



Spiritual Discipleship

Presented by
The Discipleship Ministry

Spiritual Discipleship

The Discipleship Ministry

The Discipleship Ministry exists to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ to
"Make Disciples of All Nations" !

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"Spiritual Discipleship"

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How to Use This Studybook

Purpose

'Spiritual Discipleship' is written to provide a Scriptural look at the heart of disciples of Christ ... a look at the priorities that drive their lives.

Format

The **Main Section** on each page contain *The Lesson* while the **Right Column** contains *Thought Questions, Helpful Information, Related Verses and Memorization Directives*.



Procedure

Main Section ~ *The Lesson*

- ✓ **Read** through each Lesson, paying careful attention to all Scripture References.
- ✓ **Instructions**, indicated by **bullets** ✓ , include directions to *Underline, Circle* or *Read* specific sections of Scripture. They help the student observe and retain significant Truths in the Bible!
- ✓ **Answer the Questions** in the space provided.
- ✓ **Applications**: complete all assigned Applications.

*“The Purpose of Scripture is not simply to be Informed,
but to be Transformed!”*

Right Column ~ Cover this material for a **deeper study**.

- ✓ **Helpful Information** provide additional information to supplement the Lesson.
- ✓ **Thought Questions**, designated by **arrows A** in the Column, help the student focus on the significant ideas of the Lesson to gain a deeper understanding.
- ✓ **Related Verses**, indicated by the **Bible**  , provide additional Scriptures to look up. These should be examined to gain a better understanding of what other Scriptures teach about the Lesson.
- ✓ **Memorization Directives**, designated by the **arrow**  , point out key Scriptures to commit to memory.

Introduction

Christians are expected to be Christlike. Jesus calls us to Follow His example and conform our lives to His own. In the words of former NASA Director Gene Kranz, "Failure is not an option." Every Believer will stand before the LORD one day to give an account on how well we have heeded His call. Many of us will fail to receive substantial spiritual rewards and authority because we will have fallen short in this critical area of the Christian Life.

Unfortunately, many Christians are unaware that Christ has called them, and expects them, to be His Disciples. They are satisfied to know Him as Savior but have little intention of making Him LORD except in name only. They have been captivated by the glitter and glamour of this World, which has led them away to a life of fading glory and diminishing pleasure. And because of this, **they will miss out** on all the blessings and honor that our LORD has prepared for them, both for this life and for the next. Be Not Deceived! God will reward those who give up the riches and pleasures of this World for His Kingdom and Glory ... beyond their highest expectations. As Jim Elliot proclaimed ...

"He is no fool
who gives what he cannot keep
To gain what he cannot lose!"

Memorize 

It is for this purpose that this Study is written. It is meant for those, and only for those, who are serious about following after the LORD, for it will require nothing less than total devotion to Christ. In this world's perspective, you will be asked to give up 'everything' for Him, though it is hardly a deficit when you are returned a life of eternal joy and fulfillment! That's called Wisdom! Any fool would be willing to invest \$1 in order to gain a return of \$1 billion ... and even this analogy is a gross understatement.

What would you be willing to give up in order to receive the LORD's reward? If you truly understood what that 'reward' was, you would not hesitate to give up the 'world', as easily as you would exchange one dollar for a billion. For when we stand on the other side of eternity, we will wonder at how foolish we were to cling to the cheap trinkets and thrills this world offered instead of exchanging them for the true riches of God's Kingdom!

This Study is dedicated and developed for those who are ready to exchange the 'world' for the LORD. If you are counted among them, then study on! And may God draw you so close to Himself that your heart beats with His!

Live in the Spirit

A Disciple's Identity

In order to be a follower of Christ, it is essential that we learn how to live spiritually. God is spirit, and in our essence, so are we! We are spiritual beings who possess physical bodies that enable us to live in God's physical creation.

In the lesson on 'Spiritual Living' in Discipleship Study Book #2, we learn that when we are 'born again' through faith in the vicarious death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our sins, our spirits are reborn in a new spiritual relationship with God. His very Spirit comes to dwell within us infusing us with His divine nature, power and passion. This is evidenced by a new found love for God, for His Eternal Word and for His Perfect Plan for our lives. Our eyes and hearts are opened to a new world and an eternal hope, and like newborn babies, we begin the process of learning to live this spiritual life that is so foreign compared to the one we have become accustomed to.

And that is where our problem lies. Though our spirit is reborn with God's new nature, our bodies are still infected with the old sinful nature. Our spirits are drawn to the eternal joys of heaven while our bodies are shackled to the momentary thrills of this world. Paul outlines our predicament in Romans 7:14-8:2.

- 14 For we know that the Law is spiritual,
but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.
- 15 For what I am doing,
I do not understand;
for I am not practicing what I would like to do,
but I am doing the very thing I hate.
- 16 But if I do the very thing I do not want to do,
I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good.
- 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it,
but sin which dwells in me.
- 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me,
that is, in my flesh;
for the willing is present in me,
but the doing of the good is not.
- 19 For the good that I want,
I do not do,
but I practice the very evil that I do not want.
- 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want,
I am no longer the one doing it,
but sin which dwells in me.
- 21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me,
the one who wants to do good.



John 1:12-13
Ephesians 2:1-10
Romans 6:4

Romans 7:14-25

Circle or Underline:

- v 14 What the Law is.
What I am.
To what I am sold.
- v 15 What I don't understand.
What I am not practicing.
What I am doing.
- v 16 With what I agree.
- v 17 Who is no longer doing
what I hate.
What is doing what I hate.
- v 18 What I know dwells in my
flesh.
What is present in me.
What is not present in me.
- v 19 What I do not do.
What I practice.
- v 20 Who is no longer doing
what I do not want.
What is doing what I do
not want.
- v 21 What principle I find.
How 'me' is described.

22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,
 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body,
 waging war against the law of my mind
 and making me a prisoner of the law of sin
 which is in my members.

24 Wretched man that I am!
 Who will set me free from the body of this death?

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
 So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God,
 but on the other,
 with my flesh the law of sin.

1 Therefore there is now no condemnation
 for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life
 in Christ Jesus
 has set you free
 from the law of sin and of death.

Memorize



Interpretation

1. Describe the predicament Paul finds himself in. (vs 14-15) _____

2. Explain Paul's thinking in vs 16-20. _____

3. Where does Paul locate the evil principle in him? (vs 21-23) _____

Where does Paul locate the his desire to obey God? _____

4. Describe what Paul is expressing in v 24. _____

5. What is Paul's conclusion in v 25 & 8:1-2? _____

v 22 Where I joyfully agree
 with God's law.

v 23 What I see in the
 members of my body.
 What that 'law' is doing.
 What it makes me a
 prisoner of.

v 24 How this predicament
 makes me view myself.
 What I want to be set
 free from.

v 25 Who sets me free.
 What I serve in my mind.
 What I serve in my flesh.

v 1 What there is no longer
 for those in Christ.

v 2 What the law of the Spirit
 of Life in Christ has
 done.

