Christians because it takes them beyond the egocentric demands of self-enlightenment to God-enlightenment (**Ephesians 1:17-23**).
3. Those who meditate seek to enlighten their spirit (**Matthew 5:8**).
4. Meditation is to relax and allow God to be God in one's life.
5. When God is allowed to be God in a disciple's life they go on to know and experience Him in their lives when and how He wills (**Hebrews 6:3-5**).
6. When disciples meditate on God and His Word they discover nothing happens by chance.

# 14

## The Disciple and Intercession

### Introduction

1. Read **Ephesians 6:18**.
  - a. With all prayer.
  - b. With all supplication.
  - c. Praying in the Spirit.
  - d. Watching over those prayers and supplications.
  - e. In all perseverance and supplication.
  - f. For all the saints.
2. Intercession is not a light matter to Paul.
3. Intercession is hard work.
4. Intercession is serious kingdom business.
5. Supplication is to focus on specific kingdom matters.
6. It is not wrong to supplicate the Lord (**Luke 18:1-8**).
7. Supplication is effective when disciples do not quit.
8. It is easy to quit supplicating when:
  - a. A disciple does not feel faithful.
  - b. When sin resides in a disciple's life.
  - c. When a disciple prays infrequently.
  - d. When a disciple's motives are questionable.
  - e. When Satan ridicules God's call on a disciple's life.
  - f. When mammon demands a disciple's attention.
  - g. When doubts surface in a disciple's mind.
9. Disciples intercede regardless of their state of worldly or spiritual affairs.
10. Intercession can occur when disciples stay at prayer and let the Holy Spirit intercede when they don't know how to anymore (**Romans 8:26-27; Jude: 20**).
11. Intercession can be likened unto a chicken brooding over her eggs until they hatch.
  - a. Intercessory prayers are not notes shoved into God's letterbox as disciples hurry passed the throne of God.
  - b. Intercessory prayers are delivered to God's throne and brooded over until there is an answer.
12. Perseverance is the essence of intercession (**2 Timothy 2:1-13**).
13. Intercessors walk by faith and not by sight (**Hebrews 11:1-6**).
14. Disciples intercede for all the servants of God.
  - a. Intercessors create prayer lists.
  - b. Intercessors pray for both those that love them and those that hate them.
15. Intercession is not a specific ministry for a few disciples – it is for all disciples.
16. When disciples intercede, they form a one-spirit relationship with the Godhead (**John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 6:17**).

### Great examples of intercession

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1. Read **Genesis 18:16-23**.
2. What if Abraham only interceded for one soul – would God have resisted destroying the cities for one soul?
3. God's desire is for all to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth (**1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9**).
4. What disciples can learn from this scripture:
  - a. Disciples must have a heart for the righteous as well as the sinful.
  - b. Disciples can remind God of His righteousness and covenant promises (**2 Corinthians 1:20**).
  - c. Disciples should approach intercession with humility.
  - d. Disciples should be persistent.
5. Read **Exodus 32:9-14**.
  - a. Moses stood between the people and God and pled for them.
  - b. He was not about to abandon His people.
  - c. He cared about God's reputation among non-believers.
  - d. He reminded God of His covenant promises.
6. God heard Moses' intercession and repented of His intentions, so intercessors need to:
  - a. Stand in the breach.
  - b. Plead with God.
  - c. Remind Him of His covenant promises.
  - d. Desire the salvation of others.
7. Read **Numbers 14:11-19**.
  - a. Moses jealously guarded his relationship with God.
  - b. Moses was proud of His God.
  - c. Intercessors need to exalt God's glory, not their own.
  - d. Intercessors need to develop a personal relationship with God.
8. In the intent of Moses' heart was:
  - a. The deliverance of others from the judgement of God.
  - b. Making sure all the souls in his care made it to the Promised Land.
  - c. All souls were precious to him.
9. Today's intercessors must concentrate on the salvation of others, not their eternal demise.

### **What disciples should intercede for**

1. Read **Numbers 6:22-27**.
2. The priority of intercessors are the needs of others:
  - a. When they need sustenance – they plead with God to sustain others.
  - b. When they need comforting – they plead with God to sustain others.
  - c. When grace is needed in their lives – they plead with God to be gracious to others.
  - d. When they are desperate for peace in their own lives – they plead with God to grant peace to others.

### **Why does intercession sometimes fail?**

1. Read **Jeremiah 7:16-28**.
2. Intercession fails when:

[Type text]

- a. Sin is wilfully and passionately being embraced by those being interceded for.
- b. When God's place in people's hearts is occupied by other gods.
- c. When God's Word is no longer falling on receptive ears and hearts.

### **Some major thoughts about intercession**

1. Read **Ephesians 6:18**.
  - a. Intercessors need to be attentive to the Holy Spirit.
  - b. Intercessors must not weaken and give up prematurely.
  - c. Intercessors cannot discriminate.
  - d. All those God places on the intercessors' heart are worthy of their prayers.
2. Read **James 5:14-15**.
  - e. Intercessors are attentive to the needs of all – no matter what their status in life.
  - f. Intercessors believe God for all that is necessary to sustain their life.
  - g. Intercessors must be confident God is able to do as He promises.
3. Read **Matthew 5:44**.
  - a. Love for others is the catalyst of intercessory prayer.
  - b. Intercessors call on God to bless others.
  - c. Intercessors are impervious to the attitude of others
4. Read **Romans 1:9**.
  - a. Disciples should be persistent intercessors – no matter what it costs them.
  - b. Intercessor's prayers always centre on others – not themselves.
5. Read **Ephesians 1:15-19**.
  - a. Intercessors pray for God's very best to be abundantly supplied to others.
  - b. Intercessors constantly call on God for Him to grant all His gifts to others.
6. Read **Ephesians 3:14-19**.
  - a. Intercessors seek all God's riches for others.
  - b. Intercessors seek God's strength for others.
  - c. Intercessors desire that others grow and be established in God's love.
  - d. Intercessors desire others understand and grow in holy things.
  - e. Intercessors desire others will receive God's fullness in their lives.
7. Read **1 Thessalonians 3:12-13**.
  - a. Intercessors must desire unity in the kingdom of God.
  - b. Intercessors constantly intercede for the spiritual growth and health of all.
8. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:23**.
  - a. Intercessors desire all come to know God's peace which passes all understanding.
  - b. Intercessors desire all come to know the wonderful blessing of being sanctified.

