



MAKE US ONE NEW BEGINNINGS



Hope Christian Fellowship

*Making disciples who
live & love like Jesus*

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MAKE US ONE – NEW BEGINNINGS 101-01

ONE BODY

(All scriptures are taken from the New Living Translation unless otherwise indicated.)

Personal spiritual growth depends on being in the Body of Christ. There is to be no “Lone Ranger” in God’s family. The very act of becoming a follower of Jesus Christ is an act of commitment to others who have already vowed to follow Him forever.

Can you imagine a baby surviving without someone to love and care for it! Not likely. Babies do not survive alone. They need constant love, care, and attention. To survive, they must be surrounded by a family, people who are concerned about their survival. Apart from the family of God, you will not grow must spiritually.

That family is called by several names: the Church, the called-out ones, the Body of Christ, the living stones and others.

Babies without families are **orphans**. Society places orphans into families. God has implanted in our natures an awareness that babies cannot live properly apart from their families.

ROMANS 12:4-5

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ’s body. We are many _____ of one body, and we all _____ to each other.

There is something stated here that is central to what we are trying help people understand.

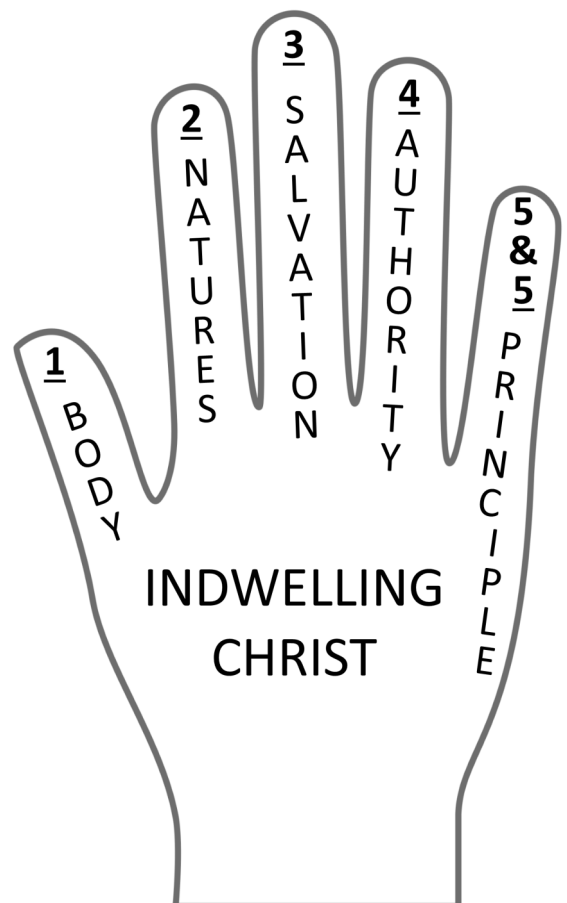
Many Parts = 1 Body

A central truth about the Church is its oneness. The Bible tells us, “We are one body in Christ.” We are “In Christ” because we are “one” in body.

Here is an interesting way to look at this.

- As a Christian, “THE INDWELLING CHRIST, CONTROLLING ALL,” lives in you. He also lives each one of our fellow Christians.
- So all of us together, the many parts that we are, make up the “1 BODY” of Christ.

This important truth about the one Body of Christ is like the thumb on your hand. The thumb works in cooperation with each finger. In the same way, this first truth about the Church has a working relationship with each of



the other truths that we will learn.

We must learn how the Lord has woven all things together for our good just like He has designed the Body of Christ to work together for our good!

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-13

The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up _____
_____ body. So it is with the body of Christ. ¹³ Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

Notice, in verse 13, something a little different is mentioned. In that verse, we see the word “baptized.” This word means to be “completely submerged.” This points to a very important truth: **The Holy Spirit does not loosely attach you to the edge of Christ’s Body, he submerges you into it!**

If you are going to grow in the things of the Lord, it is necessary for you to be deep in the fellowship of a church. You will find among Church members the love, nurture, and care that permit growth to take place.

If you have not yet professed Christ publicly and been baptized into the Body of Christ, you should do so at once. Don’t ever think that water baptism is an option or something to be delayed. It is a vital part of God’s process for a growing Christian.

The Church, the Life the Lord Intended for the Body:

2 TIMOTHY 1:9

For God saved us and **called** us to live a _____ . He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to _____ us his _____ through Christ Jesus.

1 PETER 2:9-10

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can _____ others the _____ of God, for he **called** you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ “Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God’s people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God’s mercy.”

EPHESIANS 4:1-4

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your **calling**, for you have been **called** by God. ² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to _____ yourselves _____ in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴ For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

In each one of these verses we see the words “called” and “calling.” These words are significant, as we will explain as we continue. Another important word is “church.” It translates from the Greek word, “ekklesia,” meaning “called-out ones.”

Now, with these words in mind, picture a large group of people living by their own personal desires. Jesus approaches them and calls out: “Follow me! Separate yourselves from others who live by their own personal desires. Be my disciples!”

Some hear Him, but then turn and walk away. Others make a clear decision: They walk out from the large group. They come to Christ. They have decided to follow Him.

They are the “called-out ones.” They are the Church.

In 1 Peter 2:9-10, we see that the Lord has given the “called-out ones” a task. As the Church, the Body of Christ. We are to proclaim, or declare, or show others the One who has called us out. In simple terms, we are to tell the people about the Lord.

Look at the similarities between our being “called out,” and the calling of Abraham in Genesis 12:

GENESIS 12:1-3

The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and _____ to the land that I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. ³ I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. _____ the families on earth will be _____ through you.”

We as Christians are called to be a blessing to the world and to make known the mighty acts of God we have witnessed.

Now let’s look at the different titles that we have been given as the “call-out ones” the Church of the Living God.

We are called: a chosen people, royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. (1 Pet 2:9)

We as Christians, as members of Christ’s Church, are the people of God; we are “God’s own people,” whom He has called “out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

The Character of the “Called-out Ones”

EPHESIANS 4:1-4

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ² Always be _____ and

_____ . Be _____ with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴ For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

Christ empowers us to live a new life-style. Let's consider some of the characteristics described in this passage from the book of Ephesians:

- humility,
- gentleness,
- patience,
- forgiveness,
- united,
- loving,
- peaceful.

Here's a thought that may surprise you: Christ will not give you these characteristics.

You see He *IS* those characteristics. Christ is humble, gentle, patient, forgiving, loving and all the rest. What we need to do is to let Him be Lord of our lives, and He will reveal His character in and through you to others around you!

These character qualities are not just for one Christian. They are for all Christians. All Christians everywhere are a part of the "one body."

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

What does the state do with a baby who has no parents? Why?

How does Christ attach us to His body? Are we loosely attached, tightly bound, or completely submerged? Discuss the differences.

MAKE US ONE – NEW BEGINNINGS 101-02

BUILT TOGETHER

(Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures references are from the New Living Translation.)

You already know that the Bible uses several figures of speech to picture what the Church is. One of the most important ones is the truth you will remember when you look at your thumb on your own hand.

The Church is “One Body” in Christ

You are also learning two Bible verses that speak of that “ONE BODY” made up of all who follow Christ. Notice how many times “one,” “body,” and “parts,” are mentioned in these verses.

ROMANS 12:4-5

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all _____ to each other.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:18

But our bodies have many parts, and _____ has put each part just where he wants it.

Now let’s read two passages that use a different description of the Church:

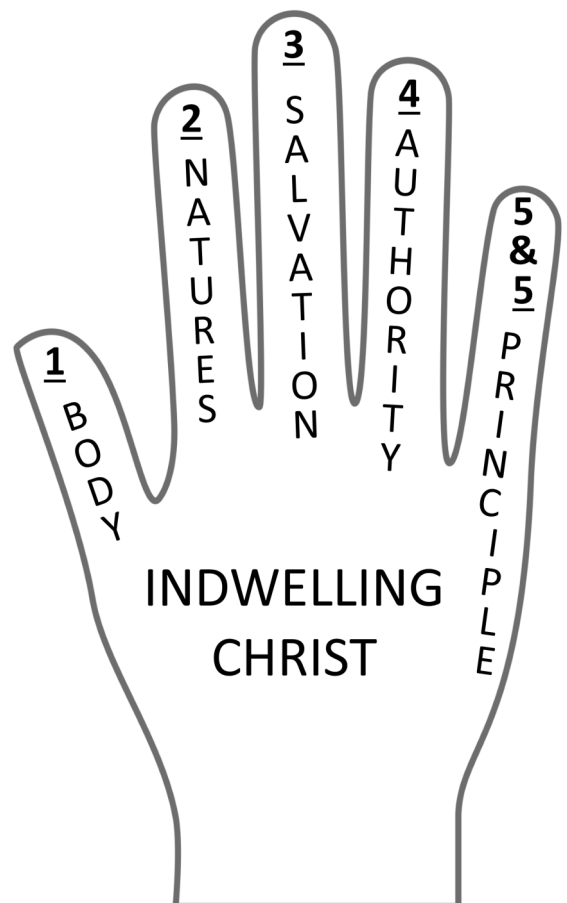
1 PETER 2:1-10

So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech.

² Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, ³ now that you have had a taste of the Lord’s kindness.

⁴ You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God’s temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.

⁵ And you are living stones that God is _____ into his spiritual temple. What’s more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. ⁶ As the Scrip-



tures say, "I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced."

⁷ Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him. But for those who reject him, "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone."

⁸ And, "He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them.