Every true Christian ought to identify with Paul here. If you do not, perhaps it is because you are not truly born again by God's Spirit and do not possess His new nature within you.

But if you are, you will experience two opposing desires. One toward God and the other toward this world. The desire to love and serve God is evidence of God's Spirit in your heart and represents the new you in Christ. The lust for fleshly and worldly things is the remnant of our old self which still resides in our flesh.

When a true Christian sins, it is never what he truly would like to do as a new person in Christ. God, in His grace, has separated true Believers from their sin natures so that He does not condemn them. It is an incredible picture of God's grace and our freedom in Christ!

Did you follow Paul's argument? It is the key to living spiritually. We must understand that:

- ✓ There are **two natures** existing within us.
- ✓ God's nature, by His Spirit in us, is our **new nature** that is **who we truly are**.
- ✓ The **sinful nature** in our flesh is our old nature that was **who we once were**.
- ✓ God's nature **always desires** to fulfill His Plan and Purpose.
- ✓ The sinful nature **can never** fulfill God's Plan and Purpose.
- ✓ **When I live in the spirit, I fulfill** God's Plan and Purpose for my life.
- ✓ **When I live in the flesh, I live in opposition** to God's Plan and Purpose.
- ✓ As His child, **God knows** it is the sin in my flesh that causes me to oppose Him.
- ✓ Through Jesus Christ, God has **separated me from the sinful nature**.
- ✓ **In Jesus Christ, I am freed** from the condemnation incurred by the sin nature!

When God removed the condemnation of sin from His children, He did this not so that they would then be free to sin, but so that they might be **free to live in the spirit**. We have inherited from God our Father a new nature that desires to glorify Him, and a new freedom to express that nature through our bodies. **With freedom comes responsibility and choices**. As a true Believer in Christ, don't you really want to live a life glorifying to your Heavenly Father, fulfilling His Purpose and Plan for your life? Of course! Then live in the Spirit, not the flesh! It's as plain as that!



Ezekiel 36:26-27
2 Peter 1:4
Galatians 5:13-14

Memorize →

- 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit,
and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.
- 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit,
and the Spirit against the flesh;
for these are in opposition to one another,
so that you may not do the things that you please.
- 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.
- 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are:
immorality, impurity, sensuality,
20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger,
disputes, dissensions, factions,
21 envying, drunkenness, carousing,
and things like these, of which I forewarn you,
just as I have forewarned you,
that those who practice such things
will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Memorize →

- 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control;
against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:16-17

Circle or Underline:

- v 16 What Paul instructs us to do.
What we will not carry out if we do.
- v 17 What the flesh does.
What is against the flesh.
What results from their opposition.
- v 18 What those led by the Spirit are not under.
- v 19-21 The 'deeds of the flesh'.
What those who indulge the flesh will not inherit.
- v 22-23 The fruit of the Spirit.
What is against 'such things'.

Galatians 5:16-23

Interpretation

1. Describe the relationship between the Spirit and the flesh in vs 16-17. _____

2. Why are those who are led by the Spirit not under the Law? v 18 _____

3. Use a dictionary to define each of the 'deeds of the flesh' in vs 19-21.

What does the warning at the conclusion of v 21 mean? _____

4. Use a dictionary to define each part of the 'fruit of the Spirit' in vs 22-23.

Why does Paul include these qualities? _____

What does Paul mean when he writes 'against such things there is no law'?

Understand that your flesh wants to dominate your life! It has had its way from the beginning and will not yield itself easily, even though you are now a new person in Christ. And it is not alone in its efforts to conquer and keep you in its power. Satan, his demonic horde, and this world system of which he is still prince and ruler, combine to tempt and entrap Believers who are weak in faith or ignorant of his evil schemes. That's why we are admonished to be 'alert' and 'steadfast' against our enemy who will use every weapon in his arsenal to 'kill, steal or destroy' our new life in Christ. Only those Believers who are Living in the Spirit will be able to *detect* and *thwart* satan's evil schemes.

To learn more about Living in the **Spirit's Power**, study Lesson 3 in Discipleship Study Book 1.

To learn more about **Spiritual Warfare**, study Lesson 4 in Discipleship Study Book 2.

Christian discipleship demands that we continuously live in the Spirit. Every moment a Christian lives dominated by the flesh is a moment of **spiritual blindness** in which satan has free reign to tempt, deceive and influence us away from God. Now, why would we want to give him that opportunity? When we live in the Spirit, our mind, emotions and will are in unison with God's Purpose and Plan enabling us to discern what is 'good, acceptable and perfect'! When we are living in that spiritual state, we are truly disciples of our LORD!

Live in the Spirit

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

In light of what you have learned, list what you will do.

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

*‘If we live by the Spirit,
let us also walk by the Spirit.’*

Galatians 5:25

The spirit world holds more sway on the physical than most people may be aware. The Bible teaches that demonic spirits may influence the way individual people, and even entire nations, live and act. Demons continually assail Christians seeking to destroy their faith and testimonies. They work to develop strongholds in the lives of people, groups and nations through deception in order to destroy the true knowledge of God and keep people from the liberating truth of God's salvation through His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

Live in the Truth

A Disciple's Reality

A follower of Christ is one who lives in the Truth not deception. He sees all things as they really are, not as they appear to be, and because of this, he is able to discern the empty promises of momentary pleasures and superficial success. But how do you determine what is true or real? How can you separate the genuine from the counterfeit? Most depend on their physical senses and intellect. Some would even include intuition. But our adversary, the devil, is the preeminent deceiver and even the smartest among us are fooled! Our lust for possessions, prominence, power and pleasure can lead any of us down the wrong path. As the writer of Proverbs noted ...

Memorize 

There is a way *which seems* right to a man,
But its end is the way of death.

Proverbs 16:25

Interpretation

1. What makes something appear 'right' to us? _____

2. What examples might apply to Proverbs 16:25? _____

But first, we must ask the question posed by Pontius Pilate to Jesus Christ. 'What is truth?' Of course, the answer for Pilate was standing right in front of him, literally! **Jesus was Truth personified!** By this we mean that His Person was permeated with the *reality* of God, and His Life was lived in *absolute congruence* to that reality! Everything Jesus did and said reflected this Truth to the end that He would not lie even to avoid the excruciating death on the cross.

Truth is absolute! Truth is not negotiable nor even relative. And it is so because its source is the One who is Absolute. God is Truth Who alone determines what is real, genuine, actual and right. And He has revealed His Truth to us through the testimony of His Son, by His Spirit and in His Word.



2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-14
Revelation 12:9
1 Corinthians 16:9

Proverbs 16:25

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What kind of 'way' is there.
- ✓ Where a right way might end.