### **Summary**

1. Intercessors need to contemplate the costs of intercession on their lives.

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2. Intercessors need to be vigilant.
3. Intercessors do not compromise.
4. Intercessors are always at war.
5. Intercessors pray when they least feel like it.
6. Intercessors never quit.
7. Intercessors know the lost are indeed lost and that the saved are vulnerable to sin.
8. Intercession is not for the faint-hearted.

# 15

## Getting It Right with God

1. To be reconciled means to be right with God.
  - a. Suddenly the sinner has peace with God, peace with themselves and peace with men.
  - b. The reconciled have clear consciences between God and men (**2 Corinthians 1:12; 4:2**).
  - c. Peace reigns in their hearts because they are content in every circumstance (**Philippians 4:11-13**).
2. The need for reconciliation began in heaven (**Revelation 12**).
  - a. Satan was jealous for God's love for the man and the woman.
  - b. After man's fall, God promised to be reconciled to man but be separated from Satan (**Genesis 3:15**).
  - c. God concealed His plan until He revealed it through Paul (**Romans 16:25-27**).
3. The disciple's part in reconciliation is faith.
4. God's part in reconciliation is sacrifice.
5. God has done all to reconcile man – He appeased Himself (**Romans 5:1-11; 2 Peter 1:3-12**).
6. There is nothing believers can do to appease God – He alone has wiped away believer's sins (**Colossians 2:1-15**).
7. He alone has removed all sin and made His disciples ambassadors to reconcile the world unto Himself (**2 Corinthians 5:17-6:2**).
8. Disciples have peace with themselves because they are at peace with God (**Ephesians 2:11-12; Colossians 1:19-22**).
9. Peace has returned to heaven and is maintained because of Jesus' faithfulness (**Hebrews 7:25**).
10. Because disciples are at peace with themselves and at peace with the Godhead, they should strive to be at peace with others (**Psalms 133:1; Matthew 5:21-26**).
11. To produce such all embracing peace, God was willing to pay the price to procure it.
12. Read **Romans 12:9-21; Galatians 5:13-15; Ephesians 4:1-3; Revelation 21:1-3**.

# 16

## The Good and Faithful BondServant

### Introduction

1. Read **Matthew 20:26-28**.
  - a. Becoming a bondservant is not attained – it is what believers become the moment they are born again.
  - b. Sinners leave the reign of Satan and enter into the reign of Jesus (**Romans 6:12-14**).
2. Bondservant means – one who is obligated to serve another because a price was paid for their life.
  - a. Their life is no longer their own – it is their Master's.
  - b. Their days and nights are no longer their own – they are their Master's.
  - c. Their status in life is no longer their concern – they live for the will of their Master.
  - d. The needs in life are no longer their concern – they are their Master's (**Matthew 6:19-34**).
  - e. Their plans for life are no longer their own – they pursue the plans of their Master.

### Bondservants are not employees.

1. Bondservants do not minister *for* God – they minister *unto* God (**Exodus 28:1**).
2. When disciples understand this, they are more willing to do the lowly things Jesus asks them to do (**Matthew 25:31-46**).
3. Living as a bondservant is an extreme life.
4. Bondservants, like Jesus, give up all to do the will of the Father (**Philippians 2:1-11; John 12:26**).
  - a. They are not being employed by God in His kingdom – rather they are dying unto themselves and living *unto* Him.
  - b. Jesus is their *Master* – not their boss.
  - c. They don't offer Him their talents and worldly qualifications – they offer Him their lives (**2 Timothy 2:1-13**).
5. Ministering as a bondservant is for all disciples.
  - a. When teenager disciples minister to their parents, they *minister unto* the Lord.
  - b. When parents love and nurture their children, they *minister unto* the Lord (**Ephesians 6:1-3**).
  - c. When husbands and wives love one another, they *minister unto* the Lord (**Ephesians 5:22-23; 1 Peter 3:1-7**).
  - d. When employees do what is required of them – they *minister unto* the Lord (**Ephesians 6:5-8**).
  - e. When employers treat their employees well, they *minister unto* the Lord (**Ephesians 6:9**).
6. Leaders in ministry are bondservants to others.

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- a. God's leaders are to *minister unto* God – **not** minister *for* God (**Ephesians 4:11-12**).
- b. When disciples *minister for* God, they are choosing employment – which soon leads to serving and pleasing men (**Galatians 1:10**).
7. When disciples *minister unto* God – they serve Him and not men.
  - a. They build His kingdom, not their's.
  - b. They go wherever He sends them.
  - c. They do what He wills regardless.
8. When disciples *minister unto* God – they do as their Master did and minister unto others.

### **Joshua: a prime Old Testament bondservant**

1. Read **Exodus 17**.
  - a. When Joshua was sent to war he did not debate with Moses about his commandment.
  - b. He did not doubt Moses' sanity when he sat on a hill overlooking the battle and raised his hands so Joshua could win.
  - c. Joshua simply trusted his master who, by faith, had recently parted the Red Sea.
  - d. Joshua patiently ministered unto Moses as Moses ministered unto God.
2. Joshua spent most of his life ministering unto his master Moses.
  - a. He is first mentioned with his master in the presence of God.
  - b. His experiences of ministering unto his master prepared him well to minister unto God later on.
  - c. Warrior bondservants need special encounters with the Lord of Lords and King of Kings (**Revelation 19:11-16**).
3. Read **Exodus 24:13-14**.
  - a. As a bondservant unto Moses, Joshua had experience in the powers of the age to come.
  - b. As a bondservant unto Moses, Joshua could go into forbidden places and live.
4. Read **Exodus 33:1**.
  - a. Joshua determined to stay as close to God as possible.
  - b. He realized that ministry unto Moses was only effective and tolerable when he drew near to God – a lesson disciples must learn.
  - c. Anointing in the Holy Spirit only comes when disciples spend time with the Anointer.
5. Read **Numbers 27:18** – After 40 years of *ministering unto* Moses, God blessed Joshua in three ways:
  - a. God called him a faithful servant.
  - b. God chose him to lead His people.
  - c. God placed His Spirit in him.
6. When disciples faithfully serve God, they also will be recognized one day as faithful servants (**Matthew 25:21**).
7. Bondservants, like their Master, are filled, led, empowered and anointed with God's Spirit (**Luke 4:1, 14, 18**).
8. Joshua learned early in his ministry unto Moses that faithfulness in the lowly things precedes faithfulness in the lofty things (**Luke 16:10**).
9. Joshua desired God's glory – not his own.

