



*NewLife Series*  
**EVANGELISM, DISCIPLESHIP, MISSIONS**  
**English, Tagalog & Cebuano Versions.**

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**BOOK 2**

*Left Hand: Needs of a Spiritual Baby*

**LESSON 1**

**INTRODUCTION:  
YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY**

Welcome to your life-long spiritual journey as a disciple! A true born-again believer is called to be a disciple. A disciple is a learner, a student, an apprentice, a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, who says to you and to all who believe in Him, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19).

To guide you in your spiritual journey we have provided this manual called *NewLife Discipleship Series*. You have already completed Book 1 of the series. Here you will get an overview of the entire course.

A manual is a brief guidebook that's easily carried in one's hand. This manual will put on your palm and fingers important discipleship truths, taught through hand illustrations, that will equip you to participate in the greatest work -- becoming a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ and helping others to do the same.

In the Bible, God often refers to His hands. The Lord Jesus gives a most beautiful picture of the divine hands: *"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand"* (John 10:27-29, NIV).

What a wonderful promise! In the almighty hands of the Father and the Son we Christians are safe and secure – forever! Our salvation does not depend on our holding on to God. Our salvation is securely grounded on God holding on to us with a grip that won't let go.

Does this mean that we fold our hands and do nothing but wait for heaven? Unfortunately, many Christians hold this wrong idea in their minds.

To the contrary, because we are secure in God's hands we should work vigorously with our hands! Paul captures this graphically in Philippians 3:12: ***"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."***

Christ took hold of us – grasped us with His hands – for a purpose. Now, we are challenged to take hold of – to grasp with our hands – Christ's purpose until it is perfectly fulfilled in our lives.

To take hold of Christ's purpose, the Christian must have strong hands. This discipleship training manual will strengthen your spiritual hands at every stage of your Christian growth. The goal is two-fold:

- (1) First, you must complete the NewLife Course, Books 1-14;
- (2) Second, you must be trained and equipped to teach this same course to others.

## **STAGES OF GROWTH**

There are three stages of Christian growth, according to 1 John 2:12-14:

***"I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one."***

Children, young men, fathers. In more general terms, every Christian goes through three spiritual stages:

- BABY,
- YOUTH,
- PARENT.

This discipleship training manual will teach and train Christians to strengthen and use their spiritual hands during each of these stages.

Let's now go on to Lesson 1.

**BABY LEFT HAND:  
NEEDS OF A SPIRITUAL BABY  
THUMB: PRAYER: DIRECT LINE TO GOD!**

You have opened your heart and received the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord!

Do you know how many wonderful blessings the Lord Jesus brought when He came in? Let's mention a few of these blessings.

- Because of Christ's death on the cross, God has forgiven all your sins, and He assures you that He will remember them no more (Hebrews 8:12).
- Your relationship with God is fully restored, and Christ your risen Savior and Lord stands as your permanent connection with God (John 14:6; Ephesians 2:13-17).
- You have been born again spiritually, and you have received new spiritual life from God (John 3:3, 5; 1 Peter 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17).
- God has adopted you into His family and He sent His Holy Spirit into your heart to assure you that He is now your heavenly Father and you are His child (Romans 8:15-16; Galatians 4:6).

Welcome to the family of God!

But, like a physical baby, you have a lot of needs as a spiritual baby, and these needs must be supplied in order for you to grow. What do you think is your first and most immediate need as a spiritual baby?

The physical needs of a newborn baby give us a clue. In the physical life, the first need of a baby is to cry. When a baby is born the doctor gives it behind a good slap. Why? To make it cry. Crying opens up the baby's lungs and helps it to start breathing. In the spiritual life, a newly born again person also needs to "cry" in order to start breathing spiritually. To help you remember this truth, we will place it on the THUMB of our left hand; we'll call this your BABY LEFT HAND: THUMB – PRAYER.

Prayer – spiritual breathing – is your first need as a new Christian. Prayer is one of your great privileges as a child in God's family. Another way to describe prayer is this: PRAYER IS YOUR DIRECT CONNECTION WITH GOD!

Do you remember the very first thing that happened to Adam and Eve when they sinned? Their spiritual connection to God was cut off. Before they sinned they used to talk to God face to face in continual fellowship. When they sinned, a thick wall came between them and God, and this wall continues to cut off people from God.

But now, through your faith in Christ, God Himself broke that wall and restored your direct connection to Him. We call that connection PRAYER. Prayer is the ability to have a conversation with God. Prayer is the very first thing the Holy Spirit teaches you to do... He teaches you to cry out in prayer to your heavenly Father. Let's read Galatians 4:6, 7 carefully: ***“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”<sup>7</sup> Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”***

You have probably heard about some people who boast of having a direct connection to some important person, like the president.

But did you know that the Bible assures you in Galatians 4:6, you have a direct connection to the God of the universe, because He is your heavenly Father and you are His child? At the very beginning of your new life in Christ, imprint this truth upon your heart and mind, and never ever forget it: you have the privilege of talking to your heavenly Father anytime, anywhere, and for any need.