John 14:6
John 1:17-18
John 18:37-38

Notice what Jesus said when He prayed for His disciples on the evening before His arrest.

- 14 "I have given them Your word;
and the world has hated them,
because they are not of the world,
even as I am not of the world.
- 15 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world,
but to keep them from the evil one.
- 16 "They are not of the world,
even as I am not of the world.
- 17 "Sanctify them in the truth;
Your word is truth.

Memorize 

John 17:14-17

Interpretation

1. Explain the reason Jesus gave for why the world hated the disciples. _____

 2. What is the significance of Jesus' request in v 15? _____

 3. In what ways are the disciples 'not of the world'? _____

 4. What did Jesus mean in v 17? _____

- How does the 'word' sanctify us? _____

John 17:14-17

Circle or Underline:

- v 14 What Jesus gave His disciples.
Who hated them.
Why they were hated.
- v 15 What Jesus asked the Father not to do.
What Jesus asked Him to do.
- v 16 What they are not of.
- v 17 Into what they are to be sanctified.
What is truth.



Psalm 19:7-9
Psalm 119:9, 11

We all have a need for love. But when that need results in seeking the approval of men, we are in trouble. In our quest for this approval, Christians have often sought to emulate their worldly neighbors, endeavoring to look and act like them to gain their favor. We need to stop that!

So do not be surprised if your 'friends' or 'acquaintances' turn against you! Rejoice! For they are seeing Christ in you, whom they hate.

We are to stand for Truth in this world, not grovel for men's applause. The world we were made for is not this one, but will come with the return of our Lord. Then, and only then, will your love and devotion for Christ be truly honored and rewarded, for God's Truth will be the foundation of Christ's reign!

I have heard people call the Bible all kinds of things: Ancient myths, a bunch of contradictions, children stories, archaic literature, irrelevant history, and other things not fit to print. And these mostly from people who have never seriously read the Bible at all!

But to those who have had their eyes opened by the Spirit of God through new birth, Scripture is a bottomless font of Truth ... the essence of God's Wisdom codified as a veritable program for our minds. Those who would program their minds with the Truths of God's Word will inevitably be able to decipher the true meaning and value of things around them and come to know God's perfect Plan and Purpose for His creatures. Romans 12:2 is most applicable here.

Memorize 

And do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,
so that you may prove what the will of God is,
that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
Romans 12:2

Interpretation

1. The word 'conformed' contains the idea of being pressed in a mold. How does this

apply here? _____

2. What is the significance of the 'renewing of the mind'? _____

When our minds are renewed and sanctified by the Word of God, the treasures of this world (fancy cars, chic clothes, luxury homes, the finest entertainment systems, the latest electronic toys, etc.) lose their allure. In the context of God's Eternal Kingdom, they are revealed for what they really are ... vanity that appeals to our sinful nature, not our true nature in Christ.

When you live in the Truth, you begin to focus on the things that really matter ... the things that really count! ... The things of God. I promise you that when we've been in heaven a thousand years, you will not spend a moment regretting giving up the world and living in the Truth of God!



2 Peter 3:3-4

Romans 12:2

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What we are not to be conformed to.
- ✓ How we are to be transformed.
- ✓ What we will be able to prove.
- ✓ What God's Will is.

Picture people's minds being pressed into the pre shaped mold of worldly thinking and values. This, of course works better on younger minds that are more impressionable. But as people age, their thinking becomes hardened, making it more difficult to effect a change. That is why it often takes a crisis to make people think in a different way than they are accustomed to.

Human potential speaker, Dr. Wayne Dyer is fond of saying, 'When you change the way you see things, the things you see are changed.' That of course is true, if you simply want to see things in a different light. But if you want to see things as they truly are, then you must see them truthfully. When God's Word changes the way we think, we begin to see things in the light of God's Truth. Then, and only then, do we see things, not just differently, but actually!

Live in the Truth

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

In light of what you have learned, list what you will do.

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

Jesus said
"If you continue in My word,
then you are truly disciples of Mine;
and you will know the truth,
and the truth will make you free."

John 8:31-32

Live by Faith

A Disciple's Response to God's Word

Most of us get along pretty well in this world. Our physical senses serve us well in exploring our world and exposing any dangers that dwell there. We experience our surroundings through what we see, hear, smell, taste and feel. The absence of any of these senses hinders our ability to know fully what is taking place around us, and may even result in undetected dangers.

But how do we know what is happening in the spirit world? Our five senses are of no help in an invisible, incorporeal world. The Bible teaches that while we live in this body, we must **live by Faith**. Paul put it this way.

- 6 Therefore, being always of good courage,
and knowing that while we are at home in the body
we are absent from the Lord
- 7 for we walk by faith,
not by sight

Memorize 

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

Interpret

v 6 How does Paul view our bodies? _____

In what way are we 'absent from the Lord'? _____

What does this verse imply about physical death for the Christian? _____

v 7 What does Paul mean by this verse? _____

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

Circle or Underline ...

v 6 Where we are while in the
body.

v 7 How we walk.
How we should not walk.

'Dying' to Die

The apostle Paul joyfully anticipated his death knowing that it would liberate him from the prison of his sin infected body and open the door to unspeakable joys (Philippians 1:21).

I, too, cannot wait to pass through that shadowy valley. While discussing how some people go to such great lengths and cost to extend their physical lives, one of my co-workers in the lab could not believe my immediate answer to her sarcastic question, 'Well, when would you like to die?' when I responded, 'As soon as possible!' End of discussion. I cannot wait to live where God rules, where His justice reigns supreme and sin is just a distant memory! We are all made for such a world which is why we feel so out of place in this one!

But what is Faith? The writer of Hebrews says,

Memorize 

- 1 Now faith is
the assurance of *things* hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.
- 2 For by it
the men of old gained approval.
- 3 By faith
we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God,
so that what is seen
was not made out of things which are visible.

Hebrews 11:1-3

'The Assurance of Things Hoped For'

The greek word translated 'assurance' is *hupostasis*. It literally means 'to stand under' and refers to the foundation that holds up a building, a contract guaranteeing the commitments between two parties or the title deed certifying ownership of a house. Faith, then, is the foundation of God's commitment guaranteeing that we possess what He has already promised to give us. True Faith has no doubt that what God has promised He is able to provide!

In the immediate context, the writer refers to our future 'reward' and the 'preserving of the soul'. How do we attain these 'things hoped for'? Through Faith! Faith in God as the 'rewarder of those who seek Him' (Hebrews 11:6b), gives us the confidence that He will provide what He has promised (1 John 5:14-15). The basis for our salvation, and for everything we hope for in Christ, is our faith in God's righteousness, not our own, for 'without faith it is impossible to please (God)'.