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10. Joshua also learned it was his God and Master alone, who won the battles and received the glory (**Joshua 5:13-14; Hebrews 6:3-5**).

### **Ministering as Bondservants in God's Kingdom**

1. Read **Luke 17:7-10**.
  - a. Not only is it a great privilege to minister *unto* the Lord; it is an awesome responsibility.
  - b. Commitment goes beyond immediate needs.
  - c. It's a ministry in which disciples take up their crosses daily (**Luke 9:23**).
  - d. It can be a thankless task.
  - e. Disciples must accept that God's priorities supersede their own.
2. Read **Luke 22:24-30 and Matthew 20:26-28**.
  - a. A bondservant's heart is distinguished by his actions – not his reputation or fame.
  - b. Jesus is not impressed by – money, social position, church leadership, careers or worldly authority.
  - c. To Jesus, life in God's kingdom is distinctly different from life in the world.
  - d. In God's kingdom, bondservants do not discriminate (**James 2:1-3**).
  - e. Worldly prerequisites count for nothing with God.
3. Read **John 12:25-26**.
  - a. Those who serve others are exalted by God.
  - b. Only bondservants who do God's bidding are honoured by Him.
  - c. Those in God's kingdom and in the world who exalt themselves will be humbled (**James 1 and 2**).
4. Read **1 Corinthians 4:2**.
  - a. Faithfulness in bondservants is not requested by God – it is commanded by Him.
  - b. Great acts of service are built on faith (**Hebrews 11**).
  - c. Through faithfulness, bondservants enact the powers of the age to come.
  - d. Through faithfulness, a humble carpenter from Galilee reconciled the world to God.
  - e. Bondservants do not despise ridiculous commands or the day of small things. (**Zechariah 4:6**).
5. Read **Romans 15:1-3**.
  - a. When bondservants tend to the needs of others, they seldom get depressed about their own needs.
  - b. Good bondservants are constantly attuned to the needs of others.
  - c. Bondservants always deplete their energy and finances to ensure others reach their highest potential.
6. Bondservants are happiest when:
  - a. The weak are strengthened.
  - b. The lonely are befriended.
  - c. The hungry are fed.
  - d. The discouraged, encouraged.
  - e. The unloved are loved.
  - f. Their rivals are honoured.

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7. Bondservants walk as their Master walked who was:
  - a. Ever searching for the lost.
  - b. Ever seeking to shine light on life's pathways.
  - c. Ever seeking for those who needed victory over death.
  - d. Ever seeking for those who need healing, compassion, and deliverance from evil.
  - e. Ever seeking for those who need life's answers.
8. Read **1 Corinthians 9:19**.
  - a. Being a bondservant demands severe action against *self*.
  - b. There is no easy road for the bondservant in God's kingdom.
  - c. There is however, an easy road to worldly glory among talented church-goers.
  - d. Only bondservants with kingdom mentality participate in humiliating kingdom service.
  - e. They do it to bring out the best in others, not to glorify themselves.
  - f. Bondservants offer unqualified service to both the lovable and the unlovable (**1 Corinthians 10:33**).
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10. Read **2 Corinthians 4:5**.
  - a. Testimonies have their place – but it is better if bondservants become so acquainted with their Master that they seldom talk about themselves.
  - b. All they want to teach and preach are the words of their Master.
11. Read **Galatians 6:10**.
  - a. Bondservants are attentive to the needs of both Jesus' disciples and the lost of this world.
  - b. But more than being attentive – they actually serve fellow disciples and the lost!
  - c. Many believers will go to their graves with good intentions – few will be remembered as good Samaritans.
  - d. Both saving the lost and caring for others cannot be adequately accomplished from the comfort zone of a church building.

### **When disciples serve others, they serve Jesus**

1. Read **Matthew 25:34-40**.
  - a. Bondservants know that soul winning is most prolific in dark places where sin festers.
  - b. True religion (**James 1:27**) is only possible when bondservants are willing to go where their Master goes (**Matthew 25:31-46**).

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### **Stewardship is the role of the bondservant**

1. All disciples are bondservants – how they perform as bondservants is known as stewardship.
2. Stewardship is not a position or title – it is a role performed by disciples.
3. Stewards are always available to serve others, wherever and however.
4. The interests of others are their interests.
5. Every moment in the presence of Christ's stewards should be memorable (**Luke 13:17; 19:37**).
6. Stewards always strive to see their Master is honoured; not themselves.

### **Jesus as a steward**

1. Read **Philippians 2:5-8**.
  - a. Focus was the highlight of Jesus' ministry.
  - b. Focus is what Jesus desires of His disciples today (**Colossians 3:1-4**).
2. Jesus exalted His Father during His ministry – not Himself.
3. Jesus is looking for disciples today who will lay down their reputation and prowess just like He did.
4. Self never got in Jesus' way.
  - a. He had to learn to obey His Father's will.
  - b. He succeeded with tears, prayers, supplications and much crying (**Hebrews 5:7-10**).
  - c. The great encouragement here is that Jesus was human and not divinely empowered to enable Him to obey His Father's will.
  - d. Jesus had *to learn* to obey His Father's will.
5. Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords but:
  - a. He lived and walked as an ordinary man (**Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16**).
  - b. He learned a trade.
  - c. He lived in a poor village.
  - d. He lived among common folk.
  - e. He served His parents faithfully.
  - f. He attended His local synagogue.
  - g. He came from humble surroundings.
  - h. He didn't demand high religious office when He started His ministry.
  - i. He ministered out where the people were.
  - j. He touched the untouchable.
  - k. He embraced the rejected.
  - l. He ministered to all who called to Him.
  - m. He forgave sins against Him and the sin reigning in the lives of others.
  - n. He rejoiced and ate with the socially unacceptable.
6. The ultimate steward is portrayed in Jesus.
  - a. When disciples *minister unto* Him in others, they lose all inhibitions (**Matthew 25:21-46**).
  - b. They, like their Master, are moved with compassion for all (**Matthew 9:36**).