⁹ But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

¹⁰ "Once you had _____ as a people; now you are _____ people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

EPHESIANS 2:19-22

So now you Gentiles are _____ strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's _____.²⁰ Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.²¹ We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.²² Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

In these passages, the "called-out ones" are described as a building rather than a body. Christ is "the head of the body," the Church.

Christ is called the "chief or living corner stone" of the building. (1Peter 2:6)

We are each described as "living stones." We are being constructed into a "spiritual house," a "holy temple."

When stonemasons erect a wall from individual stones, they must chip away on each one, smoothing and shaping it. Soon it has the proper form to fit against the stones around it.

This makes evident one of the reasons you must be part of a Church to grow properly.

God's Maturity Process Requires You to be Properly Related to Other "Living Stones"

He chips away at your character until you are "bonded together" with other "living stones." Some have referred to this work of our Lord in our life as the "sandpaper process." He gently reshapes you from a self-owned "stone" until you are able to fit snugly with the other "stones" that make up

the temple. Without direct fellowship with others who are also “living stones,” you will never become what the Lord wants you to be.

Consider what might be some of the “rough edges” that the Lord may chip away from our lives as we yield to Him. Sometimes we have uncomfortable, or even painful, friction with one another, but the proper handling of that friction works to smooth out our rough edges and eases the way for us to love and work together.

PROVERBS 27:17

As iron sharpens iron, so a _____ sharpens a friend.

In 1 Peter, there are two kinds of stones mentioned. There are the “living stones,” referring to you and I. And the other kind of stone is the Cornerstone, referring to Jesus Christ.

Yet to unbelievers, he is a different kind of stone (1 Peter 2:7-8). In that case, He is referred to as the “stumbling stone.” A rock that gives offense to people or that causes them to fall. Because they reject Him as their Lord then tend to react to Him in this way.

EPHESIANS 2:19-22

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy -people. You are _____ of God’s family.

²⁰ _____, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. ²¹ We are carefully _____ together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²² Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

It is Christ who binds us together. He is the foundation, the “cornerstone.” It is we, together, that make up the “dwelling” where God lives by His Spirit. He never meant for any of us to be separate, or isolated.

It is a wonderful thing to know that you and your fellow believers help to form a building in which God’s Holy Spirit lives! You, as an individual member of the Body or the “building” of believers, truly need the others who are “called-out ones?”

In what ways have you been strengthened or built-up by other believers?

No Divisions

We will now move on to a subject that is very important to the existence of a healthy Church.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-17

Yes, the body has many different _____, not just one part. ¹⁵ If the foot

says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

In these verses, Paul compared Christ's "called-out ones" to parts of a human body. Each part is unique but connected to the rest. The indwelling Christ is equally present in the hand, in the foot, or in an inner organ. All are interdependent; no member can survive without help from other members.

Consider this: a hand cannot float in the air detached from the arm! If the hand is cut off, it will certainly die. The best the hand could hope for is to have enough nerve endings to twitch around in one place for a few moments as death occurs. Not a pretty analogy, is it? Moreover, if the hand is cut off, what happens to the rest of the body? There is great pain and loss. The body can live without the hand, but it is severely crippled and may not function very well for a very long time. There cannot be a division in Christ's "One Body."

The fact is, the hand *needs* the body to *live*, to have *purpose*. It has no purpose apart from the body. The body needs the hand to function well, to accomplish its purpose. We must recognize the importance of each individual to the whole.

What a powerful description Paul gave of life in the Body of Christ!

There is no room for jealousy or hatred between one member of the Body and another. Can you imagine a hand being jealous of an ear? Can you imagine one hand hating the other hand?

Your growth in the Christian life correlates with your relationships in the Body of Christ. When one suffers, all hurt. When one rejoices, all rejoice.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:26

If one part suffers, all the parts suffer _____ it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

Life in the Body

ACTS 4:32-35

All the believers were _____ in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they _____ everything they had. ³³ The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. ³⁴ There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them ³⁵ and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

ACTS 2:42-47

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped _____ at the Temple each day, _____ in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord _____ to their fellowship those who were being saved.

These people did not have anyone telling them to live this way. They lived this way spontaneously, from their hearts. Can you imagine this – worship every day, meeting in our homes, continual fellowship, continual learning, continual prayer? These passages probably boggle the minds of Christians today, until they discover for themselves the true meaning of the Church. It was not ritualistic, it was LIFE!

These Scriptures do not teach communal living. Nor do they say that all the Christians simultaneously sold their belongings and pooled the funds. Rather, the text in the original language explains that Christians, from time to time, sold a portion of their assets and shared it through the apostles as others in the Body had deep needs. Those who had more than they needed shared with the needy. They simply cared for one another. As they did, they were confident that God would, in turn, supply all their needs in the future.

PROVERBS 11:25

The generous will prosper; those who refresh _____ will
_____ be refreshed.

More than Wealth

These people shared out of all they had, not just their wealth. They shared their very lives with one another, eating, praying, sharing in Bible study, and teaching. Their life-style showed that they had been “called-out” from other people. The life of the “called-out ones” was not marked by the closed, selfish spirit found among unbelievers. Instead, they had a special family life together.

Remember Christ's Body is “1 BODY.”

The fellowship you share with other believers is a vital part of your growth in Christ. Do not neglect it! Plunge deeply into the family of God and develop relationships with those who are your new brothers and sisters in the family!

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

In this lesson, we discuss the Church as it is described:

- As a body.
- As a building.

Discuss both descriptions and how our spiritual lives connect to one another and help each other.

OUR TWO NATURES, part 1

(Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures references are from the New Living Translation.)

Did you know that you now have two natures rather than one?

Since birth, you have an old nature. With your new birth, you added a new nature. One seeks to exalt self. The other seeks the love of God to flow through you.

For years to come, your study of the Scriptures will open new truths to you about these two natures. Since you already have lived with the old nature for quite a while, you don't need to learn about it first. Instead, we will start studying about what the Bible says about our new nature.

GALATIANS 5:13-18

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your _____. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. ¹⁴ For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.

¹⁶ So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These _____ are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

¹⁸ But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

Think about your old nature as though it were the law of gravity. This law constantly pulls objects downward. It is always in effect. It never stops working. Because of it, you cannot fly, or even float for a few seconds above the earth.

Something New Has Come

Think of the new nature within you as though it were the basic law of aerodynamics. Simply stated, this law means that the wing of an airplane causes it to fly as it moves through the air. The law is always in effect if the conditions are met that cause it to work. As long as you honor the terms of that law, you will function by it.

As the new nature functions in your life and causes the love of God to flow through you, you are assured of constant victory over sin. The minute you do not allow the new nature to function your life, then the old nature, like the law of gravity, will pull you down again.

You can see that to discipline your life to the ways of the new nature are very important. This is why you are encouraged to read your Bible, pray, confess your sins, love one another, etc. These disciplines strengthen us and help us focus on the desires of our new nature rather than the old nature's tendencies.

It is very important for us not to grow tired of doing what the Bible says is good, and not to give a place for the old nature to operate.

GALATIANS 6:7-10

Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always _____ what you _____.⁸ Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will _____ a harvest of blessing if we **don't give up**.¹⁰ Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

What is the Good We are to Do?

GALATIANS 5:13-14

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But _____ your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, _____ your freedom to serve one another in love.¹⁴ For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

In these verses, there are two words that are repeated. One is *freedom* and the other is *love*. Through the freedom that we have received in our new nature through Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of sins and the restoration of free-will, **let us use our new freedom to love**.

First things first: We have been given gifts to reveal God's love! The greatest gift in the world is love! God is that love. Christ lives in you, and you are to allow His love to flow out to others.

The body of Christ is made to *reveal* God's love!

Unbelievers are "called out" to be changed by the love of Christ. Each day His love causes you to become more like Him.

Sometimes we focus on that which is not most important, and as a result, we get off track from the Spirit's leading and give place to our "old nature" again.

Gifts

God has given many gifts. However, love is the most important. Paul warns us about making other things (even spiritual gifts) more important in the first book of Corinthians:

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. ³ If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained _____.

⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

⁸ Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But _____ will _____ forever! ⁹ Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! ¹⁰ But when full understanding comes, these partial things will become useless.

¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. ¹² Now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

¹³ Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the _____ of these is love.

All of these qualities are listed as being inferior to love:

- Great spiritual knowledge
- Mighty faith
- Generosity to the poor
- Being willing to die for truth
- Marvelous powers of speaking
- Speaking in tongues
- Prophecy

This may surprise you, but all of these qualities are yours as a Christian.

God is love. And the Son of God, the indwelling Christ, will make these qualities of love more and more seen in your life as you let Him live in you.

Even though we will delve into spiritual gifts in future lessons, let us remember when God made you a part of the Body of Christ you became a working member of it. He provided you with spiritual energies, called “gifts.”

Think of the gifts of the Spirit as “riverbeds” through which Christ’s love flows. The faster a river flows, the deeper the riverbed is cut. As God’s love flows through you, your gifts deepen. The purpose is to let more of Christ’s love flow to others!

Your “work” for Him is to be a channel for His love. That is why He has given you gifts.

In verses 8 and 13 of 1 Corinthians 13, Paul listed five things that are not as great as God’s love, let’s look at them for a moment.

- Inspired prophesy
- Tongues
- Knowledge
- Faith
- Hope

Inspired prophesy, tongues, and knowledge will pass away. Faith and hope, great as they are, are not as great as love. This is why God wants His love to flow through you to others.

The most important thing to remember about gifts is that they are simply channels to carry God’s love.

Although you should not ignore them, at the same time you must not call unnecessary attention to them. Although you probably have admired rivers, have you ever deliberately admired a dry, barren riverbed?