Many would like to see the LORD with their physical eyes, because they think their faith would be strengthened by it. But remember what the LORD said to Thomas, 'Because you have seen Me, have you believed? **Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.**' (John 20:29) Faith does not need to see to believe. It 'sees' because it believes! Beware of needing to see something of God in order to believe.

When Seeing is Not Believing!

Many years ago my optometrist joined a Christian cult because missionaries from that group had visited his office situated near their place of meeting. When he responded skeptically, they told him to pray and ask God to tell him if what they shared was of God. He said days later he was watching an old movie on the TV when, in the middle of the movie, one of the actors turned to look directly at him and said, 'The missionaries are telling you the truth.' The movie then continued on as if nothing happened. Satan can perform 'signs and wonders', too, and if our faith is dependent on seeing a sign, beware of where it leads. That cult teaches many key doctrines contradictory to Scripture, including a salvation by works. Remember, it is Scripture that determines Truth, not a spiritual experience. For if we do not trust in Scripture alone, we will be a victim of satan who disguises himself even as an 'angel of light'!

Hebrews 11:1-3

Circle or Underline ...

v 1

What 'faith' is the assurance of.
What 'faith' is the conviction of.

v 2

What 'men of old' gained by
faith.

v 3

What we understand by faith.
What the visible is not made of.



2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-14

'The Conviction of Things Unseen'

The word 'conviction' means 'evidence or proof'. Faith *substantiates* 'things unseen' and proves the truth of God's Word. Faith does not make the invisible real, but affirms it. It opens Christians to the larger reality proclaimed in Scripture concerning God and His Purpose, of the conflict between God's angelic host and Satan's demonic hoard, and the eternal consequences awaiting mankind.

Faith in God's Word allows us to 'see' what God sees and 'know' what God knows. Otherwise, we would be wandering in the dark, vulnerable to Satan's schemes.

The writer says that faith allows us to know how 'the worlds were created'. As a science major, I had wondered about the origin of the universe and of life itself. Science is still debating these issues. My faith provides me the answer that complements, not contradicts, what scientists have discovered, while revealing what science can never uncover, since no one was there in the beginning except God. Faith affirms that God created 'the worlds' and all of life in its varied forms!

'Seeing' the Unseen

Faith also affirms the reality of a spirit world that impacts the physical more than people may think. In Papua New Guinea, the reality of demons is a given. There, curses can kill, witches really fly and demons appear in visible form. Though I have never seen angels or demons, the people there have. I would go to a village and hear that angels had appeared to them the previous week or be told that Jesus Himself had appeared in their midst!

At a camp where I was speaking, I sensed a dark presence among the campers and gathered the leaders of our ministry to find out why. They told me that demons were appearing to the campers at night, scaring them and making them want to leave. Even my staunchest leaders were thinking of packing up and going home for fear. We prayed into the early morning and saw a dramatic spiritual freedom and renewal the next day. Later I learned that the camp was built over an old cemetery. (Not something I would recommend!)

I didn't have to 'see' demons to know they existed for God's Word is a window into their world. Scripture also reveals that Jesus Christ has authority over demons which enables me to apply that power to claim victory over them.

The Christian who has not learned to Live By Faith is walking in danger,

Memorize 

'For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,
but against the rulers,
against the powers,
against the world forces of this darkness,
against the spiritual forces of wickedness
in the heavenly places'

Ephesians 6:12



Hebrews 11:3
Romans 1:19-22

Ephesians 6:12

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What our struggle is *not* against.
- ✓ What our struggle *is* against.
- ✓ Where our adversaries abide.

In this warfare, physical might and street smarts are no match for the power and evil deceptions of our adversaries. They will win every time if those are our only weapons. But ...

Memorize



3 ... though we walk in the flesh,
we do not war according to the flesh,
4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh,
but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
5 *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing
raised up against the knowledge of God,
and *we are* taking every thought captive
to the obedience of Christ,

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

The 'weapons of our warfare' are 'divinely powerful' for they are the Spirit of God and His Word, with which we strike down satan's lies and sanctify our minds to holiness. There is no other way to be victorious by Faith!

Living By Faith

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

In light of what you learned, list what you will do.

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Circle or Underline ...

- v3 How we do not war.
- v4 What are not of the flesh.
What they are divinely powerful for.
- v5 What we are destroying.
What we are taking captive.
To what we capture them.

For practical applications of this lesson, study **Discipleship Study Book #2**, lessons 4 & 5 available to download free at BibleStudyCD.com.

"I have been crucified with Christ;
and it is no longer I who live,
but Christ lives in me;
and the life which I now live in the flesh
I live **by faith** in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave Himself up for me."
Galatians 2:20

Live in Hope

A Disciple's Response to Adversity

No one can live without Hope. It is as essential to the sustaining of the soul as water and food are for the body. A life without Hope is a life without a future. The lack of Hope is the absence of a secure and bright tomorrow, quenching a person's reason to live for today. Many have extinguished their lives for this very reason.

Christians, however, have a future worth living for. Their ultimate destiny is an eternity in a new heaven and new earth with their God and Savior. But their immediate future is a life made secure by God. Christians reborn to eternal life have a reason to persevere through every earthly trial, which in comparison is a mere moment. Jesus encouraged His disciples just before His arrest and crucifixion when He said,

"These things I have spoken to you,
so that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you have tribulation,
but take courage;
I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

The Christian life is not trouble free! Jesus makes that plain. But it ought to be anxiety free, for Jesus, who possesses all authority, is our **provider** and **protector**. The apostle Paul, who was very familiar with trials, wrote:

"And my God shall supply all your needs
according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

Interpretation

1. In light of the context (read Philippians 4:10-18) what kind of 'needs' is Paul referring

to? _____

2. In light of Ephesians 3:8, why are the future of Christians secure? _____

John 16:33

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ Where we may have peace.
- ✓ Where we have tribulation.
- ✓ What we should take.
- ✓ What Jesus has overcome.

Jesus guaranteed tribulation while in this world. So don't expect a perfect, trouble free existence! Instead, learn to replace your fear and anxiety with hope, for Jesus, the overcomer, is with us!

Philippians 4:19

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What God shall supply.
- ✓ How He will supply them.

Ephesians 3:8

Jesus knows our every need, be it physical, intellectual, social, emotional, financial or spiritual. He has walked in our shoes and is familiar with the desires that drive each of us. And He has the perfect provision which He will supply at the right time if we will only trust Him. And because His supplies are 'unfathomable' we need never worry that He will ever be without!

Jesus is our model for triumphing over adversity.