### **The steward loves his Master and what his Master requires**

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1. Read **Deuteronomy 10:12-13**.
  - a. When love motivates bondservants, they serve their Master out of reverence – not fear.
  - b. They seek to discover all they can about His needs and how to Minister unto Him.
2. When bondservants revere God:
  - a. His ways become their ways.
  - b. His needs become their needs.
  - c. His loves become their loves.
  - d. His hates become their hates.
  - e. His joy becomes their joy.
3. Bondservants want to know God intimately.
  - a. They want to walk as He walked when He was on earth.
  - b. They want to be with Him at all times.
  - c. They want to hear His voice always.
  - d. They want to love Him more dearly.
4. Eventually the intimacy becomes so close between the bondservant and God that His life becomes their life (**Galatians 2:20; 6:14**).
  - a. They respond wholeheartedly to every word and command that He utters.
  - b. They do not question His judgements or directives (**Matthew 4:4**).
  - c. They know He has their best interests at heart.
5. Bondservants trust God's Word because:
  - a. It is their guide day and night.
  - b. It encourages them to endure tough times.
  - c. It sustains them when everything else fails.
  - d. It reassures them of their Master's love for them.
  - e. It removes fear and instils faith.
  - f. It creates bold allegiance to their Master.

### **The bondservant in the eyes of the world**

1. Read **Mark 9:33-37**.
  - a. Most great bondservants are not seen so much as they are perceived.
  - b. They are only interested in being noticed by their master.
  - c. What men think or say is irrelevant to a bondservant.
  - d. If their master is pleased they are pleased.
2. There is no self-seeking among bondservants.
  - a. What glory has a bondservant in the presence of their master?
  - b. In the presence of Jesus all, including bondservants, are silenced.
  - c. Theirs is but to serve and glorify the greatest bondservant of all – Jesus!
3. Read **Luke 17:7-10**.
  - a. Bondservants tend to the needs of others before they tend to their own.
  - b. Bondservants never think their master must be proud to have them around.
  - c. They know that their master knows how much it costs them to serve him.

# 17

## Disciples are students of the Bible

### Introduction

1. Read **2 Timothy 3:16-17**.
2. There is freedom, peace and joy in Bible study – especially if it becomes habitual (**John 8:31-32**).
  - a. Habitual Bible study is crucial in the life of the disciple.
  - b. Habitual Bible study produces a deeper understanding of God, of one's self, and of others.
3. Jesus knew His Word answered the most important questions of life:
  - a. Where did mankind come from?
  - b. What is mankind doing here?
  - c. Where does mankind go after death?
4. Knowing the answer to these three questions eradicates fear and replaces it with freedom, peace and joy (**Philippians 4:4-7**).
5. Disciples should also know the truth as revealed in God's Word because:
  - a. All of life's stumbling blocks are illuminated.
  - b. Confusion is no longer their companion – nor ignorance their guide.
  - c. Confusion is eliminated and they have answers to life's questions.

### Getting started in Bible study

1. Read **Psalms 19:9-11**.
  - a. There is an immense difference between reading God's Word and studying God's Word.
  - b. Bible study reveals the depths of God's heart for mankind.
2. What if believers choose not to abide in God's Word?
  - a. They will flounder in the shallows.
  - b. Challenges will become insurmountable.
  - c. Relationships will unravel.
  - d. Endeavours will begin to fail.
3. What if believers choose to abide in God's Word?
  - a. Struggles will still occur – but solutions to those struggles will be found.
  - b. They will handle life's circumstances better.
4. Why don't believers desire to study their Bibles?
  - a. They fear the exposure of their entire being – their body, soul and spirit.
  - b. They prefer to solve their own problems.
  - c. They want to learn *about* Jesus and not *of* Jesus (**Matthew 11:29**).
5. The steps disciples can take toward a life of Bible study are:
  - a. They need to be convinced they need it.
  - b. They are ready to change according to what is revealed to them in God's Word.
6. To disciples, God's Word is most precious because:
  - a. He revealed it to man at great cost to Himself.

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- b. It is His most powerful gift to mankind.
  - c. By it He created the world and holds it together.
  - d. By it He subdues the darkness.
  - e. By it He reveals His love to disciples.
  - f. By it they live abundant lives.
  - g. By it they defend their faith.
7. Read **Matthew 11:29**.
- a. Disciples who study the Bible must be willing to learn *of* Jesus.
  - b. Without an intense hungering and thirsting for study it will not happen.

### **How do disciples find time to study?**

1. Nobody ever finds time to study – they have to *make* time to study.
  - a. If disciples choose to study God's Word – they will discover God's love, goodness and care for them is real.
  - b. If they choose to read God's Word – they will gain a little from it.
  - c. If they choose to ignore God's Word and continually indulge in the distractions of the world – they will remain ignorant of God and His blessings.
2. Disciples who do not study or read God's Word seldom find their burdens lifted.
3. Disciples, who want to change their habits of infrequent reading or no reading at all, need to begin by hungering and thirsting after righteousness.

### **Studying pays off**

1. The Chinese teach that great journeys begin with the first step.
  - a. Studying the Bible is no different – you must take that first step.
  - b. Perseverance then reveals the great treasures contained in God's Word.
  - c. Joy results when the promises discovered in God's Word are appropriated.
2. Find a good teacher to learn from is essential when studying the Bible.
  - a. Find a teacher who dispenses righteousness, life, love and joy (**Romans 14:17**).
  - b. Avoid those who dispense spiritual bondage.
  - c. Disciples should learn from teachers who live what they teach (**Matthew 5:19**).
  - d. Learn from those who have indeed discovered the words of eternal life (**John 6:60-71**).
3. Disciples who study the Bible discover God is revealing Himself to them all the time.
  - a. Those who study are not kept ignorant of His ways.
  - b. Those who study find their lives take on new meaning.
  - c. They discover the essence of what is good in life (**Philippians 4:8-9**).
4. Once disciples begin to study God's Word, what they consume during that study needs to grow in their hearts.