Another thing to remember: We may call prayer as the first and greatest blessing of the abundant life that the Lord Jesus promised to give you. Why? Because prayer is the channel that God will use to give you all the blessings He has prepared for you!

But you may be asking, "How should I pray?" Let's study the elements of prayer.

### **1. TO WHOM SHOULD YOU PRAY?**

As we already hinted above, you should pray to your FATHER in heaven. In Matthew 6:9, the Lord Jesus tells us to pray to our Father in heaven. In Galatians 4:6, the Holy Spirit enables us to cry out to God "Abba, Father!" In the Hebrew language, "Abba" is equivalent to "Daddy". God gives us the privilege to talk to Him in a very personal way. We may also pray to Christ and to the Holy Spirit. But Christ tells us to direct our prayers usually to God the Father.

### **2. THROUGH WHOM DO YOU PRAY?**

You pray through and in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's read John 14:6; 16:24.

To pray IN THE NAME OF JESUS means:

- That you trust in Jesus as your only Way to God;
- That you ask on the basis of God's promises as revealed in His Word;
- That you ask in accordance with God's will and for His glory.

### **3. HOW TO BEGIN YOUR PRAYER**

BEGIN your prayer by saying: "Our Father in heaven, I pray to You in the name of Christ."

#### 4. WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYER

What do you include in your prayer? Let's read Philippians 4:6-7.

***<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.***

From these verses note two words: ***thanksgiving*** and ***request***. In physical breathing you need to do two actions: you exhale and inhale. Similarly, in spiritual breathing or prayer, you THANK God (exhale), and ASK God (inhale).

*(1) We exhale by THANKING God for His blessings.*

Say, "Our Father in heaven, thank You for these blessings...." Mention the many blessings that you have received from God – life, good health, safety, peace, your family, home, job, friends, sunshine, rain, air, etc. When you pray, make it a habit to thank God first; always begin your prayer by expressing your appreciation for God's goodness toward you.

*(2) We inhale by ASKING God for our needs.*

Say, "Our Father in heaven, I ask You to supply my needs and help me with my problems...." Ask God's help regarding needs and problems you expect to encounter during the day. Ask God for physical, material, financial, emotional, and spiritual needs. As a child of God, the Lord Jesus promised you will receive what you ask for in His name. Let's read John 16:24.

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

Prayer is not only for ourselves. Also develop the habit of praying for other people. Pray for family members, relatives and friends. Pray for their daily needs and problems; pray specially for those who don't have a personal relationship with Christ, that may also come to know Him.

#### 5. HOW TO END YOUR PRAYER

You END your prayer by saying, "This is my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

#### QUESTIONS ABOUT PRAYER

*Question 1: WHEN should you pray?*

Answer: Pray upon waking up in the morning. Pray before eating to thank God for your food. Pray anytime during the day when you face a need or a problem. Pray before going to bed at night.

*Question 2: HOW should you pray?*

Answer: Pray silently in your heart. When alone, you may pray aloud, as if conversing with God. Pray while sitting, or standing, or kneeling, or walking. You may pray with closed eyes or with open eyes.

*Question 3: How LONG should you pray?*

Answer: Prayer is conversing with God. How long should you converse with God? Converse with God as often and as long as you want to and whenever you need to.

*Question 4: Should I MEMORIZE my prayers?*

Answer: Memorized prayers, like the *Lord's Prayer*, serve as a pattern. Since prayer is conversing with God, you do not need to memorize what you will say to God. Tell God what's in your mind and heart. The most effective prayer comes from your own heart and is expressed in your own words.

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

Beginning today, develop the habit of praying at these times:

1. Pray upon waking up in the morning; thank God for giving you life and health and a new day; ask God's help for the things that you will do during the day.
2. Pray before meals, expressing your gratitude for God's provision for your food and other daily needs.
3. Pray before eating; pray before going to bed; thank God for helping you through the day; ask God to watch over you and your family as you sleep.

## **MEMORIZE**

*Philippians 4:6 – Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6*

## **DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING**

Your study leader will meet with you this week:

- (1) You will pray together, using the pattern: THANK GOD and ASK GOD.
- (2) You will check each other's verses.

## **LESSON 2**

**BABY LEFT HAND: NEEDS OF A SPIRITUAL BABY  
POINTING FINGER: WORD OF GOD: SPIRITUAL FOOD**

In the physical life, a baby needs milk. In the spiritual life, a newly born again Christian needs spiritual milk. The Word of God, the Bible, is the spiritual milk or food of a Christian. We place this truth on the POINTING FINGER OF THE BABY LEFT HAND. Let's read 1 Peter 2:2:

*As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.*

**MILK**

From this verse, let's note the following:

Have you ever wondered who taught a baby to cry for milk when it is hungry? Have you ever heard of any mother who told her newborn baby, "My child, remember, when you feel hungry, you must cry, okay? If you don't cry, I will not know you're hungry." No, you don't need to teach a baby to cry for milk. God has naturally put inside the body and mind of that baby the instinct to cry for milk when it is hungry – if the baby is truly alive.