- 1 Therefore,
since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us,
let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin
which so easily entangles us,
and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
- 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus,
the author and perfecter of faith,
who for the joy set before Him endured the cross,
despising the shame,
and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Interpretation

1. Who are the 'cloud of witnesses' in verse 1? _____

2. How is the imagery of a runner used as an example of Christ centered living?

3. How does 'fixing our eyes on Jesus' help us endure the race? _____

4. How did Jesus endure the suffering and shame of the cross? _____

The key to enduring adversity is to lay aside every distraction in order to focus on the one thing that really matters. Then, adversities can be seen in their proper perspective ... insignificant in comparison to the final goal.

Many Christians hold to a belief that they will be spared the ultimate tribulation and suffering. But it is presumptuous to assume that they will be spared what Christians through the ages, and around the world, were not. The only thing that will bring us through suffering victoriously is the secure hope of seeing Jesus on the other side!

Hebrews 12:1-2

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ Who is surrounding us.
- ✓ What we should lay aside.
- ✓ How we should run.
- ✓ On what we should fix our eyes.
- ✓ What Jesus focused on in order to endure the cross.

Running Through Adversity

The writer evokes the image of a stadium crowd, cheering on the athletes who have stripped off everything that might encumber their chances for victory, and who must now endure the agony of pain as they push themselves to excel for the prize. Their only hope is to focus on the finish line where stands their mentor holding the prize awaiting at their end.

Observe carefully the truths in the following Psalm of hope.

Memorize 
entire
Psalm

Psalm 91 (KJV)

- 1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say of the LORD,
*He is my refuge and my fortress:
my God; in him will I trust.*
- 3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler,
and from the noisome pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover thee with his feathers,
and under his wings shalt thou trust:
his truth *shall be thy shield and buckler.*
- 5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night;
nor for the arrow that flieth by day;
- 6 *Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness;
nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.*
- 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side,
and ten thousand at thy right hand;
but it shall not come nigh thee.
- 8 Only with thine eyes
shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because thou hast made the LORD,
*which is my refuge,
even the most High,
thy habitation;*
- 10 There shall no evil befall thee,
neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee,
to keep thee in all thy ways.
- 12 They shall bear thee up in *their hands,*
lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
- 13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder:
the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.
- 14 Because he hath set his love upon me,
therefore will I deliver him:
I will set him on high,
because he hath known my name.
- 15 He shall call upon me,
and I will answer him:
*I will be with him in trouble;
I will deliver him, and honour him.*
- 16 With long life will I satisfy him,
and shew him my salvation.

Psalm 91

Circle or Underline ...

- v 1 Where the one who dwells
in God abides.
- v 2 What he claims of the
LORD.
How he will respond to his
LORD.
- v 3 From what he will be
delivered.
- v 4 What God will symbolically
do.
What shall be his shield.
- v 5-6
What he shall not fear.
- v 7 How many shall 'fall' beside
him.
What it shall not do.
- v 8 With what shall he behold
the 'reward of the
wicked'.
- v 9 Why he shall not fall.
- v 10 What shall befall him
'there'.
What shall not come near
him.
- v 11 Who God will give charge
over you.
Where they will 'keep' him.
- v 12 What they will do with
their hands.
- v 13 What he shall tread upon.
- v 14 Why God will deliver 'him'.
Why God will 'set him on
high'.
- v 15 What God will do when he
calls on Him.
When God will be with him.
What God will do for the
one who calls in trouble.
- v 16 With what will God satisfy
him.
What God will show him.

I do not want to leave you with the false impression that no physical harm can befall a Christian who trusts God. The history of the Christian Church is littered with the sufferings of her martyrs ... faithful men and women of God who would not compromise nor retreat from testifying of God's Love and Holiness. Even the Son of God who knew no sin suffered physical torture and execution! Should we expect anything less?

The psalmist's ultimate message is that no matter what physical adversity may befall the Christian, **he cannot lose**. Even if our persecutors were to kill us, we still win! Death is but a door to a life of unimaginable beauty, joys and pleasures.

(1 Corinthians 2:9, Psalm 16:11) I myself cannot wait for my corrupt body to breathe its last breath in anticipation of inhaling the celestial air of heaven and opening my eyes to behold the splendor of my LORD's glory! My executors will be but doormen who will open the way for me into God's paradise, and I will thank them for it. Such is the hope we possess. Such is the hope in which we must live! The apostle Paul put it this way.

**“For to me, to live is Christ,
and to die is gain.”**

Philippians 1:21

Live in Hope

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

In light of what what you learned, list what you will do.

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

Jesus prophesied a coming time when Believers worldwide will be subject to intense persecution like nothing the world has seen before, resulting in many 'falling away'. Only those Christians who have learned to persevere in hope will endure and stand till the last day!

Matthew 24:9-13, 21-22

Live in Love

A Disciple's Response to God's Love

Jesus was not only God incarnate, He was also God's Love fleshed out. He personified a perfect love for God and for men. And He expected His disciples to do likewise.

Memorize 

"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:35

Love is to be the identifying mark of Christians. It is what ought to set us apart from everyone else. Why? Because we belong to God and God is Love. Love is part of His very nature, and thus, the natures of His children. Love is also the fulfillment of God's Law.

- 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"
37 And (Jesus) said to him,
 "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD
 WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND
 WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND
 WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'
38 "This is the great and foremost commandment.
39 "The second is like it,
 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'
40 "On these two commandments
 depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:36-40

1. What does the commandment (v 37) mean? _____

2. What is the significance of the great commandment? _____

3. How is the second commandment like the first? _____

In order to fully understand these preeminent commands, it is essential to understand the nature of the Love God expects of us. The word 'Love' has been used and misused in various ways, and it becomes necessary to determine its specific meaning, especially and specifically as it is used in these verses.

John 13:35

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What all men will know.
- ✓ If we have what.



Acts 4:32-35

Matthew 22:36-40

Circle or Underline ...

- v 36 What was asked of Jesus.
- v 37 What was commanded.
How we must love God.
- v 38 What commandment this is.
- v 39 Who else we must love.
How we must love.
- v 40 On what depends these two commandments.

When we love God first and foremost, we are recognizing the truth of God's preeminence. A person who loves God absolutely is a person properly aligned to Heaven and one capable of living a meaningful life on Earth.

First, this kind of Love is not ...

1. ... sexual in nature, as in the phrase, "They made *love* in bed."
2. ... lust, as when young men tell young women "I *love* you," when they really mean "I *want* you".
3. ... the attraction that draws us to a person or thing we find captivating or rewarding.
4. ... even the affection shared among friends, family or people with shared experiences.

So what is this Love? The writers of Scripture chose the Greek word 'agape' to symbolize this kind of Love And they defined *agape* by the way they applied it to God's Love for us.