Gifts have value ONLY IF you are letting Christ’s love flow through them. Peter exhorts us this way.

1 PETER 4:10

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. _____
them well to _____
one another.

In our next lesson, we will be learning how to use these special gifts God has given us for the “good of others.”

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

Do you ever notice that your old nature and your new nature struggle against each other? Can you describe a specific time when this happened?

When we say that the Body of Christ was made to reveal God’s love, how does that work?

OUR TWO NATURES, part 2

(Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures references are from the New Living Translation.)

Every Member Has a Function

If you have a part of your body that is not working, it “cripples” your ability to function normally. It does not mean you are less of a person or of less value to the Lord, but that you cannot contribute as you normally would.

Scripture makes it clear, EVERY MEMBER OF A BODY HAS A FUNCTION!

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-7

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶ God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. ⁷ A spiritual gift is given to _____ of us so we can _____ each other.

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

Now these are the _____ Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body _____ together perfectly. As _____ does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

God added you to the Body to be a working member of it. When He did so, He gave you spiritual energies called gifts. You can and should begin immediately to use some of the gifts.

In our next lesson, we will begin studying about the two base gifts: giving and serving.

Outside of these two base gifts, we will not begin to use the other gifts that God has given until these have had time to mature.

In our last lesson, we compared the gifts of the Spirit as a “riverbed,” through which Christ’s love flows. As you are obedient to Christ, the Head of the Body, He will deepen your riverbed of love.

Although you may now possess all the gifts that He has plans for you to use, many require a deeper level of maturity to be exercised.

Gifts and Talents

There is a difference between spiritual gifts and talents. A spiritual gift is a power possessed only by Christians. On the other hand, either Christians or non-Christians can possess talents.

For example: Singing is a talent and be used for either man or God. Faith is a gift and it is used for God's glory.

Do you have some talents that you use to glorify God? Many people use their talents to bring glory to themselves.

1 Peter 4:10

God has given _____ of you a _____ from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

ROMANS 12:4-5

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a _____, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

More about gifts:

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-6

There are different _____ of spiritual gifts, but the _____ is the source of them all. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶ God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

Each of these three verses shows a contrast that helps us understand God purpose for gifts.

	<u>DIFFERENT</u>	<u>SAME</u>
Vs 4	Gifts	Spirit
Vs 5	Service	Ord
Vs 6	Ways	God

All of the words in the “different” column, have something to do with gifts, spiritual energies given to Christians and how these are used or administered. All of the words in the “same” column are the names of the One who gives you these gifts.

Why Does the Lord, through the Spirit, Give You these Gifts?

1 CORINTHIANS 12:7

A spiritual gift is given to each of us _____ we can _____ each other.

Even though the individual is encouraged or helped, the *purpose* of the gifts is for the benefit of all.

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

¹⁴ _____ we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. Now let’s see if we can underline in the passage we just read, the importance of growth in your life as a member of Christ’s Body.

As each does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow.

For us to “Live and love like Jesus” the whole Body of Christ, every member must be functioning and contributing to the whole, not just an individual part.

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

In this lesson, we emphasized how our gifts and talents should be used to help and encourage others.

Have you considered your own personal gifts and talents? Have you found a way to use them to be of service to others?

OUR TWO NATURES, part 3

(Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures references are from the New Living Translation.)

Where Do We Start?

Colossians 1:28

So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ.

Paul writes here that he wants all of us to mature, to live and love like Jesus. The next natural thing for us to ask is, “Where do we start?”

We suggest that there are two base gifts that the Lord has given us all. Within the body of Christ, everyone has them and everyone can do them.

These two gifts seem to be at the center for everything the Lord requires us to do. They also are probably the greatest expression of God’s love that we can give to each other. They are **servicing** and **giving**.

Servicing

MATTHEW 20:20-28

Then the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt respectfully to ask a favor. ²¹ “What is your request?” he asked. She replied, “In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left.”

²² But Jesus answered by saying to them, “You don’t know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink?” “Oh yes,” they replied, “we are able!”

²³ Jesus told them, “You will indeed drink from my bitter cup. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. My Father has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen.”

²⁴ When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. ²⁵ But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ²⁶ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your _____, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be _____ among you must become your slave. ²⁸ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ran-

som for many.”

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul confirms that we should have the same kind of attitude.

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ² Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

There is a gift that has been given to each of us.

ROMANS 12:7

If your gift is _____, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well.

Serving others is one of the base gifts that the Lord has given us to build His Body and reveal His love. That is why He has told us all to be like Him in service to others.

Servanthood is a base, a foundation for everything we do.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:15-16

You know that Stephanas and his household were the first of the harvest of believers in Greece, and they are spending their lives in _____ to God's people. I urge you, dear brothers and sisters, ¹⁶ to submit to them and others like them who _____ with such devotion.

ACTS 9:36-42

There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor. ³⁷ About this time she became ill and died. Her body was washed for burial and laid in an upstairs room. ³⁸ But the believers had heard that Peter was nearby at Lydda, so they sent two men to beg him, "Please come as soon as possible!"

³⁹ So Peter returned with them; and as soon as he arrived, they took him to the upstairs room. The room was filled with widows who were weeping and showing him the coats and other clothes Dorcas had made for them. ⁴⁰ But Peter asked them all to leave the room; then he knelt and prayed. Turning to the body he said, "Get up, Tabitha." And she opened her eyes! When she saw Peter, she sat up! ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then he called in the widows and all the believers, and he presented her to them alive.

⁴² The news spread through the whole town, and many believed in the Lord.

Tabitha's life was characterized by her service toward others. She had a reputation among the people because of it, and they dearly loved her.

We all possess the gift of service! You may not exercise it by sewing for widows, as Tabitha did, but you have it anyway. Tabitha's gift just happened to be sewing. Your gift is probably different, but you can use it for the same purpose.

Christ's presence within your life will express itself first by teaching you the great value of serving others. This gift will be the basis for all your ministry, for all years to come. You can begin to exercise it today. No training is required. Just love and serve others in whatever way you can. You will build the body and you will be embraced, loved, and appreciated by the body.

Serving others has a profound impact upon the body of Christ. Not only that, it is also a witness to unbelievers, because they can see with their own eyes the love we have for one another.

Giving

Like the gift of service, the gift of giving is founded also on the flow of Christ's love through you. That love flows to the needs of the Body, not just toward the support of certain projects.

Let's look at several Scriptures to help us see this great gift.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5

Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. ² They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

³ For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. ⁴ They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. ⁵ They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁷ You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." ⁸ And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. ⁹ As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever." ¹⁰ For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosi-

ty in you.

¹¹ Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. ¹² So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

¹³ As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. ¹⁴ And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. ¹⁵ Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!

ACTS 20:35

And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

ROMANS 12:8

If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

The Lord’s Example

JOHN 3:16

“For God loved the world so much that he _____ his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

MATTHEW 20:28

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Confusion about Giving

“Giving,” as we have discovered, is a Bible word describing “A person deliberately parting with possessions so that a change of ownership is brought about.

Ownership. That is an important word to grasp when it comes to giving. We feel a sense of ownership over our possessions, our time, our talents and gifts. Giving of these things is a result of the Holy Spirit’s work. We have given our lives to the Lord, we are in a new Kingdom that has different principles to live by. When we recognize that Jesus Christ is the owner of all we possess, it isn’t difficult to let His possessions flow into His Body, whether it’s time, talent, or treasure.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:18

When people commend _____, it doesn’t count for much. The important thing is for the _____ to commend them.

You will only have problems as you consider possessions as yours. The key is to allow the Spirit to lead you to use what you have, flowing it out in ministering to others. You do this, firmly believing that God will supply your needs continually and that God is perfectly able to replenish your supply.

After all, if God causes you to give, He can be trusted to care for your own future needs.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from _____ glorious _____, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

Many people give glory to God because Christians give help to one another.

JOHN 13:34-35

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. _____
_____ I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will _____ to the world that you are my disciples.”

Christ is calling us to make a commitment to love. All our serving, all our giving should come out of that one basic motivation. He is more interested in whether your giving is an act of loving obedience than He is in how much you give. Gifts are matured when we allow them to be used as channels of God's love.

You will soon learn that there are other spiritual gifts in your life. God gives them so your service for Him might increase the flow of His love.

When you were born, your hand was simply there. later it learned to hold objects. Still later your hand developed coordination. Your hand is now a well developed tool, able to do many things that your mind requires of it.

As members of the Body of Christ, you mature through one set of activities. Later, upon maturing, you will find further tasks awaiting you. As you pursue them, you will find that Christ love will flow in new ways. As you learn to exercise fully the gifts of serving and giving, Christ will show you that you have other gifts. He will show you which ones He selected for you so He might let His love flow through you.

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

The greatest motivation for using our gifts and talents is love. Have you examined yourself to check your own motivations?

Are you aware of ways in which you can develop and improve upon the gifts and talents you have been given? Care to share?

OUR TWO NATURES, part 4

(Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures references are from the New Living Translation.)

You Belong to Your Choice

To understand our New Beginning we must realize that we have a choice in all of this. We can either follow our “old nature” and the spirit controlling it, or we can by the Spirit of God.

GALATIANS 5:16

So I say, let the Holy Spirit _____ your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

When we speak of a person's spirit, we are speaking about the total of what he is: His thoughts, motives, impulses, desires, and actions.

Since your birth, your spirit has expressed itself through your body. Until now, you have been a slave to the “old nature.” You had no choice, that nature has controlled your spirit and expressed itself through your body. This expression was sin, self-exaltation.