Similarly, in the spiritual life, a person who is truly born again, a person who has new spiritual life from God – that person will cry for and will strongly desire spiritual milk. This hunger for spiritual food is part of the abundant life that the Lord Jesus gives. He is restoring what Adam and Eve lost when they fell into sin.

Do you remember the very first tactic that Satan used in tempting Eve? He planted in her mind the seed of doubt regarding God's Word by asking, "Did God really say?" (Genesis 3:1)

In giving you abundant life, the Lord Jesus wants to restore to you complete trust and confidence in God's Word.

**THE BIBLE**

The Bible is the Christian's spiritual milk. It is also his/her spiritual bread (Matthew 4:4). In other words, God's Word is the Christian's spiritual food.

**GROWTH**

The Bible is the God-given sustenance for spiritual growth. Let's add Acts 20:32:

*So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

As in the physical life, so in the spiritual life, you need to take your spiritual food, the Word of God, regularly in order to grow.

## **AN OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE**

To help you take your spiritual food, let's do a quick overview of the Bible.

### *1. OLD TESTAMENT AND NEW TESTAMENT.*

The Bible has two major divisions, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is God's Word written by the prophets before Christ came to the world. The Old Testament contains prophecies and promises concerning the coming of Christ.

The New Testament is God's Word written by the apostles after Christ had come into the world. The New Testament shows how Christ fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies and promises about His coming. The New Testament tells the Good News of Christ's life, words and works while He was on earth. Above all, it tells about His redemptive work through His death on the cross for the sins of the world, of His burial and His resurrection, and of His ascension and return to heaven as Savior and Lord, and of His promise to come again at the end of the world.

The New Testament also tells the story about the first followers of Christ and how they spread the Good News to the whole world that all who believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord would receive forgiveness of sins and receive eternal life. The New Testament also tells about the end of the world and about the new heaven and new earth that God is preparing for His children in His eternal kingdom.

### *2. BOOKS OF THE BIBLE.*

The Old and New Testaments are divided into books:

- 39 books in the Old Testament,
- 27 books in the New Testament.

Some books are long, other books are short; some books contain only one chapter but they are still called "books".

### *3. CHAPTER AND VERSE.*

To help you locate passages, every book of the Bible is divided into chapters; and every chapter is divided into verses. These chapter and verse divisions were not in the original Bible which the prophets and apostles wrote. When modern printing was invented chapters and verses were added to aid readers in locating passages.

For example, GENESIS 1:1 means:

- Book of Genesis
- Chapter 1
- Verse 1

*4. DAILY BIBLE READING.*

In the physical life, the newborn baby has a regular feeding schedule. So in the spiritual life, one excellent "feeding schedule" is DAILY BIBLE READING. The best place to start Bible reading is in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John). These four books tell the story of the birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. As a spiritual baby you need to grow in your knowledge of your Savior and Lord. Let's read 2 Peter 3:18:

***But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.***

We encourage you to begin by reading one chapter a day (or one page a day) from the Gospel of John.

*5. ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS.*

To help you meditate on the chapter you are reading, answer the following questions:

- a. What does this passage tell me about God (the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit)?
- b. What does this passage tell me about God's love and care for His children?
- c. Does this passage expose a sin in my life that I must confess and forsake?
- d. Is there a command for me to obey? Is there a warning I need to heed?
- e. Is there a good example for me to follow? Is there a bad example I need to avoid?

*6. PICK ONE VERSE*

To make your Bible Reading profitable, after reading one chapter, pick one outstanding verse that attracted your attention from the chapter. Meditate on (digest in your mind) the meaning of the verse by answering the questions below; begin the habit of writing your answers in a little notebook:

- What truth from this verse challenges or strengthens my faith?
- How will this verse help me during the day?

- Also write down in your notebook questions or things you don't understand from your reading. When you get the opportunity, talk to your study leader or an older Christian or your pastor about your questions.

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

1. Read your Bible and pray everyday. Daily PRAYER and daily BIBLE READING make up what is usually called DAILY DEVOTIONAL TIME (DDT) or QUIET TIME (QT), because it is a time of quiet fellowship with God. Let's study some elements of the Daily Devotional Time.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR DDT**

There are a few simple requirements for an effective DDT.

1. *A Bible*
2. *Notebook and Pen* – In your notebook, write down thoughts and truths you discover while reading your Bible. Also, list things you wish to pray for, noting down the date when you start praying for a thing, and the date God answers your prayer.
3. *Time and Place* – As much as possible, have a regular time and place for your DDT.

## **A PLAN FOR DDT**

1. *Begin with a brief prayer.* Thank God for the new day, and ask His guidance on your devotional time.
2. *Read your scheduled Daily Bible Reading* (one chapter a day from your chosen Bible book).
3. *After reading:*
  - Answer the questions suggested above to help in your meditation;
  - Then, *pick a verse.* Write in your notebook the thoughts or truths you discover from the verse.
4. *Proceed to prayer.* Pray as the Holy Spirit leads you. Use SPIRITUAL BREATHING: EXHALE by thanking God for His blessings; INHALE by asking God for your needs and the needs of others on your prayer list.