The Nature of this Love

Memorize 

"But God demonstrates His own love (agape) toward us,
in that while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

Romans 5:8 shows us the nature of this Love. It comes from God Himself ('His own love') expressing His own nature (He loved us 'while we were yet sinners'). **It is not influenced by the attractiveness or the pleasurable nature of the object or person.** This Love originates from God's very Being and expresses the priorities of His heart. It shows us what He **values** and what He **esteems**. Here, it is the salvation of people who are 'yet sinners', who possess no worth in themselves, but only that which is given them by God. He loves us because He **chooses** to love us. And only with this love, God's love, are we able to love unconditionally and unfaithfully.

The Extent of this Love

Memorize 

"For God so loved (agape) the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish,
but have eternal life."

John 3:16

Whereas Romans 5:8 shows us the nature of this Love, John 3:16 shows us its **extent**. God 'gave His only begotten Son' for a world in rebellion, knowing that most would spurn His offer of peace and continue in their prideful and misguided lives. Yet God loved them still! He was willing to pay the highest price as a demonstration of the value He placed on our lives. Such is the kind of Love commanded and expected of us by God!

Romans 5:8

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What God demonstrates.
- ✓ When Christ died.

John 3:16

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ Who God loved.
- ✓ What God gave.
Who will not perish.
What those who believe
have.

God loves because He cannot help to do otherwise. It is His nature to love, even as it is the nature of our old selves to sin. The Christian who lives according to the sin nature cannot love as God loves for it is impossible for that nature to do so, but the Christian who lives according to the divine nature of his reborn spirit will love even as God loves for it will be God's Spirit loving through Him. The Christian who lives by his reborn spirit will super-naturally value and esteem the very things God does, and by so doing, will fulfill the very Law and Will of God!

That is why Jesus was the personification of God's Love, for He precisely and perfectly manifested God's priorities and values through His life. Even as He told His disciples hours before His arrest and execution ...

Memorize 

"but so that the world may know that I love the Father,
I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. ..."

John 14:31

To Live in Love is to Live in accordance with God's highest priorities and values. And there is nothing higher nor more valuable than God. This is the foundation of the great commandment and explains why complete reverence and devotion to God is the highest expression of divine love. But incredibly, second only to our esteem for God, we are commanded to treasure one another, testifying to the value God has placed upon each one of us. **People are important to God.** The person who does not value others knows nothing about God's Love. Jesus modeled this perfect love for God and for others in order that we might follow His example! Only by living according to our new nature, reborn in our spirit by God, can we ever hope to emulate Jesus' perfect devotion to God the Father and to all people.

John 14:31

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What the world may know.
- ✓ How they will know it.



1 John 4:16-21

Live in Love

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

In light of what you learned, list what you will do.

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

**God Loved Us Sacrificially
that We Might Love Him Supremely!**

Live for the Kingdom of God

A Disciple's Response to the King

Do you remember those old movies portraying medieval battle scenes of knights in armor led by heroic kings? I don't know how historical they were, but I was always inspired by the inevitable scene of a knight shouting, 'To the king!', around whom they would rally and raise their standard. I was moved by men in arms who would willingly lay down their lives for the greater cause of their king and their kingdom. There is something noble in having a cause one is willing to die for.

Disciples have such a noble cause. It is a cause that is certainly worth living for, and even more, worth dying for! Indeed, in the light of this cause, every other endeavor we involve ourselves in pales in comparison. Every other thing we may build or work for in this life will eventually *pass away*, but everything done for God's Kingdom will endure for *eternity*. That alone should capture our hearts and imaginations, and compel us to forsake all else except this one worthy cause!

It was the priority of Jesus' life. Everything He did and said reflected His complete devotion to the One who sits on God's Throne in Heaven. Christ's disciples ought to do no less for their LORD, for He is worthy of our complete devotion!

What is the Kingdom of God?

Jesus answers that question in the prayer He taught His disciples.

- 9 "Pray, then, in this way:
 'Our Father who is in heaven,
 Hallowed be Your name.
- 10 '**Your kingdom come.**
 Your will be done,
 On earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:9-10

The Kingdom of God is where God rules absolutely and His will fulfilled perfectly. This present world lives in a state of rebellion against the King of the Universe, instigated by the devil who has established his own counterfeit kingdom among men who worship at the altar of Self.

But isn't it your genuine desire to live under the rule of the King whose Kingdom is perfect love and justice? It is for such a life that God created us in Christ! Our spirits will not be fulfilled anywhere else! The sooner we understand and accept this, the sooner our lives will gain a significance infinitely beyond anything this world can offer.



2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Matthew 6:9-10

Circle or Underline ...

- v 9 How Jesus refers to God.
v 10 What Jesus prays to come.
What He prays to be done.
Where He prays it to be done.

The Kingdom of God is as much a state as a place. Wherever God reigns supremely, His Nature is manifested completely. There love, holiness, justice, truth, grace and all that God is, becomes the norm and reality of all who dwell in it.

The Kingdom's Priceless Worth

Jesus revealed the Kingdom's worth to His disciples through His parables:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field,
which a man found and hid *again*;
and from joy over it
he goes and sells all that he has
and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls,
and upon finding one pearl of great value,
he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:44-46

1. What is Jesus' point in these parables? _____

2. How would you apply the lesson of these parables? _____

Jesus demanded that His disciples give up all for the Kingdom.

"So then, none of you can be My disciple
who does not give up all his own possessions.

Luke 14:33

1. What does Jesus mean that His disciple must 'give up all his own possessions'?

2. Why does Jesus demand that His disciples do this? _____

3. How do material possessions keep a person from being a faithful disciple?

4. Can a person be a disciple while having possessions? Why or why not? _____

Matthew 13:44-46

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What the kingdom is like.
- ✓ What a man was willing to do to gain it.
- ✓ What the kingdom is also like.
- ✓ What the merchant was willing to do to gain it.

Through His parables, Jesus revealed the value of God's Kingdom. It is worth more than we will ever own. Those who realize its worth are willing to do whatever it takes to possess it, for only the foolish will not trade their earthly wealth for all the riches of Heaven!

Luke 14:33

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What none can be.
- ✓ Unless he does what.

Jesus recognized our tendency to divide our love and devotion. He requires nothing less than complete commitment and allegiance from His disciples for their success will require it, and only those who recognize His worth will make it.

The Kingdom Proclaimed

Christ has called us to continue His ministry to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

But He said to them,

**"I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also,
for I was sent for this purpose."**

Luke 4:43

59 And (Jesus) said to another, "Follow Me."

But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father."

60 But He said to him,

**"Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you,
go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God."**

Luke 9:59-60

1. Why was the Kingdom of God the primary message of Christ? _____

2. How does Jesus demonstrate the importance of proclaiming the Kingdom?

The coming of Jesus marked the initial stab of light into the kingdom of darkness. The words and works of Christ pushed back the forces of Satan and established a beachhead for Christ's followers. With the departure of their LORD to heaven, it is now the primary task of His followers to continue the assault on the darkness that envelopes those blinded by Satan's deception.