But notice that the word “Spirit” in Galatians 5:16 has a capital S. When you became a Christian, Christ broke the old nature's rule over your life. You now have a new nature. The indwelling Christ controls your life through his Holy Spirit. The old nature sought to exalt self; the new nature seeks to cause the love of God to flow through you.

ROMANS 8:10-11

And Christ _____ within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God.

¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, _____ in you.

And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

We are alive in Christ, who we have in our spirit. We are also right with God because of the righteousness of Christ, because of Christ's indwelling presence controlling your spirit.

Don't think of your new nature as “it.” In Galatians 2:20 you are given the name of the one who is your new nature.

GALATIANS 2:20

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

“Christ lives in me,” has a nice sound, doesn't it? Actually a very important part of this Scripture

is for us to live by faith. We live by faith (by trusting) in what the Son of God has done for us and is doing within us.

You can remember the word “faith” in this way:

F	Forsaking
A	All
I	I
T	Trust
H	Him

Take some time to meditate upon the meaning of Galatians 2:20 means when it tells you to live by trusting in the Son of God.

Several concepts may come to mind as we think about these things:

- Surrender
- Yield
- Submit
- Lord & Master
- Control

It is through our own choice that your new nature, the indwelling Christ, can control your life. You must surrender yourself completely to Him. You must choose to let Him be your Lord and Master.

By making that decision, you belong to your choice. You do not belong to yourself anymore, you become Christ's.

COLOSSIANS 2:9-10

For in Christ lives all the _____ of God in a human body. ¹⁰

So you also are _____ through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

There are two obvious facts that we can grasp from these verses:

- If Christ lives in you, so does all the fullness of God.
- If Christ lives in you, so does all the power of God.

Jesus Christ *is* your new nature. He has come to *reside* in you, and with Him has come the full

presence of God's Spirit.

All the power of God himself has been implanted in you! Christ does not *bring* that power; He *is* that power. He has come not to cause you to fail, but to cause you to know the victory that God's power makes certain.

Today, as you live your life, remember that you belong to your choice.

Choose the new nature of Christ as your Lord today, and see all He can do in channeling His love through your giving and service. Why not pray right now, committing your day to His purposes?

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

We are born sinners, enslaved to our sinful nature. Since you have acknowledged the Lord, have you seen a change in yourself, in your way of thinking?

What is meant by the statement, "You belong to your choice?"

Are you making different choices now that you know the Lord than you did previously?

OUR TWO NATURES, part 5

(Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures references are from the New Living Translation.)

Under Christ's Control

Once again, recognize that Christ lives in you. He himself is the new nature you have been given. Often, you may want to ask Christ to give you something such as love, power, gentleness, righteousness. He does not give you these things, He *is* these things!

COLOSSIANS 1:27

. . . this is the secret: Christ _____ in you. This gives you assurance of _____ his glory.

The One from whom all these characteristics flow is already living in you. If you surrender your life to His direction, His life will flow through your life.

Then you can be among the first to confess that He has not given you His abilities. Rather, He has given you **himself**. Instead of giving you a flask of water, He has given you the well, just as He told the woman at the well that He would do.

JOHN 4:13-14

Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty _____ .¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give will _____ be thirsty _____. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

Instead of giving you the characteristics you desire, He has given you the source of those characteristics. This is your new nature.

The characteristics of Christ, your new nature, are expressed beautifully in Gal. 5:22-23.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

But the Holy Spirit produces _____ of _____ in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Let's just look at three of them for a moment:

- **Patience** – (suffering long) is patience in afflictions, annoyances, and persecutions. Its greatest example is found in Luke 23:34.

LUKE 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And

the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

- **Faithfulness** – Reliability based upon trust in God, confidence in our fellow Christians
- **Self-control** – Literally, to hold oneself in, especially regarding sex. Our lives should be disciplined. Lust, passions appetites and temper should be ruled. We should practice moderation.

You may look at these and say, “I don’t know if I can do them.” My answer to you would be, “You don’t have to!” Surrender to Christ, who is these things, and He will cause these wonderful characteristics to flow and mature in your life.

Colossians 2:12-13 helps to understand what has happened to us.

COLOSSIANS 2:12-13

For you were _____ with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were _____ to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. ¹³ You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you _____ with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.

Our baptism is a symbol of what has happened to us. Receiving Christ as our Lord and Savior, we die to our old way of life, we are cleansed, and we rise again to our new life in Christ. My old life has been symbolically buried with Christ, and now I have been resurrected into a new life with Christ.

COLOSSIANS 3:1-7

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³ For you _____ to this life, and your _____ is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

⁵ So put to death the sinful, earthly things _____ within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. ⁶ Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. ⁷ You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world.

In our new life Paul encourages us to do three things:

- Seek those things which are above
- Set your mind on things above, not of the earth
- Hide your life in Christ

In all of this, we can see that we are to give Christ control of our lives. As a Christian, you may have a tendency to want to use your new nature, to control it to do things you consider good things.

You do not use Christ: Christ Uses You!

You simply make a choice. You choose to let the nature of Christ within you take control of your spirit, your mind, your emotions, your body.

Keep seeking the realities of Heaven, God's ways. Set your mind on the things of Heaven, not the things of earth. The old things we used to do, sinful things, we put to death. These commands to make a choice show your responsibility in the working out of your new nature. God does His part, and we do our part, we are partners with Christ.

We simply concentrate on Christ. He then is free to flow His love through us, using the channel of our gifts to where He wants them to go.

Christ Within

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-18

Either way, Christ's love _____ us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. ¹⁵ He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. ¹⁶ So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! ¹⁸ And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.

In verse 14, Paul uses the word *control*. Christ's love is the controller of my life. Living for Christ is allowing the love of Christ to lead us, through the Holy Spirit.

In verse 17, Paul says that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. Why? Because our old thoughts, desires, lusts, and loves, are not leading us anymore. Instead, we are led by the things that Christ loves, and the thoughts and desires that go with it.

Christ Controls, We Contain

In our partnership with Christ, we have the role of being a container that He controls.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:6-10

For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine

in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷ We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

⁸ We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. ⁹ We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. ¹⁰ Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

We are described here as being like fragile clay jars containing a great treasure. This is who we are. The great treasure within us is Christ Himself. Because of Him we will have great victory

Let's look at four contrasts of victory that we see in these verses.

WE ARE	BUT	WE ARE NOT
Pressed on every side		Crushed
Perplexed		Despairing
Hunted down		Abandoned
Knocked down		Destroyed

No doubt about it! Becoming a Christian is an act in which you receive a new nature. You can now be controlled by the love of Christ.

You are a container for a new life, the life of Christ.

You are to be controlled by that life. No longer live for yourself; instead, you live for Christ. He is to be given freedom to use you, to execute His plans on His planet.

As we saw, 2 Corinthians 4:7 compares your life to a clay jar, used in the Bible times to preserve a valuable document. The container was important because of what it contained; otherwise, it had little significance.

Of course, you are more than a clay jar. You are a person. God does not take away your dignity, nor do you become a puppet on a string. Rather the indwelling Christ brings you to completeness.

Jesus Christ's life within you reveals to you the very nature of God. You are a container for Christ, and He is the light that illuminates God's nature.

Many people have tried to understand God without being willing to become containers for Christ. They always fail to do so!

Only the person who has received the new nature of Christ has the capacity to know God.

Perhaps some of your old friends felt you had gone “overboard” when you began your new life with Christ, spending your time pursuing the Lord and His purposes. They did not understand because it is impossible for one who walks in darkness to see the light. Only through Christ will they know the truth.

That is why they need to see God’ love active in us personally and corporately. Making disciples who live and love like Jesus is what we are all about.

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

So much of our growth in our journey with God has to do with our surrender to Him and His way. Do you have any examples in your own life of times when you have surrendered to the Lord?

How does water baptism symbolize this process?

OUR TWO NATURES, part 6

(Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures references are from the New Living Translation.)

Dethroning Our Master

An apple tree produces apples. It cannot produce peaches because by nature it is an apple tree!

Now that you are in the family and kingdom of God, you have a new nature. This new nature produces fruit.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

But the Holy Spirit _____ this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Truths about the fruit of the Spirit.

- First, it is not what we do, But who you *are*.
- Second, in each case, the fruit describes *character*, not activity.
- Third, it is impossible to counterfeit these fruits in our own strength

Do you believe the Holy Spirit can produce all these things in you? New Christians often wonder how they can know that they have really become Christians. The answer to that is based on one simple fact: You have trusted your life to a trustworthy God. He promised that if you asked to forgive you of all your sins, He would do it. You asked, and He did it!

Now that he has kept His Word, you may be sure He will also do His work in your life, just as He promises in Philippians.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

And I am certain that God, who _____ the good work within you, will _____ his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Have you noticed your attitudes, actions, or motivations changing? Have you had a moment when you realized that you could choose another course of action, a different way than the way you used to act before you received Christ? This is evidence that the Holy Spirit is growing and developing His fruit in your life. Because of that alone, you can be assured repeatedly that Christ is living within you.

Something Only the Spirit Can Do

ROMANS 8:26-28

And the Holy Spirit _____ us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷ And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. ²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to _____
_____ for the _____ of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Let's consider some things these verses reveal to us:

- The Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses
- He prays for us, with "groanings" that cannot be spoken in words.
- He knows our heart like no one else can.
- God works everything for our good for people who love God.

It is important to know that God does not just let things happen. He actively participates in your life as you yield yourself to Him.

There is a simple decision you make a Christian, hour by hour, day by day. It is to crown Jesus Christ as Lord of your life. When you do, his nature is in control of you.