# 18

## Disciples Witness for Jesus Anywhere in the World

### Introduction

1. Read **Acts 1:1-8**.
2. When witnessing to sinners – teach them *Jesus* only.
  - a. Sinners need to know what Jesus did, said, and taught – then they need to apply it to their lives.
  - b. Teachers must exhibit commitment when teaching new converts – otherwise confusion can follow (**James 1:1-5**).
3. Teachers should make every effort, at whatever cost, to meet the following needs in new convert's lives.
  - a. They need to embrace Jesus as their Saviour, their Lord, their Teacher, their King, and the Christ of God.
  - b. They need to read the New Testament several times in the first year and make a start on the Old Testament.
  - c. They need to know and understand their old life has passed away and their new life, as God's ambassadors of reconciliation, has begun (**2 Corinthians 5:17-6:2**).
  - d. They need to learn how to obey the three passages of the great commissions and lead others to Christ just as they have been led.
  - e. They need to know how the Holy Spirit acts as their advocate and partner in the business of God.
  - f. They need to be assured of their salvation, know how to deal with temptation, and understand the importance of continually confessing to God any sins they commit, asking for His forgiveness.
  - g. They need to be shown how to study the Word of God and research supporting external evidence so they can grow in faith and teach others with certainty and conviction.
  - h. They need to understand what it means to be filled, led, empowered, and anointed by the Holy Spirit.
  - i. They need to experience times of struggle, realizing that such times are normal if they are to grow in Jesus (**Hebrews 12**).
  - j. They need to learn how to identify the foundation that those they are teaching stand upon, and how they can replace it with Jesus.
  - k. They need to learn how to substantiate all they do and believe with Scripture.
4. Discipling others is an on-going commitment.
  - a. There is no easy way to do it.
  - b. All who become disciples should be willing to contribute to the growth of new converts.

### The message: how and what to present

1. Teachers of sinners must have a personal relationship with Jesus.

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- a. Sinners were attracted to Jesus because He knew God personally (**John 1:18; 1John 1:1-4**).
- b. Jesus also knew what eternal life is and how to obtain it.
2. Teachers must proclaim Jesus gospel positively.
  - a. Teachers must be convinced that what they are teaching is the truth.
  - b. No one follows teachers who are not convicted about what they teach.
3. Teachers must present the good news of the gospel – not the commandments of men.
  - a. Commandments of men trap souls rather than release them.
  - b. The gospel frees souls from bondage (**John 8:31-32**).
4. Good teachers lead sinners into an intimate relationship with Jesus.
  - a. They teach His Word and encourage disciples to study their Bibles.
  - b. They also go into the world and live out their intimate relationship with Jesus to convict the world.
5. Teachers must leave sinners with *Jesus* – not dogmas.
6. Teachers need to emphasize vigilance when their disciples are confronted with temptation (**Luke 22:28**).
  - a. They help disciples identify and pursue the way of escape from temptation (**1 Corinthians 10:13**).
  - b. They comfort disciples when they fail (**1 John 1:5-2:3**).
7. Good teachers lay a firm foundation of hope for disciples to live by.
8. Good teachers help disciples understand that in life it is them and Jesus alone.
9. Good teachers help disciples build a foundation for life on God's Word.

#### **Examples from Scriptures:**

1. Read **Acts 1 and 2**.
2. Read **Acts 3 and 4**.
3. Read **Acts 8:26-25**.
4. Read **Acts 17:22-31**.

# 19

## Leading Group Bible Studies

### Introduction

1. Read **Matthew 28:19-20**.
2. The object of Jesus' commission is solely to produce obedient disciples who go out and make obedient disciples.
  - a. When disciples are making disciples, they need to be convicted that what they are teaching is the truth.
  - b. People respond to certainties; not assumptions.
  - c. New disciples should learn God's Word so they can give answers for the hope they have in Jesus (**2 Timothy 2:5; 1 Peter 3:15**).

### Groups in the early church

1. Read **Acts 2:46-47** and **Acts 5:42**.
  - a. The first Christians did not employ programs – they just preached repentance.
  - b. They were convinced their message was an urgent message.
  - c. They trusted God to give the increase as they went out.
  - d. That's right; they went out rather than sitting around waiting for people to come in.
2. In the first century, souls were saved when they were out amongst the people (**Matthew 22:1-13**).
3. When they taught the people, they taught them *Jesus*.
4. Their worship resulted from God's confirmation of their preaching (**Acts 4**).
5. They didn't plead with God for signs and wonders – signs and wonders followed their preaching.
6. The first century disciples got two things correct:
  - a. They practiced the complete commission of Jesus, not just one part of it **Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:46-47**.
  - b. When lost souls were converted, they trained them to go out and make replicas of themselves.
7. How effective was this simple approach to building God's kingdom?
  - a. So effective that all of Asia heard the gospel within the first century **Acts 19:10**.
  - b. Not all who hear the gospel will be saved – but they should at least hear it **Matthew 7:13-14; 20:16; Luke 13:22-30**.
8. The commission of Jesus is not to go and save everybody – but to preach the gospel to everybody that they may respond and be saved.
9. Disciples therefore must remember:
  - a. Preach repentance and make disciples of those who respond.
  - b. All disciples were once sinners who became willing learners.
10. One final thought – if the great commission, as it is called, is so great, why are only a few disciples telling others about it?

### Can home-group Bible studies succeed today?

[Type text]

1. Home-groups will succeed in some nations and fail in others.
  - a. Culture makes a difference to the success of home-groups.
  - b. Politics and economics also make a difference.
2. Home-groups flourish where war, poverty and persecution exist because – the gospel is the only real hope these folks have.
3. In affluent societies, home-groups are often not conducted to evangelize.
  - a. Activities often centre on worship, fellowship, and entertainment.
  - b. Their focus is not the state of the lost, so no one invites the lost to come along.
4. Inviting the lost to home-groups, which merely replicate Sunday services is not witnessing to them.
  - a. Unless they bring them to hear about Jesus and His gospel message, they are not witnessing to them.
  - b. Cake and fellowship is not going to make too many sinners take up their crosses and live extreme lives for Jesus (**Matthew 16:24**).
5. Home-groups only succeed when they focus on their sole reason for existing – evangelism.

### **Setting up a home-group study**

1. In war-torn, politically unstable and poor nations, home-groups are not additional programs – they are often all that exists!
2. So this information is more for those who use home-groups to compliment the activities of the local church.

### **What are some initial steps that should be considered?**

1. What is needed first before starting a home-group is a burning desire for the lost.
  - a. If disciples are not convinced others are lost – why start a home-group?
  - b. If the group is formed to study the Bible – treat it as such.
  - c. If it is to reach the lost – treat it as such.
2. If those leading the group do not know how to share the basics with the lost – they need to learn how to.
3. Leading a home-group can be fearful and all disciples suffer from fear from time-to-time (**1 Corinthians 2:3**).
  - a. The first step in overcoming fear is to take the first step!
  - b. Fear usually results from a lack of subject knowledge or the inability to communicate knowledge.
  - c. The first of these two can be overcome through study; the second through practice.
  - d. Additionally, fear can be overcome when the teacher cooperates with the Holy Spirit.
  - e. When teachers allow themselves to be filled, led, empowered and anointed with the Holy Spirit, they also conquer fear.
  - f. When teachers ignore the Holy Spirit, they can teach from their fleshly mind and lack spiritual maturity, enlightenment and power (**Ephesians 1:15-23; 1 Corinthians 4:20**).
  - g. Read **1 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 5:8-6:5; John 16:8**.