## **MEMORIZE:**

*1 Peter 2:2 – As newborn babes, desire the pure spiritual milk of the word, that you may grow thereby. 1 Peter 2:2*

## **DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING**

Your Bible study leader will meet with you one day this week:

- (1) He/she will show you how to do your Daily Devotional Time;
- (2) You will review your memory verses.

### LESSON 3

#### **BABY LEFT HAND: NEEDS OF A SPIRITUAL BABY MIDDLE FINGER: FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

*NOTE: This lesson is best discussed over several sessions.*

#### **SESSION 1**

IN the physical life, a baby needs a regular bath. In the spiritual life, a Christian needs to be regularly cleansed from sin. This is because a born-again Christian can still fall into sin. When that happens, a Christian needs to ask God for forgiveness and cleansing.

Forgiveness is a Christian's spiritual bath. We place this truth on the MIDDLE FINGER OF THE SPIRITUAL BABY LEFT HAND.

From our Bible let's read 1 John 1:5-2:2. From this passage, note the following truths:

#### **GOD IS LIGHT**

God is holy and pure. God's will is for the Christian not to sin anymore; God's plan is for the Christian always to walk in the light. God's light consists of the following:

- (1) *The Bible.*

As we read and study God's Word, the Bible, we will know God's instruction on how to live and work for Him. We must always seek to obey truths we have learned from God's Word.

***"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105).***

***"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17).***

- (2) *The Holy Spirit.*

But it is not enough that we know God's Word. The Holy Spirit must apply specific truths from the Bible to specific areas and situations in our life. We must always seek to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

***"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I have said to you" (John 14:26).***

(3) *The Conscience.*

Inside of us there is that little voice called conscience that tells us whether we are doing right or wrong. By itself, the human conscience will sometimes go astray. For example, they say that when a thief steals from another thief his conscience will bother him; but he feels no guilt when he steals from anybody else.

Our conscience must be guided by the clear teachings of the Word of God and enlightened by the Holy Spirit. One good rule for the conscience is this: When you're not sure, don't do anything; wait for clearer guidance. Even when you believe you are sure, you must always test everything by God's Word and always ask for the Spirit's guidance.

***"This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men." (Acts 24:16).***

***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)***

## SESSION 2

### REVIEW: MEANING OF SIN

In order to understand more fully what sin is and what forgiveness really means, let's go back to our lesson on how sin came into the world in the beginning.

The root meaning of sin is when Adam and Eve yielded to the temptation to eat of the forbidden fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in order to become like God, "knowing good and evil". We pictured this with the illustration of the "I" (SELF) taking over the throne in the heart of humans in order to be their own "god". As "god" they will then decide what they consider "good" or "bad" for themselves.

Originally, God created humans to live in complete dependence on the Word of God. Satan tempted them to disregard and disobey God's Word. Instead, he tempted them (and they yielded to the temptation) to become their own "god" in order to follow their own "word" (thoughts and decisions). They did not realize that they were actually following Satan's word instead of God's Word.

When you became a Christian, you got off the throne and invited Christ to sit on the throne of your heart as your Savior and Lord. Hence, we gave the illustration of the two hearts below, and the corresponding destiny of either heart.



### THE MEANING OF TEMPTATION

The meaning of temptation today remains the same as it was during the first temptation of Adam and Eve. Satan will continually attack you and lie to you that YOU should be the king/queen in your heart, and that YOU should follow your own desires instead of obeying the Word of God.

Your DESIRES are actually appetites and needs that God implanted in your human personality (your body, soul, and spirit). God created you with these desires but He also set boundaries in which these desires are to be satisfied, at the right time and in the right way.

Satan comes along and tempts you to satisfy these desires in YOUR own way and in YOUR own time, without regard for God's directions and without regard whether this will hurt other people. Desires that you satisfy in your own way and in your own time are called LUSTS. Satan uses three avenues of lusts: the flesh, the eyes, and pride of life.

#### **1 John 2:15-17:**

***<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.***

Note very well that sin is fulfilling your lusts for the sake of short-term happiness in this present temporary world. Sin is the direct opposite of DOING THE WILL OF GOD. God's will directs you to live for eternal values, things that will glorify God and bless other people in this life and things that will accumulate lasting rewards after this life in heaven and in the New Heaven and the New Earth.

#### **Matthew 6:19-21:**

***19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***

The battle in every temptation is simply this: Should I follow my lusts, or should I follow the word and will of Christ? In short: SELF or CHRIST?

You overcome temptation by choosing to follow CHRIST instead of SELF. You overcome temptation by choosing to live for ETERNAL VALUES instead of TEMPORARY PLEASURES in this present world.

### SESSION 3

Christ Himself became a human being to become our Second Representative, in order to show us how to overcome temptation. Our First Representative, Adam, fell into sin because he chose to follow his desires instead of obeying the word and will of God. Where Adam failed, Christ succeeded. Throughout His earthly life, Christ was bombarded by Satan with every kind of temptation but He overcame with this ONE UNWAVERING PRINCIPLE: “FATHER GOD, NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE BE DONE.”