His nature produces the fruit of the Spirit. You do not have to struggle to be like Jesus, you simply need to yield to Him. You allow Him to be Himself, the indwelling Spirit doing His work within you.

Taking Self Off the Throne

Have you ever heard someone offer this kind of excuse, "I'm only human" or "That's just human nature?"

Since we have come to Christ, we know that this excuse does not work for us anymore. Christ does not let Christians get by with living according to human nature. He Himself is your new nature, changing your attitudes and your actions day by day.

Yet your human nature is not dead. It is still there, as it was before you gave your life to Christ.

Let us read what Romans has to say about our old nature.

ROMANS 6:12-18

_____ let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. ¹³ _____ let any part of your body become an instrument of evil

to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. ¹⁴ Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

¹⁵ Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! ¹⁶ Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. ¹⁷ Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. ¹⁸ Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

This passage depicts sin as some sort of master, having the power to rule over you. However, according to verse 12, you have a choice, "Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires." This is a suggestion. It is an imperative statement, a command. When the scripture tells us "do not . . ." we should take it seriously. This is a warning: if we give into our sinful desires, we must face the consequences.

According to verse 17, you become a "slave to sin."

Who is this "Master?"

The easiest way to discover his true identity is to look at the vowel in the middle of the word "SIN" -- I. Sin is, at its root, an "I" problem. When I choose what pleases "I," our selfish master reigns.

The "I" in me obeys sins lusts. The members of my body become "Instruments of unrighteousness." As a Christian, you belong to your choice. If you choose to let Christ reign, He (who *is* your new nature) will cause His fruit to flow from your life.

If we choose to give our body to our selfish master, you become a servant or slave to that master. Under the control of our selfish master, all you can expect is the fruit, or result, of disobeying God.

We Have a Choice

We all have a choice over who will reign over us!

ROMANS 6:12-13

Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. ¹³ Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin.

_____, give yourselves completely _____, for you

were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

We must not let ourselves be ruled by sin. Instead, we must give yourself completely, totally, holding nothing back from God. We must let the indwelling Christ be our Master in every area of our life, in that we become free from sin but a slave to righteousness. We must remember the master of sin is dethroned, but not dead.

ROMANS 6:18

Now you are _____ from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

How do we become a slave to righteousness? Look back at verses 16-17. We become slaves to righteousness by doing what is right, by obeying God.

The meaning is clear; you choose to obey the sinful self, your old nature. Or you choose to obey Christ, your new nature. You become a slave to whatever nature you obey.

One of the Most Difficult Things

One of the hardest things for new Christians to realize is this: **Your old nature cannot be re-formed.** When you try to live in the old nature and produce the fruit of the new nature, you are continually frustrated. Our struggle may be difficult, but our way is clear.

When you have apple roots, you produce apple fruit. When you have orange roots, you produce orange fruit. The nature of the root always determines the fruit. Therefore, our old nature is still producing the same kind of fruit since you became as Christian as it did before you became a Christian.

Nevertheless, thanks be to God we have Victory through Christ Jesus our Lord!

1 CORINTHIANS 15:57

But thank God! He gives us _____
and death through our Lord Jesus
Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

Have you noticed your attitudes, actions, or motivations changing?

Have you had any moments when you realized that you could choose another course of action, a different way than the way you used to act before you received Christ?

OUR TWO NATURES, part 7

(Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures references are from the New Living Translation.)

Civil War Within

Would you believe that a civil war could go on in your life as a Christian? Such a war takes place when your new nature and your old nature struggle against each other.

ROMANS 7:22-25

I love God's law with all my heart. ²³ But there is another power within me that is _____ with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. ²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? ²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

The struggle described in those verses is caused by a Christian who has not made a choice. He has not made a clear-cut decision to let the indwelling Christ be the Lord of his life. The apostle Paul, in the book of Romans, tells us that we have become slaves or taken captive, which is a natural result of war.

"Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?" (Romans 7:24)

This is actually a picture of a hideous situation: Ancient conquerors developed a terrible way of torturing a prisoner. They would bind a corpse to him so tightly that the living man if he tried to escape would have to carry the dead man on his back!

The apostle Paul asked a question in verse 24 which shows he might have been thinking about this horrible torture. "Who will free me?" Romans 7:25 gives both the name and the title of the One who can release you from this civil war within: Jesus Christ our Lord.

What significance does this title have in bringing to an end the civil war between your two natures?

If Jesus Christ is truly **your Lord**, then he must **control** your life. You must accept and surrender to his Lordship and refuse to obey your old human nature.

This diagram shows the results of letting one control vs the other.

	<u>THE OLD NATURE</u>	<u>THE NEW NATURE</u>
Mindset	Things of the flesh	Things of the Spirit
Results	Death	Life and peace

Now let us look at Romans 8:7-8 to see four negative statements about a Christian who is not yet fully yielded to the indwelling Christ.

ROMANS 8:7-8

For the sinful nature is always _____ to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. ⁸ That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

- He is hostile toward God
- He does not obey God's laws
- He cannot yield or submit to God's law
- He cannot please God

On the other side, Romans 8:9 tells us that the Christian has the Spirit of God dwelling in him. The word "dwell" means to reside permanently.

ROMANS 8:9

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God _____ in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)

Is there any time in your life as a Christian when you cannot live with Christ reigning as Lord of your life?

Victory Through Surrender

COLOSSIANS 3:8

But now is the time to _____ of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.

EPHESIANS 4:22

_____ your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception.

In both these verses, the apostle Paul refers to a deliberate decision made by a Christian: to lay aside or put off the old nature.

Imagine a person who has been wearing a suit of clothes for a long, long time. As an intentional act, the person takes off his old clothes. They are discarded, laid aside. They are no longer valuable to the owner. They will not be worn again.

Such a decision on your part as a new Christian settles the civil war within!

The old nature is still present, still alive. Your choice of a personal commitment to Jesus Christ

allows the full power of His life to be activated within you.

Let's look at what happens to those who make Jesus Lord and Master of their life.

ROMANS 8:37

No, despite all these things, overwhelming _____ is ours through Christ, who loved us.

Complete victory is available to every Christian as we submit and surrender to Him who loves us.

Often you may feel that life situations are your greatest hindrances as you try to live in the new nature. Christ is victorious over all situations you face. You need only to invite him into your life situation, whatever it may be, and let His mighty power work on it.

One Choice

Each Christian has an old nature and a new nature. You cannot "fake" the life of Christ, who is the new nature, by trying to cause your old nature to live a new, changed life. **Rather, you must constantly choose against your old nature.**

The Christian life does not consist of trying to be like Jesus. That is an impossibility. Rather, you let Jesus Christ, the Son of God, become the reigning Master in your life. You give Him the right to guide your thoughts, to control your hands. You settle, once and for all, the fact that He came into your life to be your Lord, the One to whom you belong.

Think of it this way. You want to be a great football player. You have no outstanding coordination, nor are you physically able to play football especially well. Yet, you try! You run until you are exhausted. You pass with all your weak strength. The best you can do is not enough. You know you have failed.

Then on the sidelines, a man walks up to you. He introduces himself. Your heart leaps into your throat! He is one of the greatest football players in the world. He offers to do a strange thing. He explains he has the power to take his strength out of his own body and place it onto yours. He also offers to put his knowledge of the game into your mind.

You agree to the offer! In a moment of time, you are back on the field, passing with more accuracy and running with more speed than you ever dreamed you could. Your mind races through the plays; you recall every one. The crowds cheer you! You are playing the game of a super professional. **Yet, in your heart, you know** why you are playing such a brilliant game.

You have the power and strength of a famous football player implanted in your life. You are humbled by the experience! Others may applaud you, but **you know the true source** of your actions.

Christ will do exactly that for you, for the rest of your life. You belong to your choice. Crown Him

Lord of your life, today, tomorrow, and forever.

Christ Guarantees You Overwhelming Victory!

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

Have you experienced the struggle described in Romans 7:22-25?

Is it helpful to know that this struggle is common and you are not alone?

Have you made your own personal decision to follow Jesus, no matter what you may face in your life?

ASPECTS OF SALVATION

(Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures references are from the New Living Translation.)

Perhaps, when you took Christ as your Lord and Savior, you thought that simple prayer of surrender would give you all Christ had to offer you. Well, you were right!

In that moment, you became a forgiven and free child of God. In that same moment, however, you also received from God some rights. These rights are yours to claim in the present.

You have also received an inheritance. This inheritance is yours to claim in the future.

Salvation, therefore, comes to you in three stages: past, present, and future. The apostle Paul knew this and explained it to his friends, those in Christ at Philippi.

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. ⁴ Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, ⁵ for you have been my _____ in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. ⁶ And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

⁷ So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my _____. You share with me the special _____ of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. ⁸ God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus.

⁹ I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. ¹⁰ For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. ¹¹ May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

Because the Philippians had been Paul's helpers in spreading the Gospel, they held a special place in his heart. Have you ever given someone a special place in your heart? How did it make you feel? What were you willing to do for them?

Because Paul felt an affection for the Philippians, like the love that he felt for Christ Jesus Himself. He wanted to make sure they understood about the three aspects of Salvation. No other verse in the Scripture summarizes this more completely than Philippians 1:6.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

And I am certain that God, who _____ the good work within you, will _____ his work until it is finally _____ on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Notice the time frames Paul used in this verse.

Past	Present	Future
THE BEGINNING POINT	A PROCESS OF TIME	FINAL EVENT
He who began a good work . . .	Will continue His work	Until it is finally finished when He returns

Now let us learn how this Great Salvation plays out in the present.