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4. Teachers must live what they present, and this must be obvious to others.
  - a. Hearers want reality from their teachers.
  - b. Hearers want to feed on what their teacher has been feeding on from God's Word.
5. Hearers want to go away filled, excited and ready to act on what they have been taught.
  - a. If teachers can't produce this in the life of hearers, they will ignore the teacher.
  - b. Hearers will either seek to follow or to persecute a teacher who lives what they teach.
6. Teachers who live what they teach can expect resistance from others.
7. Teachers who are not preparing themselves through prayer, study and life's experiences will soon come to nothing.

### **Overcoming resistance in the group**

1. Home-group teachers should meet those present at their level – not at the level the teacher expects of them.
  - a. The level of each is discovered when teachers listen.
  - b. Good teachers can lead the group even while listening.
2. Good teachers never rush, but progress from point-to-point when they know they have been understood.
3. Sincere listening and discerning accomplishes two things:
  - a. The uninhibited student contributes and learns.
  - b. The inhibited student feels comfortable to contribute and learn.
  - c. Both are comfortable because they are accepted as they are.
4. The listening teacher discovers what the group needs to consume and prepares accordingly.

### **How to keep the learner learning**

1. Good teachers are always learning and working in partnership with the Holy Spirit (**Hebrews 6:3-5**).
2. Home-group teachers should never be at a loss for words or direction.
3. Home-group teachers should learn to read body language as it is the mood thermometer of classes.
4. Home-group teachers must lead classes – not facilitate classes.
  - a. Questions should always be answered clearly.
  - b. The subject's goals should be achieved.
  - c. The subject's outcomes should also be achieved.
  - d. The subject's content should be simple with minimum use of confusing spiritual terminology

### **Summary**

1. Always remember the sole purpose for the existence of home-groups is to evangelize on a personal level.
2. Those who lead home-groups should have a calling to do so.

## 20

### Living in God's Armour

#### Introduction

1. Read **Matthew 12:22-29**.
2. Disciples know Christianity has little to do with stained glass windows and steeple adorned edifices on street corners.
3. The Old Testament times of temples and tabernacles where God appeared from time-to-time are passed (**Leviticus 16:2**).
4. God now dwells in born again believers.
5. When they assemble He is present because He dwells in them.
6. Disciples do not go to church facilities to wait for the Holy Spirit to arrive – He dwells in them and is there when they arrive.
7. Disciples realize they are ambassadors in God's kingdom busily overthrowing the kingdom of Satan.
  - a. They have a personal relationship with Jesus and follow Him into extreme battles for the souls of men.
  - b. Their only interest is to advance Christ's life in the darkness of this world.
  - c. They are battle-ready, alert, well-equipped and vigilant for victory.
8. If believers convey to others that the western Christian model is God's model, they do so out of ignorance.
9. Disciples also realize that warfare is not a secondary matter (**Ephesians 6:10-20; I Peter 5:8**).
10. Jesus reveals in the book of Revelation that He and His disciples are at war (**Revelation 19:11-16**).
11. Disciples must therefore be ever alert and ever prepared (**Matthew 25:1-13; 24:45-51**).
12. Read **Psalms 103:19**.
13. Disciples cannot afford to ignore the war and look unto their own power.
14. If they doubt they have all the power of the Godhead living in them to overcome the kingdom of Satan, they will sit around fearing the giants all of their lives (**Colossians 2:9-10; 1 Samuel 17**).

#### Ever vigilant; ever watchful; ever sober

1. Read **1 Peter 5:6-10**.
2. A sober disciple is one who is 100% in control of 100% of their faculties 100% of the time.
3. All that is necessary to live a sober life is supplied by God's grace (**James 4:6-7**).
4. Disciples must recognise their total dependency upon God during spiritual battles.
5. It is essential that disciples examine themselves, discard their prowess and go with God (**Joshua 5:13-15**).
6. Glory is not what the battle is about – there is no personal glory in this war (**Hebrews 11**).

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7. All glory goes to God because:
  - a. In the revulsion of the cross – He overcame Satan.
  - b. In the revulsion of death and decay – He overcame corruption and the power of death (**Hebrews 2:14; Acts 2:22-37**).
  - c. In the midst of darkness and despair – He sent light (**John 1:8-9; Matthew 4:15-16**).
  - d. In the midst of confusion and bewilderment – He sent His guide, the Holy Spirit (**Romans 8:1-17**).
8. Read **Galatians 6:14**.
9. In the midst of the battle, disciples are perfected, established and strengthened for duty in God's Kingdom.
10. Disciples go from victory-unto-victory.

### **Jesus at war**

1. What can disciples learn from the exemplary life of Jesus?
  - a. Jesus was at war as soon as He emerged from the womb (**Matthew 2:1-23**).
  - b. When He was baptised in water and in the Holy Spirit, the war intensified.
  - c. With the intensification of the war came the equipping to cope (**Luke 4:1, 14, 18**).
  - d. Satan then turned all who knew Him against Him (**Luke 4:20-30**).
2. When disciples get too spiritual, Satan turns the religious and all others against them (**Matthew 9:10-13; 15:12-14; Matthew 21:12-13; Matthew 23**).
3. When that fails, Satan will attempt to influence Jesus' disciples to turn against each other (**Matthew 13:19; 16:22-23**).
4. Eventually, near the end of Jesus' life, it was the Father and the Son alone, battling for the souls of men.
5. Disciples must realise that Satan will also tempt them all to turn against each other (**1 Peter 4:12-19; Revelation 12**).
6. But faithful disciples remember Jesus has gone through all this before them (**Revelation 19:11-16; Hebrews 2:12-18; 4:14-16**).