Let’s read the following verses:

***Hebrews 10:5-7:***

***5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:***

***“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,  
But a body You have prepared for Me.***

***6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin  
You had no pleasure.***

***7 Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—  
In the volume of the book it is written of Me—  
To do Your will, O God.’ ”***

***Hebrews 2:14-18:***

***14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. 17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being <sup>li</sup>tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.***

***Hebrews 4:14-16***

***14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let***

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

**Matthew 4:4:**

*But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”*

**John 4:34:**

*Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.*

**Luke 22:41-42:**

*<sup>41</sup> And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”*

In His last long prayer for His disciples, just before His arrest and crucifixion and looking forward to His resurrection and eventual return to the Father in heaven, Christ made this final report to the Father regarding His life and ministry on earth:

**John 17:1-5:**

*<sup>1</sup> Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, <sup>2</sup> as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

That was how Christ overcame temptation. He came to do the will of God, instead of following His desires. Satan desperately attempted to sidetrack Christ in order to satisfy His own desires and to protect His safety and comfort. But Christ remained true to His ONE UNWAVERING PRINCIPLE:

- “FATHER GOD, NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE BE DONE.”

Christ left us His example. We overcome temptation in the same way, by choosing to do the will of God instead of satisfying our selfish lusts.

#### SESSION 4

How then do we know what God’s will is?

Here the three “lights” we mentioned above will help us:

- The Bible

- The Holy Spirit
- The Conscience

#### WE DISCOVER GOD’S WILL FROM THE BIBLE

The Bible reveals to us God’s will regarding how we should think, feel, choose, and behave in our relationship toward God and toward other people. The Bible:

- Gives us commands and warnings;
- Tells us stories of good examples to follow and bad examples to avoid;
- Opens up treasure chests of resources that God promises to give us abundantly in order to equip us to overcome all trials and temptations and to enable us to completely obey His will.

#### THE COMMANDMENTS

Since the Bible is a big book, God gave us the Ten Commandments as a brief summary of His will for our lives. The Ten Commandments are in two parts (Exodus 20:2-17):

- PART A: HOW WE RELATE TO GOD
  1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
  2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
  3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
  4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- PART B: HOW WE RELATE TO PEOPLE
  5. Honor thy father and thy mother.
  6. Thou shalt not kill.
  7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
  8. Thou shalt not steal.
  9. Thou shalt not bear false witness.
  10. Thou shalt not covet.

#### TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

Jesus summarized all of God’s commandments into two:

***Matthew 22:35-40:***

***<sup>35</sup> Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”***

*<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” <sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”*

- LOVE GOD with all your heart, soul, and mind.

Commandments 1-4 show us how to love God.

Some specific ways that we show our love for God:

(1) PUT HIM FIRST ABOVE EVERYTHING.

Matthew 6:33: But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

(2) GLORIFY HIM IN EVERYTHING WE DO.

*1 Corinthians 10:31: Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

*Colossians 3:17: And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

*Colossians 3:23-24: <sup>23</sup> And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

(3) THANK HIM IN EVERYTHING & FOR EVERYTHING.

*1 Thessalonians 5:18: In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

*Ephesians 5:20: Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Psalm 103:1-5: <sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul;  
And all that is within me, bless His holy name!*

*<sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
And forget not all His benefits:*

*<sup>3</sup> Who forgives all your iniquities,  
Who heals all your diseases,*

*<sup>4</sup> Who redeems your life from destruction,  
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,*

*<sup>5</sup> Who satisfies your mouth with good things,  
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

(4) TRUST HIM IN ALL SITUATIONS.

*Proverbs 3:5-6: <sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your paths.*

*Psalms 37:3-5: <sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.  
<sup>4</sup> Delight yourself also in the LORD,  
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.  
<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD,  
Trust also in Him,  
And He shall bring it to pass.*

- LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR as yourself.

Commandments 5-10 show us how to love other people as ourselves.

Some ways that we show our love for our neighbor:

*Matthew 7:12: Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

*Matthew 5:43-48:*

*<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? <sup>48</sup> Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

*John 13:34-35:*

*<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

*1 John 3:16-18:*

*<sup>16</sup> By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. <sup>17</sup> But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in*

*need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? <sup>18</sup> My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.*

WE SHOW LOVE TO OTHERS AS WE ALLOW THE QUALITIES OF CHRIST AND THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT TO FLOW IN AND THROUGH OUR LIVES.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8:**

*<sup>4</sup> Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not <sup>l</sup>puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, <sup>l</sup>thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails.*

**Galatians 5:22-26:**

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

GOD WRITES HIS LAWS IN OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

*Hebrews 8:10-12: <sup>10</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>11</sup> None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. <sup>12</sup> For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."*

As we study and memorize God's Word, the Holy Spirit will bring back to our minds the applicable scriptures that we need for each situation.

**Psalms 119:9-11:**

*How can a young man cleanse his way?  
By taking heed according to Your word.  
<sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I have sought You;  
Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!  
<sup>11</sup> Your word I have hidden in my heart,  
That I might not sin against You.*

**Colossians 3:16:**

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

**John 14:26:**

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

CONSCIENCE: AS GOD'S WORD FILLS OUR HEARTS AND AS WE YIELD TO THE FULL CONTROL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR CONSCIENCE WILL BE TRAINED TO KNOW GOD'S WILL AND DISCERN BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL.