Today the cry must resound, **'For the King and His Kingdom!'** We must answer the call to proclaim God's Kingdom 'everywhere', for there is no greater work for all who claim to follow Christ. To live for the Kingdom of God must supersede all other activities in our lives, for **there is nothing more important!**

Memorize 

**"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you.**

Matthew 6:33

1. What is the significance of the second part of this verse? _____

Luke 4:43

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What Jesus must do.
- ✓ Why.

Luke 9:59-60

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ 59 What Jesus said to another.
How he responded.
- ✓ 60 What Jesus told him to do.



Isaiah 9:6-7

At His first appearance, Jesus came as a servant proclaiming God's Kingdom, knowing that those who would not embrace His message would be doomed to everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46). He also knew that one day He would return as King, a position for which He was destined and of which many prophecies were given. **Handel's Messiah** is the ultimate testimony of this truth.

Matthew 6:33

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What we must seek first.
- ✓ What will be added.

We often do the less important things first and never gain the best. Here, Jesus is setting our priorities in order. If we will seek His Kingdom first, He will surely provide the other things.

Do not be deceived by the superficial glitter and temporal pleasures of this present world. They appeal to the sin nature infecting our flesh but will never satisfy our new born spirit within. Our destiny is the eternal Kingdom of our God and Saviour where we will experience 'fullness of joy' and 'pleasures forevermore'. **Live for that Kingdom** and you will not be disappointed when the King returns! *Guaranteed!*



Matthew 24:44-47

Live for the Kingdom of God

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

In light of what what you learned, list what you will do.

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

The Kingdom of God

The Perfect Place for Me!

Live for the Eternal

The Disciple's Response to This Present World

I enjoy speaking to young people about God and His Purpose for them, for they have their entire lives still before them, and that is a good thing! But it can also be bad for it can deceive them into thinking that there will always be time later for such weighty endeavors. For many, their procrastination results in unrealized dreams and opportunities lost as time and age rob them of their promise. For them, *'youth is wasted on the young'*.

That is why I challenge young people to imagine themselves at the age of seventy, and to think what they would have liked to have accomplished with their lives by then, for the time to begin is now. The few who are able to see the wisdom of this exercise gain a measure of insight that eludes most.

Scripture is replete with references on how fleeting our lives are, and the wisdom of living for the eternal. Let us pray for a heart of wisdom that we might learn from them.

- 10 As for the days of our life,
they contain seventy years,
Or if due to strength, eighty years,
Yet their pride is *but* labor and sorrow;
For soon it is gone and we fly away.
- 12 So teach us to number our days,
That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.

Psalm 90:10,12

Memorize →

What is this passage teaching us? _____

- 4 "LORD, make me to know my end
And what is the extent of my days;
Let me know how transient I am.
- 5 "Behold, You have made my days *as* handbreadths,
And my lifetime as nothing in Your sight;
Surely every man at his best is a mere breath. *Selah.*
- 6 "Surely every man walks about as a phantom;
Surely they make an uproar for nothing;
He amasses *riches* and does not know who will gather them.
- 7 "And now, Lord, for what do I wait? *My* hope is in You.

Psalm 39:4-7

What causes the psalmist to hope in the Lord? _____

Psalm 90:10-12

Circle or Underline ...

- v 10 How long we live.
v 12 What we must be taught.
In order that we must
present what to God.

The one who understands the brevity of this life will surely become wiser.

Psalm 39:4-7

Circle or Underline ...

- v 4 What I must be made to know.
What I must know.
v 5 What every man is at best.
v 6 What men make an uproar for.
v 7 Where is my hope.

This passage puts our lives in eternal perspective, and there really is no comparison! Note the words used to describe our earthly lives. Is it no wonder the psalmist has placed his hope in God?

Eternity Puts Things in Perspective

The true nature of some things can be accurately assessed only by contrast. Though the hardships and temptations in this world can seem insurmountable at times, they are mere moments when seen from the eternal vantage point.

- 16 Therefore we do not lose heart,
but though our outer man is decaying,
yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
- 17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us
an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,
- 18 while we look *not* at the things which are seen,
but at the things which are not seen;
for the things which are seen are temporal,
but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:

How does the apostle Paul's perspective affect the way he views his affliction?

Memorize →

- 15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world.
If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- 16 For all that is in the world,
the lust of the flesh and
the lust of the eyes and
the boastful pride of life,
is not from the Father, but is from the world.
- 17 The world is passing away,
and *also* its lusts;
but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:15-17

What is John's main argument against surrendering to the temptations of this world? _____

When living for the Eternal, giants are brought down to size and trials are made enduring. Even elephants look like ants when viewed from the 77th floor!

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Circle or Underline ...

- v 16 What is happening to the outer man.
What is happening to the inner man.
- v 17 What affliction produces.
- v 18 What we look not at.
What we look to.
What is temporal.
What is eternal.

It is never easy to suffer, but knowing that there is an eternity of joy beyond helps put our suffering in perspective. Trials will end when eternity's bliss begins.

1 John 2:15-17

Circle or Underline ...

- v 15 What we should not love.
What is true of those who do.
- v 16 What is in the world.
- v 17 What is passing away.
Who lives forever.

The temporalness of this world is reason enough not to value it! Why place so much effort in something that will not last?!

Eternity Reveals the True Value of Things

In light of eternity, things that seemed so important, are seen for what they truly are. Our sense of what is genuinely precious is purified when viewed through the eyes of God.

- 15 Then (Jesus) said to them,
"Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed;
for not even when one has an abundance
does his life consist of his possessions."
- 16 And He told them a parable, saying,
"The land of a rich man was very productive.
- 17 "And he began reasoning to himself, saying,
'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?'
- 18 "Then he said, '
This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones,
and there I will store all my grain and my goods.
- 19 'And I will say to my soul,
"Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come;
take your ease, eat, drink and be merry."
- 20 "But God said to him,
'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you;
and now who will own what you have prepared?'
- 21 "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself,
and is not rich toward God."

Luke 12:15-21

How would the 'rich man' be viewed from the world's perspective? _____

In God's eyes, what made this man a 'fool'? _____

Disciples who live for the Eternal, view this life from a perspective diametrically opposed to the world's. The true value of our possessions, our activities and our relationships are revealed through a heavenly vantage point. When we live for the Eternal, our lives realize infinite significance, for we are uniting it with the Eternal God and His Eternal Purpose. People who align their lives to the Eternal God transcend the temporal and abide in things eternal. That is true discipleship!

Luke 12:15-21

Circle or Underline ...

- v 15 What we must be on guard against.
What our lives do not consist of.
- v 16-18 Who the parable is about.
What his problem was.
- v 19 What he said to himself.
- v 20 What God called him.
What was required of him.
- v 21 Toward whom the man was not rich.