### **It's God's armour, not the disciple's**

1. Read **Ephesians 6:10-20**.
2. Because disciples often overlook certain things in these passages, they weaken on the battlefield.
3. Some thoughts that are overlooked are:
  - a. Read **Ephesians 6:10**. Disciples need to realize it is God's strength and His might that overcomes the enemy – not theirs!
  - b. Read **Ephesians 6:11**. Disciples don't enrol in God's army and get issued with armour – they get in His armour and fight with His strength.
  - c. Read **Ephesians 6:18**. Disciples need to be constantly alert to the needs of all the other disciples around them.
4. So this is a battle in which committed disciples in God's armour employ His weapons to fight the good fight of faith together (**1 Timothy 1:18; 2 Timothy 4:7; Ephesians 6:13**).

# 21

## Living Holy Lives

### Introduction

1. Read **1 Peter 1:13-16**.
  - a. The changed lives of believers should be their most attractive characteristic.
  - b. They should have a fervent desire to be nothing like they were before they encountered Jesus.
2. Disciples abandon the old ways to live out the new (**Hebrews 11:13-16**).
3. Disciples know holiness begins with obedience and they are willing to persist until they conquer all areas of their lives that need improvement.
4. Disciples realise holiness is the nature of the Godhead and that the member of the Godhead who produces holiness resides in them.
5. The Holy Spirit should be rightly defined as, *the Spirit of God who produces holiness*.
6. God knows that disciples, in and of themselves, cannot produce holiness – so He sent His Holy Spirit to reside in them.
7. If disciples listen to the Holy Spirit, He will lead them to live holy lives (**Romans 8:1-17**).
8. If disciples try to produce holy lives, they will constantly fail.
9. If disciples begin each day praying, reading God's Word and obeying the leading of the Holy Spirit, they will enjoy holy living day-by-day (**2 Corinthians 10:3-6**).
10. If they neglect any of the Christian disciplines they will struggle in their Christian walk.
11. Faltering disciples soon forget God's grace is sufficient for them.

### Living in positional truth

1. Striving to be holy is admirable – but why strive to lay hold on something you already possess?
2. Read **Ephesians 1:3-4**.
3. There are two key thoughts in this verse from Ephesians:
  - a. All disciples are immersed into Jesus and because He is Holy unto God, they also are holy (**Galatians 3:27**).
  - b. Disciples can eventually experience this fact from God's perspective – if they seek Him with all their heart, mind and soul.
4. Holiness is not something to strive after – but something to be lived out.
5. Satan deludes disciples into thinking they should spend their lives striving to be something they already are.
6. Disciples should merely love the Giver of all good gifts – knowing full well all their needs will be provided (**James 1:17**).

### What are positional truths?

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1. Positional truths describe states of being as God sees them in the present and which disciples should, by faith, appropriate now.
2. Some examples are **Ephesians 2:6; 2:19-22**.
  - a. God sees disciples sitting in His throne with Him because they are in Jesus.
  - b. Disciples are in God's household now and inhabited as His holy temple by the Holy Spirit.
3. Such truths are seldom celebrated.
4. Read **1 Peter 1:13-20**.
  - a. Peter is not calling disciples to use all their strength to strive to be holy.
  - b. He is calling them to be what God has already enabled them to be by His power and strength.
  - c. He is calling them to follow the lead of the Spirit of God who produces holiness.
  - d. Holiness flows from those who love their Saviour and follow His purpose for their lives (**Ephesians 2:10; 1 John 4:19**).

#### **Endless striving results when positional truth is not realized**

1. Loving God is not easy – so He provides love through His Spirit (**Galatians 5:22**).
2. When disciples do not fully grasp the state of their being from God's perspective, they will always strive to be in a state they are already in.
3. All nine variants of the Holy Spirit's fruit are already available to disciples – striving to gain them is all in vain.
4. If disciples are willing to be filled and led by the Holy Spirit, they will realize them in their lives.
5. So, what is expected of disciples who want to live holy lives?
  - a. To love God.
  - b. To read God's Word.
  - c. To listen to His Spirit – not resist His Spirit.
  - d. To realize their position as God sees it in Christ.

## 22

### Understanding How to Grow up in God's Kingdom

#### Introduction

1. Read **Hebrews 5:11-6:5**.
2. When sinners are born again – it literally means they are born again.
  - a. They start life over.
  - b. They now must discover and live the course God sets before them (**Ephesians 2:10; Hebrews 12:1-2**).
  - c. There are no short cuts to spiritual maturity in God's Kingdom – despite a believer's former talents or education.
3. New converts need a spiritual nanny.
4. Disciples have chosen to desert Satan's ranks and join Christ's.
  - a. All believers begin in boot camp.
  - b. Disciples work closely with new believers to assist them become disciples also.
5. Believers can avoid spiritual growth and spiritual maturity simply by promoting themselves into worldly church leadership where they serve men – not God (**Galatians 1:10**).
6. Paul calls this carnal Christianity – where babes in Christ are unskilled in the Word of God and always resisting the Holy Spirit (**I Corinthians 3:1-4**).
7. God's will always demands Spirit-filled leadership – no matter what His call upon a believer's life is (**Acts 6:1-6**).
  - a. Jesus is seeking believers who will abandon all and follow Him.
  - b. Jesus is seeking believers who will follow Him – not try and lead Him.
  - c. Jesus is seeking believers who want to start all over on His terms – not theirs.
8. Going on to maturity in God's kingdom will always be determined by Him – not disciples (**Hebrews 6:3**).

#### Hearing God's guidance

1. Read **Isaiah 30:18-21**.
2. Disciples can learn a lot about following Jesus from the Old Testament.
  - a. God will not leave one stone unturned as He accomplishes His will in disciples' lives.
  - b. God will comfort, discipline, love, hear their prayers and guide disciples throughout their lives.
  - c. God will be at disciples' sides constantly to steer their lives if they will listen.
3. Jesus promised to bless faithful fellowship between disciples (**Matthew 18:19-20**).
4. Therefore, the mature disciple and the immature disciple need to grow together as they walk together with Jesus (**John 14:25-26; 1 Corinthians 12-14**).
5. As the Holy Spirit and Jesus minister to disciples, they will learn to minister to others (**Acts 15:28**).