*Hebrews 5:12-14:*

*<sup>12</sup> For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. <sup>13</sup> For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup> But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

*Acts 17:11:*

*These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

*2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV):*

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

## **SESSION 5**

No Christian is perfect. Because of weakness, immaturity, and lack of knowledge, a Christian may still fall into sin. Under intense temptation, a Christian can still choose to follow SELF instead of CHRIST. But when a Christian falls into sin, the Holy Spirit will convict him/her and his/her conscience will bother him/her. So, what is God's provision for his/her forgiveness?

### **A WAY OF FORGIVENESS**

God has provided a way of forgiveness for a Christian's sin. This way includes the following truths, as explained in 1 John 1:9-2:2:

#### *1. CONFESSION.*

To receive forgiveness, a Christian must confess his sin/s directly to God. All sins are against God, so we go to Him for forgiveness. Only God has the authority and power to forgive our sins. We confess by telling God exactly what we did and by calling the sin by its name. For example, if we told a lie we must say, "Lord, I told a lie; please forgive me."

After you have asked God's forgiveness, you also need to ask forgiveness from any person you have hurt or offended. As much as possible, let us fix our relationship with that person and make right any damage we may have caused him/her. However, if there's no way to contact that person anymore, just leave everything to God's grace to make everything right.

*Matthew 5:23, 24:*

*<sup>23</sup> Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*

## 2. BLOOD OF CHRIST.

God forgives us on the basis of the blood of Christ. The blood of Christ represents His work of redemption on the cross, which He accomplished once and for all, never to be repeated. All sins, past, present, and future, were paid for by Christ by His one sacrifice on the cross. Let's read Hebrews 9:26.

He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

## 3. ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS.

God promises forgiveness and cleansing the moment we confess our sins to Him. We do not have to wait until tomorrow or next week to know that we are forgiven.

## SATAN'S LIES

There are five dangerous lies of Satan, that we must guard against:

- *LIE #1: "Don't confess immediately. Aren't you ashamed to approach God right away after committing a sin?"*

Don't believe this lie. As a young Christian, you are like a child who is learning to walk. When a child falls and gets dirty, is it shameful for him to cry for help? When you sin you are like a child that falls. God wants you to ask Him to clean you up immediately.

- *LIE #2: "You are a bad Christian. God does not love you anymore."*

This is another big lie. Think of this: When did God start loving you? While you were still a sinful non-Christian God already loved you (Romans 5:8). Now that you are a Christian, will God's love change just because you have committed a sin?

- *LIE #3: "You must make sacrifices first before God will forgive you."*

This lie insults Christ because it implies that human effort can add anything to the redemption Christ has done for us. There is only one basis for forgiveness, and this is the death of Christ. His one-time death is effective for all the sins of the world, including yours (Heb. 9:26).

- *LIE #4: "Go ahead, keep on committing sins. After all, God will forgive you when you confess to Him."*

This fourth lie and the fifth lie are closely connected and are the most dangerous lies of all. God's forgiveness is not a license for us to continue in sin. As a Christian who is still learning to walk, you may sometimes stumble and fall into the mud. This doesn't mean that you will keep on wallowing in the mud. The Lord wants you to grow in knowledge and maturity, so that the times that you fall become less and less frequent. God promises that He will make you more and more victorious everyday. If a so-called Christian continues in sin, the Lord Jesus has a fearful warning against him. Read Matthew 7:21-23:

<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

- *LIE #5: It's hopeless; give up. You will never overcome sin completely.*

To overcome this last lie and all the other lies, follow these steps:

- STEP 1: CONFESS.

Victory over sin always begins with confession. We repeat what we explained above:

To receive forgiveness, a Christian must confess his sin sins directly to God. All sins are against God, so we go to Him for forgiveness. Only God has the authority and power to forgive our sins. We confess by telling God exactly what we did and by calling the sin by its name. For example, if we told a lie we must say, "Lord, I told a lie; please forgive me." After sincerely confessing our sin, we must claim by faith God's promise of forgiveness and cleansing (1 John 1:9).

- STEP 2: STOP.

After receiving forgiveness and cleansing, stop the sin and the sinful habit once and for all (John 5:14; 8:11; Hebrews 12:1).

- STEP 3: LEARN.

Learn your lesson. Analyze the things the enemy used to trip and trap you, and determine to avoid those dangers from now on (Hebrews 12:1). Discover the weak points of your life which the enemy used as entry points and strengthen those weak points (Hebrews 12:12, 13). Stay more vigilant from now on, and make sure you use the way of escape God always provides in every temptation (1 Corinthians 10:12, 13; 1 Peter 5:8, 9).

- STEP 4: FORGET.

When God forgives He also promises to forget (Hebrews 8:12). You must also forget your past failures, including what you consider your successes. Satan will keep reminding you of past failures to discourage you; and he will keep reminding you of past successes to make you proud and self-confident and careless. Therefore, forget what God has forgiven and forgotten (Philippians 3:13).

- STEP 5: UPWARD.