Our World values the 'rich and famous' - their homes, their lives and their status. But in God's eyes, they may be fools if they are poor toward Him. In God's Kingdom, worldly riches, prestige and fame are worthless. Even the lowliest of God's servants is richer than the wealthiest of men!

Live for the Eternal

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

In light of what what you learned, list what you will do.

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

**By the Light of Eternity
is the True Value of Things Revealed**

Live for the Glory of God

The Disciple's Response to the Excellence of God

How would you like to be remembered?

- ✓ As a successful person in my field of work.
- ✓ As one who accumulated great wealth and possessions.
- ✓ As one who knew how to party and have a good time.
- ✓ As a great philanthropist.
- ✓ As a selfless humanitarian.
- ✓ As one who paid their bills, provided for their family and stayed out of jail.

Most people, at some point in their lives, think about the legacy they will leave behind when their lives come to an end. And most often, it is to have others remember us in a positive way, the more positive the better! But what was Jesus' desire? Here is what was uppermost in His' mind when He knew the end was near.

"Jesus spoke these things;
and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said,
'Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son,
that the Son may glorify You,'"

John 17:1

1. What did Jesus mean by 'glorify'? _____

2. How does Jesus being glorified result in the Father being glorified? _____

Jesus' prayer summarized the primary mission of His life ... to bring glory to His Heavenly Father! It was the reason for everything Jesus said and did while on Earth. He desired more than anything that God be *magnified* and *honoured* to the highest degree through His life. That ought to be our primary goal as well! As stated by the Shorter Westminster Catechism:

Memorize 

"The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

John 17:1

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What has come.
- ✓ What Jesus asked for.
- ✓ His reason for asking this.

The glorification of the Father depended on the glorification of the Son ... in His suffering, death, resurrection and ultimate re-glorification at the right hand of the Father. It revealed God's sacrificial love, justice and wisdom in one moment.

God is likewise glorified when we willingly fulfill His Purpose and Plan for our lives whatever it requires. That is the reason we live and the chief end of our lives.

What It Means to Glorify God

To glorify God is to so manifest His Person through your life that others will clearly see Him through you. Jesus glorified His Father perfectly as the writer of Hebrews attests:

Memorize 

And (Jesus) is
the radiance of (God's) glory and
the exact representation of His nature, ...

Hebrews 1:3a

What is significant about how Jesus is described? _____

Of all Christians, no one sought to glorify God more than **the apostle Paul**. Listen to his testimony below:

- 6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness,"
is the One who has shone in our hearts
to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Christ.
- 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,
so that the surpassing greatness of the power
will be of God and not from ourselves; ...
- 10 ... always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus,
so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

2 Corinthians 4:6-7, 10

1. Who/what does the 'Light' refer to? _____

2. What does having 'this treasure in earthen vessels' mean? _____

What does Paul mean by the second part of verse 7? _____

3. How does 'carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus ' relate to the life of Jesus being 'manifested in our body'? _____

Hebrews 1:3a

Circle or Underline ...

✓ What Jesus is.

It is impossible not to conclude the divinity of Jesus from this verse. He radiated God exactly because He was God absolutely!

2 Corinthians 4:6-7, 10

Circle or Underline ...

- v 6 What will shine in the darkness.
- v 7 What we have in earthen vessels.
In order that what will be of God.
- v 10 What Paul carried in his body.
What they manifested in their body.

Jesus is the light of the world who came to extinguish the darkness in men's hearts by radiating God's glory through His life. We who possess Him possess His life and light in our bodies which are revealed when we die to our flesh and live in the spirit by faith in God's truth.



Philippians 1:20-21

Why We Should Glorify God

This question should not even be raised, for our indebtedness to the Gospel is reason enough. But Paul explains it further below.

Memorize →

- 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
- 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

1. What is significant about our bodies being a temple of the Holy Spirit? _____

2. What reason is given for glorifying God in our bodies? _____

How We Glorify God.

Near the completion of His life, Jesus confidently testified how He brought glory to His Father.

"I glorified You on the earth,
having accomplished the work
which You have given Me to do."

John 17:4

1. How did Jesus bring glory to His Father? _____

2. How does accomplishing the work God has given us glorify Him? _____

3. What work has God given you to do? _____

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Circle or Underline ...

- v 19 What you must know.
Who is in you.
What you are not.
- v 20 What is true of you.
What you therefore should do

We must glorify God in our bodies because inevitably, we have no other choice! In truth, the decision to glorify God is not ours to make for we are not our own. God has purchased us through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ, and has the authority to command us to do whatever He desires. If that is to glorify Himself, we have absolutely no right to deny Him for He owns us completely.

John 17:4

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What Jesus did on earth.
✓ How He did it.

By accomplishing the work God gave Him to do, Jesus magnified God through His Life. Jesus Himself testified that everything He did and said was not of Himself but the Father working and speaking through Him. (John 14 10-11) Jesus knew exactly what His Father wanted Him to do and say each moment, and completely yielded Himself to be used to the glory of God.

How many of us know what work God has given us to do? If God is glorified through our accomplishing that work, don't you think we had best find out as soon as possible?

Jesus also taught how we must glorify God.

Memorize 

5 "I (*Jesus*) am the vine, you are the branches;
he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit,
for apart from Me you can do nothing. ...
8 "My Father is glorified by this,
that you bear much fruit,
and so prove to be My disciples.

John 15:5, 8

1. Explain how one is able to 'bear much fruit'? _____

What does it mean to 'bear much fruit'? _____

2. How does bearing fruit glorify God? _____

How does it prove we are Jesus' disciples? _____

Jesus' Eternal Glory

Because Jesus is the Son of God, there is a way He could glorify His Father in which we never will.

"Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself,
with the glory which I had with You
before the world was."

John 17:5

1. What is significant about the phrase 'glorify Me together with Yourself'? ____

2. What does Jesus mean by the second part of this verse? _____

John 15:5, 8

Circle or Underline ...

- v 5 What Jesus is.
What we are.
Who bears 'much fruit'.
- v 8 How the Father is glorified.

Jesus used the metaphor of the grapevine to illustrate the key principle of abiding or walking continually with Him. Those who continually abide in Christ will experience His life living through theirs resulting in much fruit ~ the manifestation of Jesus' life and works ~ in us. In this God is magnified!

Even as a tree that bears apples proves itself to be an apple tree, or a plant that bears grapes proves itself to be a grapevine, even so, those who manifest the life of Christ through their own prove to be true disciples of Christ!

John 17:5

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ How Jesus asked to be glorified.
- ✓ When Jesus was glorified with the Father.

Jesus did not glorify God only after the incarnation. He shared the divine glory with His Father from eternity past, as they do even now to eternity!

His earthly life was merely a continuation of an existence glorifying His Father from everlasting to everlasting.

Live for the Glory of God

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

In light of what what you learned, list what you will do.

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31