ROMANS 5:6-11

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹ And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. ¹⁰ For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹ So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

Three Aspects of Salvation

- Salvation Past: By the blood of Christ, we are forgiven and set free from the penalty of sin.
- Salvation Future: By the return of Christ, you will be forever set free from the presence of sin.
- Salvation Present: Through the indwelling life of Christ, you are set free from the power of sin.

A warden told a prisoner that the governor of the state had granted him a full pardon. Delighted, the prisoner asked to be released from his cell. The warden replied, "Oh, no! We can't release a man like you. You must stay in your cell till you finish your sentence."

Of what good is a pardon that does not give freedom NOW?

Christ has given you, right now, freedom from the power of sin.

ROMANS 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we _____, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

What do those verses assure us of right now? What do they tell us about our past? What confidence can we have in the future?

You see the Lord had given us a complete salvation! We do not have to worry about what we have done; where we are going or how will things work out. The Lord is with us and we can have confidence and joy at all times.

ROMANS 5:10

For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we _____ certainly be saved through the life of his Son.

GALATIANS 2:20

My old self _____ crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Now, in light of what the Lord has done for us, we are encouraged to rejoice!

ROMANS 5:11

So _____ we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us _____ of _____.

Our great Salvation has given us every reason to rejoice. We rejoice not only for what Jesus has done and will do but because in our present condition we have the Lord as our friend.

Saved by His Life

Being a friend of God is not something we can accomplish on our own. It comes through our Lord Jesus Christ living in us in the present time.

He provides His mighty power to set you free from the power of sin. Do you truly believe that Christ really understand your needs and all the things you are tested with?

HEBREWS 4:14-15

So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. ¹⁵ This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

These verses tell us:

- Jesus our great high priest has entered into heaven into the very presence of God.
- Jesus understands our weaknesses, for He himself faced all the same testings, yet He did not sin.

Jesus took part in human nature, He shared the same flesh and blood that you do. He endured all that you might have to endure in life, even in the human experience of death! There is nothing in all your life span that he has not faced personally.

It is certainly reassuring to know that Jesus understands my weaknesses

By sharing the human experience of dying, Jesus achieved two great results.

HEBREWS 2:14-15

Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and _____ could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. ¹⁵ Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

By dying:

- Jesus broke the devil's power, who has power over death.
- He set free all of those who have lived their life as slaves to the fear of dying.

HEBREWS 4:16

So let us come _____ to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

We do not have to be timid. We can go **boldly** to our God. He is merciful to us and gives us the grace to handle difficulties.

HEBREWS 2:18

_____ he _____ has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.

YES, He understands your situation. YES, He can help you. YES, He walks with you throughout your life.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will _____ the temptation to be _____ than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will _____ you a _____ so that you can endure.

Recognize the fact that salvation present is yours today. Your victory rests on the fact that Jesus lives in you, and Christ has experienced every stress and need you now experience.

Write down some things that you need to take to the throne of mercy and grace, and ask the Lord to give you the grace to overcome each situation.

What is Salvation?

By now, it should be obvious that God has performed, is performing, and will perform the process of salvation in your life.

Salvation begins at a point in time, with confession of your sin and confession of Christ's lordship.

It continues as a process of time, in which you are freed from sin's power by Christ living within you. In a final future event, Christ will liberate you from the old nature of sin.

COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, ¹² always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

This passage also describes Salvation past, present, and future.

- Salvation past- (Vs. 13-14)
- Salvation present-(Vs. 10-11)
- Salvation future-(Vs. 12)

Verse 9 tells us, God wants, “to give you complete knowledge of His will.”

He wants you to understand **how** His salvation comes to you. He wants you to know the **certainty** of your salvation past, brought about by Christ’s death on the cross. He wants you to feel **assured** of your salvation present, as He gives you strength to resist temptations to sin.

So, exactly what is salvation?

Imagine you are standing on the shore of a lake. You see a man in the middle of the water. He is unable to keep himself afloat. He will soon drown if someone doesn’t save him!

What is the element that will kill him? **Water**. He will drown in water. To be saved, he must be taken from the water.

The word “salvation” itself indicates that you need to be “saved” from something that threatens your life.

What is the element that will kill you?

MATTHEW 1:21

. . . name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their _____.”

ROMANS 3:23-24

For everyone has _____; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our _____.

Even in a well-directed life, you are “drowning” in sin. To be “saved,” you must be taken from the power of sin.

Do you remember how we defined “sin” in lesson 8 (page 41)? Sin means taking the “I” in that word and crowning it king of your life. Sin is an “I” problem.

When you live a self-owned, self-governed, self-regulated life, you are in grave danger. Colossians 1:13 has told us that those who live like that are in the “kingdom of darkness.” Such living will literally destroy a person.

Salvation then is *leaving* the self-owned life and *receiving* the Christ-owned life.

Salvation is not just a way to die. It is not just a “life insurance policy” for the hereafter. It is much, much more.

Salvation is God’s act of rescuing you from a self-directed life and its consequences.

First, at a point in time, He took you out of that state of a self-directed life. Next, as an on-going process, He makes it possible for you to live a Christ directed life. Finally, in a future event, He will set you free permanently from the possibility of a self-owned life.

THAT IS SALVATION!

For the rest of your lifelong journey with Christ, be ever mindful and clear about what Salvation involves:

- You are no longer your own master.
- You have been “called out” of a world in which everyone lives for self.
- You have been placed in a Body of people.
- In that one Body of Christ, all believers have common commitment.
- All desire for Christ to be Lord, their King.
- They are unified because they have chosen to be Christ-controlled rather than self-controlled.

The very act of “being saved” means that you desired to be rescued from yourself, from a life that was stubbornly determined to be self-ruled.

Salvation means being **Christ-ruled**, and nothing less.

Finally, remember that all this has been made possible by the death of your Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. He took your past life into His own sinless body, accepted the wrath that rightfully should be poured out on you, and liberated you.

Then He rose from death to occupy your person with His own Spirit, filling you with Himself. He has a purpose for your life. That purpose is to make you a channel through which He can pour out His love.

WHAT A LIFE!

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

Have you ever given someone a special place in your heart? How did it make you feel? What were you willing to do for them?

Discuss how our salvation affects our past, present and future.

WHAT ABOUT AUTHORITY?

(Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures references are from the New Living Translation.)

MATTHEW 28:18

Jesus came and told his disciples, “___ have been given _____ authority in heaven and on earth.

ROMANS 13:1-7

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For _____ authority comes from _____, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. ² So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. ³ For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. ⁴ The authorities are God’s _____, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God’s servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. ⁵ So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience.

⁶ Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are _____ God in what they do. ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

HEBREWS 13:17

Obeys your spiritual _____, and do what they say. Their _____ is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

1 PETER 4:5

But remember that they will have to _____, who will judge everyone, both the living and the dead.

Every single one of us, individually, will have to give an account for the authority Almighty God has given us. We will stand before Almighty God to give an account for the things he has entrusted to our care, whether we have received Him as Lord and Savior, and how we handled those either over us or under us in authority.

Even though it is lengthy, the following parable gives us a lot of insight on what this time might look like.

The Parable of the Three Servants

Matthew 25:14-31

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. ¹⁵ He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

¹⁶ “The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. ¹⁷ The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. ²⁰ The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’

²¹ “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

²² “The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’

²³ “The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

²⁴ “Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. ²⁵ I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

²⁶ “But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, ²⁷ why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

²⁸ “Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. ²⁹ To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ³⁰ Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

³¹ “But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne.

This parable reveals much about authority and accountability.

In the Kingdom of God, authority and accountability *begin* with the fear of the Lord.

PROVERBS 9:10

Fear of the LORD is the _____ of wisdom.

Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.

If we want to be wise, it starts with a proper view of God Himself. To “fear the Lord” is to be awestruck by Him, honoring and respecting Him. We do not have to be afraid of God unless we find ourselves against Him!

1 JOHN 4:18

Such _____ has no _____, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

REVELATION 1:17

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, “_____ be _____! I am the First and the Last.

Example: Although children may fear the discipline of their earthly fathers, they know sin must be punished, and their father disciplines them because He loves them.

What does the fear of the Lord do for us?

- The fear of the Lord teaches us how to hate evil.

PROVERBS 8:13

_____ who fear the LORD will hate evil. _____, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech.

Look what will happen to those who do not hate evil.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11

Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people— _____ of these _____ the Kingdom of God. ¹¹ Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

- The fear of the Lord keeps us from sin; we will learn to hate sin, as God does.
- Because we have the fear of the Lord, we can understand how authorities are to be in our lives.

ROMANS 13:1-4A

_____ must _____ to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. ² So _____ who _____ against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. ³ For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. ⁴ The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good.

How do authorities work in our lives?

- Authorities are ministers of God in government, employment, church, families.
- God uses authorities to mold us. If we resist authorities, we resist God and there is chaos.

JUDGES 21:25

In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right _____ their _____.

When people live doing what is right in their own eyes, it is equal to the self-owned, self-governed, self-regulated life we talked about in Lesson 10 (pg 52). We are to be Christ-owned, Christ-governed, and Christ-regulated instead.

- God delegates authority, and anyone *with* authority needs to be *under* authority.

In fact, the way we learn *how* to have authority is by learning how to live *under* authority. This is often a difficult process because we tend to have the attitude, "Nobody is going to tell me what to do." However, this is a very immature way to approach life. The truth is, no matter what level of authority we attain, we will still be under authority of some kind.

For example, a policeman has authority to direct traffic because he is under authority of the government he represents.