Paraphrasing a popular devotional, keep giving your utmost for God's highest goal in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:12-14).

- STEP 6: FIRST LOVE.

Above all, keep growing deeper and closer in your first love for Christ as your main motivation and power to worship and serve Him (Philippians 3:9-11; Revelation 2:4, 5; John 21:15-17; 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15).

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

When you fall into sin, don't be discouraged. Immediately confess your sin to God and ask for His forgiveness and cleansing. And keep on following Christ!

### **MEMORIZE:**

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

## **DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING**

During this week, your Bible study leader will meet with you:

- (1) You will have Daily Devotional Time (DDT) together.
- (2) You will review your memory verses.

## **LESSON 4**

### **BABY LEFT HAND: NEEDS OF A SPIRITUAL BABY RING FINGER: FAMILY**

IN the physical life, a baby needs a family to love him and take care of him. In the spiritual life, a Christian needs a family, too. We place this truth on the **BABY LEFT HAND: RING FINGER – FAMILY**.

The local body of believers is the Christian's spiritual family. No follower of Christ can live as a lone ranger. The Christian life is a life in fellowship, and this fellowship includes two very important relationships. Let's read 1 John 1:3 carefully:

*That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

From this verse we note:

- **RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:**

The Christian has a vertical relationship – his fellowship with God.

- **RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS:**

The Christian has a horizontal relationship – his fellowship with other Christians.

- **TWO RELATIONSHIPS TOGETHER:**

The vertical and horizontal relationships cannot be separated. Fellowship with God results in fellowship with other children in God's family. Fellowship with other Christians prove and demonstrate that we really have a relationship with God.

## **THE FIRST CHRISTIANS**

The first Christians provided a beautiful example of the fellowship within the family of God. From our Bible, let's study Acts 2:41-42. From the example of the first Christians we discover:

(1) The new Christians were **ADDED** to the group of Christians that led them to the Lord Jesus. If you are wondering which Christian group to join, the answer is clear and simple: Join the group of Christians that brought you to faith in Christ.

(2) The new Christians participated in **FOUR** important activities:

(a) *THE APOSTLES' TEACHING* – Today this means that you should continue studying the Bible with the Christians who led you to Christ.

(b) *FELLOWSHIP* – This means sharing relationship and blessings with other Christians; it also means helping one another in times of problems and needs.

(c) *BREAKING OF BREAD* – To the first Christians, this meant **WORSHIP**, as expressed primarily in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Today, this means that you should attend **WORSHIP SERVICES** regularly usually on Sunday.

- (d) *PRAYER* – The first Christians as well as Christians today need to be involved in various prayer activities with fellow believers, by pairs, in small groups, and with the whole congregation.

### **THREE REASONS FOR FELLOWSHIP**

There are many reasons why fellowship is important. We will mention three reasons:

- *FIRST*, when we fellowship we learn more from God's Word as we share with one another our discoveries from our personal Bible study.
- *SECOND*, when we fellowship we strengthen one another. Remember the illustration of burning coals? Take away one piece of coal from the burning pile and the separated piece will soon lose fire and die out. Put it back with the burning pile and soon it will light up again. Even so, when we come together we share with one another the fire of our love and faith in the Lord.
- *THIRD*, we serve God more effectively together. Remember the story of the father whose sons were quarrelling? He gave each son a stick and told them to break their individual sticks; they did so very easily. Then the father took their sticks and tied the sticks together into one bundle and told each son to break the bundle; they couldn't. Even so with Christians. When we are alone, Satan can easily defeat us. When we unite together Satan will have a hard time in breaking us. Instead, we will become strong enough to defeat him with the Lord's help.

### **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

Get involved in a local church or a fellowship group with other believers in the family of God, and you will grow in your faith as well as help others grow in their faith.

### **MEMORIZE**

*Ephesians 2:19 - Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. Ephesians 2:19*

### **DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING**

During the week, your Bible study leader will meet with you:

- (1) To have Daily Devotional Time together;
- (2) To review your memory verses.

## **LESSON 5**

### **BABY LEFT HAND: NEEDS OF A SPIRITUAL BABY**

**LITTLE FINGER: TESTIMONY**

IN the physical life, a child needs to learn to talk, though at first, it's only baby talk, like "Da-da" and "Ma-ma". In the spiritual life, a new Christian needs to talk to others about his faith in Christ, even though his talk may be very simple. The simple personal testimony may be considered as spiritual baby talk of a new Christian. We will place this truth on the **BABY LEFT HAND: LITTLE FINGER – TESTIMONY**.

You may say, "Who, me? Talk to others about Christ? But I'm only a young Christian."

As a young Christian you may not be able to say much about God or Christ or the Bible. But you can give a simple testimony. Let's study the simple testimonies of young believers in the Bible.

**ANDREW (read John 1:40-42)**

Andrew had just met Jesus, but he was already able to do two things: he told his brother Peter, "We have found the Messiah". Then he introduced Peter to Christ, and Christ did the talking to Peter after that. As a young Christian, you can:

1. Tell a relative or a friend, "I received Christ recently."
2. Introduce your relative or friend to a mature Christian, who will explain the gospel to him.