## Hear God's guidance through the church

1. When the church is recognised as God's kingdom and not man's worldly conception, as seen presently by the world – spiritual guidance from *Spirit-filled* leaders can be tolerated by most believers.
2. But when the kingdom principles are ignored, believers often tolerate *assumed spiritual leadership* because it is supported and sustained by *worldly* prowess.
3. A lack of adherence to God's Word can often create intolerable relationships and pseudo-spiritual leadership.
4. Those who continue to roll from church to church need to understand that the perfect church does not exist.
5. In reality, those who roll from church to church are often looking for a place to hide or a place that will tolerate the sins they are not willing to quit.
6. Read **Ephesians 4:11-16**.
7. Spiritual guidance by spiritually qualified leaders is God-ordained and all believers should remember that.
8. It is God's will that discipline be part of the kingdom's growth and the growth of all believers (**Matthew 9:17**).
9. Without discipline the kingdom of God is in chaos and such chaos results from ungodly wisdom (**James 3:13-18**).
10. Spiritual growth only comes when believers willingly submit to God's discipline (**Hebrews 12:7-13**).
11. All disciples need to understand their call and their role in God's kingdom.
12. All disciples need to submit to the ministering of the Holy Spirit, moment by moment.
13. All disciples should respect and submit to God's anointed leaders – not the politically correct, worldly leaders who have assumed leadership in the church (**Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 1:27-30**).

## 23

### Getting Excited About Jesus

#### Introduction

1. God planned for Jesus to come in the year of Jubilee (**Leviticus 25**).
  - a. It was the year of forgiveness and restitution for the Hebrews.
  - b. It was the year of great jubilation.
2. Jesus came in the divine will of God as the 49<sup>th</sup> year, a multiple of seven, as the Hebrew number for divine signifies.
3. Jesus came to forgive man's debt of sin and claim back their inheritance – the earth and the universe (**Ephesians 2 and Colossians 2**).
4. In His coming, Jesus obliterated Satan's power over mankind and mankind's inheritance. (**Luke 10:18; Ephesians 1:15-23**).
5. The curses that came upon mankind in the Garden of Eden were removed when Jesus came, died and rose again.
  - a. The curse of death.
  - b. The curse of nakedness.
  - c. The curse of the tree.
  - d. The curse of thorns.
6. All that separated mankind from God was eliminated.
7. Mankind was restored to His rightful relationship with God (**Romans 8:17; Revelation 21 and 22**).
8. The Joy of Jesus' coming was timed to meld into the people's celebration of the Jubilee year.
9. Jesus' coming did not discriminate – it was for all mankind.
10. Jesus came with gifts to distribute to mankind and to dispel the darkness (**Matthew 3:15-16**).
11. The first time Jesus came, He came as the Saviour of the world – He is returning as its judge.
12. So, the gospel is a message of jubilation, release, and enlightenment (**Colossians 1:9-14**).
13. Disciples who therefore find no joy in their salvation have forgotten – or have never known these treasures:
  - a. All their sins have been washed away.
  - b. All their doubts can now be answered.
  - c. All their enemies have been defeated.
  - d. They are joint heirs with Christ (**Romans 8:17**).

#### Rejoice and be glad in God's Word

1. Read **Nehemiah 8:9-12**.
2. Those mentioned in this scripture rejoiced because their understanding of God's Word and their relationship with Him was restored.
3. Restoration was possible because of the condition of their hearts (**2 Chronicles 7:14**).
4. Such transformation through the preaching, teaching and application of God's Word is desperately needed today.

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5. Such transformation cannot be gained from two hours in a church meeting on a Sunday.
6. Worship and joy are natural responses to the application of God's Word (**Acts 4:23-31**).
7. Worship is not something that can be conjured up by worship leaders.
8. Sunday is a time for the body of Christ to minister unto itself in the leading, empowering, and anointing of the Holy Spirit.
9. Such ministry remains with the disciple throughout their week.
10. Through proper ministry, God can manifest Jesus to a lost world (**2 Corinthians 4:5-6**).
11. Jesus had attractive joy in His life because He appropriated God's Word in His life.
12. Jesus taught that if disciples abided in His Word they would be released from all hindrances (**John 8:31-32; 11:28-30**).
13. Without a love for God's Word, religious experiences will be all some believers ever have (**Matthew 7:26**).

### **Seeking the things above brings joy**

1. When Jesus abides in the lives of disciples their thinking and acting changes (**2 Corinthians 10:3-7**).
2. The changes in their lives can only be sustained when the most valuable treasure in their lives is the Word of God (**Matthew 4:3-4; Matthew 13**).
3. When disciples do not hunger and thirst after the Word of God, they settle for the stimulation of their senses – not the enlightenment of their spirit.
  - a. Read **Colossians 3:14**.
  - b. Their Christian walk becomes program orientated.
  - c. Because they are not feeding on God's Word, they begin moving from church-to-church.
  - d. When they begin to feed on God's Word though; joy erupts.
4. As disciples learn to love and obey God's Word, the Holy Spirit manifests His fruit, including joy, in their lives (**Galatians 5:21-22**).
5. If disciples try to create joy, rather than being led in joy by the Holy Spirit, they create carnal worship.
6. When their hearts are contrite and they are hungering for and obeying God's Word, worship originates from the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit.

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## Conclusion

1. All disciples must remember, that even though they may fail to uphold the ideal written herein from time-to-time, they should not give up but remember the sufficiency of God's grace and press on to the upward calling in Christ.
2. Failures really laud the magnificent, abundant grace of God.
3. If it were not for God's grace, no disciple would finish the course God sets before them.
4. It is God's call for all disciples to fight the good fight and finish the course (**2 Corinthians 11:30; 12:9-10; Revelation 4:11; 1 John 1:5 -2:2**).
5. Disciples should simply remember that it is only surrendered lives that God is looking for.
6. With surrendered lives, God can convict the world (**John 16:8-11; John 3:15-21**).
7. Disciples can live extreme lives in the grace of God and the power of the foolishness of the cross (**1 Corinthians 1:18-25**).
8. And at the end of the course, all disciples can say is, "We are unprofitable servants. We have done what is out duty to do (**Luke 17:10**).

END

**## Other books by Bob.** For release in mid-2006: **Extreme Power for Extreme Lives:** Spiritual gifts never ceased!

**\*\*Bob** is available to teach church and Bible College seminars on Christian living and discipleship from his book. Bob can be contacted at: [eastasia@inet.net.au](mailto:eastasia@inet.net.au)

**EXTREME LIFE MINISTRIES™**  
**Perth, Western Australia**  
**Australia**  
[eastasia@inet.net.au](mailto:eastasia@inet.net.au)