The CEO of a company may have ultimate authority over his company, but he still must be governed by the by-laws of his organization and also by federal regulations.

There is no escape from dealing with authority. We may as well learn how to handle it correctly. We will learn to be better leaders as we learn willing submission to authority.

The Bible teaches us to submit to those given responsibility for our lives.

TITUS 3:1

Remind the believers to _____ to the government and its officers.

They should be obedient, always _____ to do what is _____.

Submission is not a well-received concept in our culture. Therefore, it is important for us to have a common definition of what it means to submit:

- Submit means to yield, to stand under, to defer to the opinion or authority of another.
- Submission is a heart attitude.
- God wants to restore to us today a proper understanding of the fear of the Lord, and submission to authority.
- Submission may seem foolish, yet authorities are placed in our lives for our good.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:27

Instead, God chose things the world considers _____ in order to shame those who _____ they are _____. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.

As surprising as it may seem, the Bible teaches that rebellion to authority is the same as witchcraft and stubbornness. It is actually a rejection of God as our King! Beware of a rebellious attitude!

1 SAMUEL 15:22-23

But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. ²³ Rebellion is as sinful as _____, and stubbornness as bad as worshipping _____. So because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."

- Resisting authority is resisting God (unless the authority is causing us to sin)
- Obeying authorities God has placed in our lives will bring tremendous blessing.

For example, submitting to a difficult boss is hard, but it can also be rewarding. God has a way of working on our behalf and for our good,

- Authorities are delegated and appointed by God.

LUKE 17:7-10

"When a servant comes in from plowing or taking care of sheep, does his master say, 'Come in and eat with me'? ⁸ No, he says, 'Prepare my meal, put on your apron, and serve me while I eat. Then you can eat later.' ⁹ And does the master thank the servant for doing what he was told to do? Of course not. ¹⁰ In the same way, when you obey me you should say, 'We are unworthy servants who have

simply done our duty.”

- We need to submit to authorities in our lives.
- God works His character in us as we learn this principle
- We can be loving authorities ourselves when we learn to submit to authority.

Arenas of Authority

Employers

COLOSSIANS 3:22-24

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. _____ to _____ them all the time, not just when they are watching you.

Serve them sincerely _____ of your reverent fear of the Lord.

²³ Work _____ at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. ²⁴ Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.\

Our real employer is Jesus Christ

Work at our jobs as if we are working for Him.

Example: Christian with an attitude of submission to authority impressed his boss.

God uses employers in our lives to teach us discipline. (getting to work on time, working diligently)

We should not expect extra favors from a Christian boss.

1 Timothy 6:1-2

All slaves should show full _____ for their masters so they will not bring shame on the name of God and his teaching. ² If the masters are believers, that is no excuse for being disrespectful. Those slaves should work all the harder because their efforts are helping other believers who are well loved. Teach these things, Timothy, and encourage everyone to obey them.

Submit, even if the boss is harsh

1 Peter 2:18-21

You who are slaves must _____ the authority of your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you—not only if they are kind and reasonable, but _____ if they are _____. ¹⁹ For God is pleased with you when you do what you know is right and patiently endure unfair treatment. ²⁰ Of

course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you. ²¹ For God _____ you to _____, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

Family

How does authority look in our families?

EPHESIANS 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents _____ you belong to the Lord, for this is the _____ thing to do. ² “Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise: ³ If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”

Children need to obey and submit to their parents. However, if parents ask their child to do something ungodly, they can refuse. They must obey God first.

God gives special blessings to those who obey. There is a special promise given to children who obey their parents — for their lives to go well and last long!

Husbands and wives need to submit to each other.

EPHESIANS 5:21-24

And further, submit to _____ out of reverence for Christ. ²² For wives, this means submit to your husbands _____ to the _____. ²³ For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. ²⁴ As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

Marriage is to be an example, a reflection of Christ and His church. So there should be unity between a husband and wife. They are a team, with the husband as the leader. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church and he is to make decisions in light of this love.

The Church

HEBREWS 13:17

_____ your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to _____ over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

We see here a job description for those in spiritual leadership in the church. They are to watch over us and give an account to God for their treatment of us. For those of us under their leadership, we must realize that our committed connection to a local church brings us protection. It is

like a sheep being in a sheepfold with a shepherd.

GALATIANS 2:2

I went there because God revealed to me that I should go. While I was there I _____ privately with those considered to be _____ of the church and shared with them the message I had been preaching to the Gentiles. I wanted to make sure that we were in _____, for fear that all my efforts had been wasted and I was running the race for nothing.

Even the great apostle Paul was accountable to spiritual leaders in his life, as we see in Galatians 2. Paul wanted to make sure they were in agreement. He urged the people to recognize and respect spiritual leaders.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13

Dear brothers and sisters, _____ those who are your _____ in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. ¹³ Show them great _____ and whole-hearted _____ because of their work. And live peacefully with each other.

What if we don't agree with our spiritual leaders?

If and when we find ourselves in disagreement with our leaders, we must look at this as an opportunity! First, we must love them and pray for them to have the wisdom of God and clarity of thought. When we go to them with a disagreement or an offence, we should appeal to them in love, not with a "finger-pointing" accusatory attitude.

If differences persist, we should examine our own heart to see if there is any hardness against them. It may be that our vision is not the same as the leaders' vision. Often, we submit to another man's vision before we are released by God into our own vision.

Church leaders are sometimes used as God's rod to discipline us. It's not like getting a spanking from a natural father. It is not done by compulsion. It is a willing, voluntary submission. But it is very valuable and very effective for our spiritual growth. If we rebel, or by-pass this phase, our spiritual growth can be hampered or stunted.

2 SAMUEL 7:14

I will be his father, and he will be my son. If he sins, I will _____ and discipline him with the rod, like any father would do.

HEBREWS 12:8

If God doesn't _____ you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all.

Submission means to be under the **mission** or **authority** God has placed in our lives. In the local Church, we are under the mission of the spiritual leadership there.

Spiritual leaders also need to be accountable to spiritual authorities. If a spiritual leader is disobedient to the Lord by falling into sin, he should be rebuked by his spiritual authorities.

1 TIMOTHY 5:19-20

Do not listen to an accusation against an elder unless it is confirmed by two or three witnesses. ²⁰ Those who sin should be _____ in front of the whole church; this will serve as a strong warning to others.

Leaders should not “lord over” others.

MATTHEW 20:25-28

But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ²⁶ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your _____, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first among you must become your _____. ²⁸ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Instead, they should have an attitude of a servant. For example, Nehemiah had authority, but he did use it to assert his will over the people. (Neh. 5:15) **Servanthood and spiritual authority go hand in hand.**

Our spiritual leaders need our support. We should value them and see them as those who help mold us into the character of Christ. We should take their advice and heed their counsel. And even when we disagree or feel hurt or offended, we should not gossip about them or slander them. Instead, go to them and talk it out. Don’t get into the trap of thinking of them like they’re not real people with struggles just like you.

Blessings from Being Under Authority

There are some very rich blessings associated with submission to authority. Now let’s look at the blessing we get from authorities as we submit to them.

- **Authorities give us protection**

Example: If we exceed the speed limit, we could endanger ourselves and others.

- **An attitude of submission toward authorities helps us to avoid mistakes.**
- **Submitting to authorities teaches us principals of faith.**

MATTHEW 8:8-10

But the officer said, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ I know this be-

cause I am _____ the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority _____ my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this,' they do it." ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, "I tell you the truth, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel!

The officer, a Centurion, received a miracle because he understood Jesus authority to heal. He recognized that he was both *in* and *under* authority.

- **Submitting to authorities trains our character to be a loving authority to others.**
- **God chips away the junk in our lives.**

JEREMIAH 29:23

For these men have done terrible things among my people. They have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives and have lied in my name, saying things I did not command. _____ a _____ to this. I, the LORD, have spoken."

If no one else sees, God sees! We can trust Him and rest in Him. No ungodly, cruel or abusive leader is getting away with anything. God sees, God delivers, and God is a just judge. Let us choose our ways to be right and let God worry about those who choose evil.

- **We learn to be pliable and change more into Christlikeness.**
- **Submission to authority provides guidance to know His will.**

Example: When parents ask son to break off relationship with ungodly friends. Sons realizes later it was wise to submit to his parents authority.

Jesus submitted to his Heavenly Father everyday

JOHN 5:30

I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I _____ the _____ of the one who sent me, _____ my _____ will.

We need to follow Jesus' example of doing nothing of His own initiative, but what God determines.

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

How does this lesson describe, “The fear of the Lord?”

God is the supreme authority over all things, yet He has designated other authorities in our lives. Can you name some of them?

What does it mean to be both over and under in authority?

How do you relate to the authorities in your life, parents? Teachers? Employers? Policemen, Court officials? Elected officials? Your pastor, or other church leaders?

THE GREAT COMMISSION

(Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures references are from the New Living Translation.)

In Matthew 28, we that Jesus gave a very special set of “marching orders” to the believers:

MATTHEW 28:18-20

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, _____ and _____
_____ of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ _____ these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Jesus commissioned us to make disciples in all nations. A commission is a set of orders. To be commissioned is to receive a set of orders to carry out. A commission is not a request to be taken under advisement. It carries much more weight.

Verse 18 of Matthew 28 uses the word “Go” as an imperative statement. It is a verb, an action word. In other words, it is something that we are to about “doing.”

We are to make disciples wherever we are, whomever we are with. That includes our families, on the job, and in our communities.

We Are Living Containers of the Holy Spirit

JOHN 7:37-39

On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! ³⁸ Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’” ³⁹ (When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the _____, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7

We now have this light shining in our hearts, but _____ ourselves are _____ fragile clay _____ containing this great _____. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

Our great power is from God, and He fills us so that we can give out. When we reach out to one, two or three others, we will see God’s Kingdom being established all over our area and the even-

tually the world!

No matter how young you are in the Lord, you can share the things you have learned with others. This sharing is called being a “witness.”

The word translated as “witness” is a Greek word, “marturia.” It uses the same root as the English word “martyr.” Many of those who first shared their witness for Christ died for doing so, becoming martyrs for their faith. The basic meaning of the word, however, is “one who furnishes evidence.”

Witnessing is not preaching. It is not even teaching the Bible. It is giving evidence. You have come to believe in Christ as your Savior and Lord. As a result, He lives in you and does his work in and through you.

As you pray for His Spirit to fill you, people begin to notice something different about you. It is evident to those around you that something has happened to you.

It is not so much something you *do* as it is the natural result of Christ living in you and flowing His love through you.

You have the evidence of a changed life, of the indwelling Christ. Now you just need to verbalize that witness, to tell people who Christ is and what He has done and what he means to you. The apostle Paul expressed it like this:

ROMANS 1:16

For I am not ashamed of this _____ about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.

Peter encourages us the same way.

1 Peter 3:15

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be _____ to _____ it.

You will be amazed to discover that most unbelievers have never heard anyone share their witness. Remember, every conversion experience is different from all others. Therefore, your testimony or witness of how you came to Christ is personal and individual. It is evidence that only you can give. No one will ever duplicate it.

Another good thing to remember is that you don’t have to know all the answers, you are responsible to only act on what you know!

Here’s are four discussion points for you to possibly use when sharing with others:

- What was my life and attitude like before Christ?
- How did I realize God was speaking to me?

- How did I became a Christian?
- What does being a Christian mean to me?

Again, witnessing is not preaching; witnessing is giving evidence.

If you develop even a one-minute testimony of you own conversion experience, you'll find many opportunities to share it. As the opportunity comes your way, you can ask, "Do you have minute?"

Then share your testimony!

Find People and Teach Them

2 TIMOTHY 2:2-4

You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now _____ these truths to _____ trustworthy people who will be able to _____ to others. ³ Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.

God's people can and should help others come out of spiritual darkness. We are encouraged, again and again, to encourage one another.

HEBREWS 3:13

You must _____ each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.

HEBREWS 10:25

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but _____ one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Loving people will "cover a multitude of sins" and God's Kingdom will be built!

1 PETER 4:8

Most important of all, continue to show _____ for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

Win the Lost and Build the Saved

There are two great ways to win lost people and build saved people, the first one is through...

- **Hospitality**, opening our homes to others. Our homes should be places of hospitality. People will get to know you better as they come into your home and will also be able to sense God's presence there as well.

1 PETER 4:9

Cheerfully _____ your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.

ROMANS 12:13

When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be _____ to _____ hospitality.

As you share your home and the presence of the Lord is there, it is more than likely that you will get to share your heart as they begin to open theirs.

- **Prayer**, going to God and sharing your problems, your needs, your concerns for yourself and for others. You then allow Christ to use His power to work in those areas.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Don't worry about anything; instead, _____ about _____. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

I urge you, first of all, to _____ for _____ people. Ask God to _____ them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. ² Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.

As a Christian, you can talk to God in prayer about everything.

Prayer is your invitation to Christ to come into those areas of need. The answer to your prayer does not depend on *your* power in prayer, but on *His* power to work in that area of need.

Therefore, praying for your unbelieving friends is simply inviting Christ to work in their lives and prepare an opportunity for you to share the hope that is within you!

What Do We Pray For Them?

1 TIMOTHY 2:3-4

This (prayer) is good and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants everyone to be _____ and to understand the _____.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 gives us great insight to two things that we can pray for those who don't know the

Lord:

- Their Salvation
- For them to know the Truth

How Do We Pray for Them?

MATTHEW 7:7-8

“Keep on _____, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on _____, and you will find. Keep on _____, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

- Ask

Asking involves requesting something that you already know about, “Lord Jesus, I ask you to help my friend to know your love.” You already know about Christ’s love; you simply want it to be known by your unbelieving friend.

- Seek

Seeking, on the other hand, involves requesting an answer about something you do not know about, “Lord Jesus, show me what I can do to express your love to my friend. I don’t know what to do next!”

- Knock

Knocking involves asking Christ to enter an area of need that is behind closed doors, “Lord Jesus, deep immorality in my friend’s life has closed him to your love. Open the door to that area of need in him and show him how you can deliver him.”

Notice also that Matthew 7:7-9 says to “keep on” asking, “keep on” seeking, and “keep on” knocking. It doesn’t say we should ask one time and then be done with it. No – don’t give up! Keep asking, seeking and knocking!

MATTHEW 7:9-11

“You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? ¹⁰ Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! ¹¹ So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give _____ to those who _____ him.

Matthew 7:9-11 shows us that the Lord is willing to give what His children ask, seek, and knock

for. So, what are we waiting for? Let's pray!

Be Practical

Using your hand as a practical object to reminds us to pray. Pick five people who don't know Jesus and begin to pray for them daily.

Every time you look at your hand let it be a reminder to pray for them. Perhaps you can make a list like the one below.

Name _____

Ask _____

Seek _____

Knock _____

Think of five people you can pray for. Begin to pray and see what God will do!

Another suggestion is to keep a list, or a prayer book, some kind of record of the things you pray for. Then when you receive an answer to prayer, write that down too. This is a great encouragement to keep on going because we see right before our eyes the evidence that God does answer our prayer. He does work on our behalf!

We have reason to rejoice!

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

When we view Matthew 28:18-20 as our mission, or our "marching orders." How does that affect the way you view the church? Are we to stay within the walls of our meeting place, or are we to go out and affect others in our places of influence?

Discuss the difference between preaching and witnessing.

How can you give evidence of the work the Lord has done in your life?

TEST

THIS IS AN OPEN-BOOK TEST. You will need a score of 80% to receive a certificate of completion.

INSTRUCTIONS: Circle the correct answer in each of the following multiple choice questions.

1. The Holy Spirit
 - a) Loosely attaches you to the Body of Christ
 - b) Puts you on the edge of the Body of Christ
 - c) Submerges you into the Body of Christ
 - d) All of the above
2. The maturing process that helps us to properly relate to other members of the Body of Christ is sometimes called:
 - a) The sandpaper process.
 - b) The newspaper process.
 - c) The office process
 - d) None of the above.
3. The following qualities are inferior to love:
 - a) Spiritual knowledge & strong faith
 - b) Generosity to the poor and willingness to sacrifice your life for the truth
 - c) Speaking in tongues and prophecy
 - d) All of the above.
4. Two “gifts” seem to be at the center of everything the Lord has us to do. They are:
 - a) Speaking in tongues and prayer.
 - b) Prophecy and healing
 - c) Serving and giving
 - d) Preaching and teaching
5. Several concepts apply when considering the meaning of the word “faith”
 - a) Surrender
 - b) Yield
 - c) Submission
 - d) All of the above
6. Water baptism is a symbol of what has happened to us spiritually:
 - a) We die, and are buried to our old way of life.
 - b) We are cleansed.
 - c) We rise again to a new way of life.
 - d) All of the above.
7. You do not have to struggle to be like Jesus, you simply have to
 - a) Yield to Him.
 - b) Pray harder.
 - c) Work more.
 - d) All of the above
8. Our sinful nature is
 - a) Hostile toward God.
 - b) Disobedient to God.
 - c) Unpleasing to God.
 - d) All of the above.

9. Because He came to earth as a man, Jesus can relate to:
- a) My weakness.
 - b) My feelings.
 - c) My pain.
 - d) All of the above.

10. The way we learn to have authority is by learning how to
- a) Control others.
 - b) Live under authority.
 - c) Be in charge.
 - d) All of the above

INSTRUCTIONS: Circle the correct answer (T for true, F for false) in the following true or false questions:

T **F** 1. If you are going to grow in the things of the Lord, you will need to be deeply in fellowship within a church. (pg 6)

T **F** 2. The word "church" is translated from the Greek word, "ecclesia," which means "those who go forth to war." (pg 7)

T **F** 3. The fellowship you share with other believers is an unimportant part of your growth in Christ. It is OK to neglect it. (pg 12)

T **F** 4. We are to use our freedom in Christ to love others. (pg 16)

T **F** 5. Spiritual gifts are merely tools, or channels through which we carry God's love. (pg 18)

T **F** 6. Serving others has a profound impact on the body of Christ and also is a witness to unbelievers. (pg 25)

T **F** 7. We have no choice but to obey Christ. (Pg 30)

T **F** 8. Jesus does not give us abilities, rather, He gives us Himself. (pg 33)

T **F** 9. When our attitudes, actions, and motivations change, that is evidence that the Holy Spirit is working in our lives. (pg 39)

T **F** 10. We must constantly choose against our old nature. (pg 45)

T **F** 11. The Lord has given us a partial salvation. (pg 49)

T **F** 12. After becoming a Christian, you still remain your own master. (pg 53)

T **F** 13. The Bible teaches that rebellion to authority is equal to the sin of witchcraft. (pg 59)

T **F** 14. Our leaders are not necessary or even helpful in our spiritual growth. (pg 63)

T **F** 15. We should not allow others into our homes, hospitality is not that important. (pg 70)

When you have completed your test, tear it out of the book and turn it in to the office or to your Home Group Leader.

If you score 80% or above you will receive a certificate of achievement.

MASTERPIECES