**PHILIP (read John 1:45,46)**

Philip had known Christ only a short time, yet he did two things: he told his friend Nathaniel, "We have found the promised Messiah". Then he invited Nathaniel "Come and see." As a young Christian, you can:

1. Tell your relative or friend, "I have received Christ recently."
2. Invite your relative or friend to a home Bible study or church service and say, "Come and listen to God's Word."

**TWO MEN HEALED BY JESUS (read John 9:24,25; Mark 5:18-20)**

1. **THE BLIND MAN.** He did not know much about Jesus. When the religious leaders asked him hard questions, he responded with his simple but powerful testimony. He said, "One thing I know, once I was blind, now I see."
2. **THE DEMONIAC.** He was instructed by Jesus to give a similar simple testimony, "Go home to your friends and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you."

You can do the same thing that the healed blind man and healed demoniac did: Tell your relatives and friends about what the Lord has done for you. Tell them how Christ changed your life, and how Christ solved your problems and supplied your needs.

### **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

Start sharing Christ with your friends and relatives using "Baby talk" – tell them about how you came to know Christ in a personal way, and what difference He has made in your life.

### **MEMORIZE**

*Mark 5:19 – Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you. Mark 5:19*

### **DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING**

If you have not done this yet, do this with the members of your Book 2 Discipleship Cell Group.

1. **PRAYER PARTNER TEAMS.** Organize your cell members into PRAYER PARTNERS consisting of two or three members, same sex, about the same age.
2. **LIST PROSPECTS.** Instruct the PRAYER PARTNERS to list non-Christian persons from their FRANCO (circle of influence):
  - **FAMILY**
  - **RELATIVES**
  - **ACQUAINTANCES (FRIENDS)**
  - **NEIGHBORS**
  - **CO-WORKERS/CLASSMATES**
  - **OTHERS**
3. **PRAY FOR THE PROSPECTS.** The PRAYER PARTNERS will regularly pray for their prospects in their personal prayers and as a team.
4. **APPOINTMENT, PRESENTATION.** Make an appointment with their prospects one by one, in order to give the initial presentation of the Gospel by reading together with their friend Book 1, Lesson 1. To make an appointment, they may tell the prospect something like this, "Can we get together for coffee sometime this week. My friends and I want to share something really important not for our material life but our spiritual life."
5. **FOLLOW-UP.** After reading together Book 1, Lesson 1, with the prospect, whether or not he/she prays to receive Christ right there and then, be sure to invite him/her to join an on-going EVANGELISTIC BIBLE STUDY (EBS) on Sunday or on a weekday. If necessary, pick up your prospect and bring him/her to the study.

**THIS WEEK**

Meet with your Bible study leader:

- (1) To have Daily Devotional Time together;
- (2) To review your memory verses.

**LESSON 6**

**BABY LEFT HAND: NEEDS OF A SPIRITUAL BABY  
PALM: INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT**

IN the physical life, a baby needs a baby sitter, someone who watches over and takes care of the baby. In the spiritual life, God has also provided the Christian with a "baby sitter". We place this truth on the **BABY LEFT HAND: PALM – INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT**.

The Holy Spirit is the Christian's "baby sitter". When Christ went back to heaven He gave the Holy Spirit to serve as Companion, Helper, Guide, Comforter and Friend of every Christian.

It is absolutely necessary that every Christian should know, honor, trust, and obey the Holy Spirit. Let's note the following truths about the Holy Spirit and His relationship to the Christian.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES IN YOU.**

Read Galatians 4:6; according to this verse, if you are truly a child of God, God has sent His Spirit to live in your heart. But how do you become a child of God? Read John 1:12; according to this verse, you become a child of God when you **BELIEVE** and **RECEIVE** Christ.

Have you truly **BELIEVED** in and **RECEIVED** Christ as your Lord and Savior? Do you remember when you prayed to invite Jesus to come into your heart?

If you have Jesus in your heart, you are a child of God. And because you are a child of God, God has already sent His Spirit to live in your heart. The Holy Spirit has come to dwell in your heart from the day that you believed and received Christ.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES ASSURANCE**

Read Romans 8:15-16; according to these verses, the Holy Spirit gives you assurance. He bears witness with your spirit that you are a child of God. Deep within your heart the Holy Spirit will tell you, "You are now a child of God." Since receiving Christ, have you experienced this inner witness of the Holy Spirit, assuring you that you are now a child of God?

**THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES EVIDENCES**

You will know that the Holy Spirit is living in you because He gives evidences of His presence.

- *Evidence #1: Desire and ability to call Jesus as Lord of your life.*

Read 1 Corinthians 12:3; Romans 10:9-10. True faith in Christ involves recognizing and accepting His lordship. Only the Holy Spirit can give you the desire and ability to accept Christ as Lord of your life sincerely and honestly. Jesus warns us that there are people who call Him "Lord" only with their lips but not with their heart. Read Matthew 7:21-23.

- *Evidence #2: Desire and ability to pray.*

Read Galatians 4:6 and Romans 8:15; according to these verses, the Holy Spirit enables the Christian to pray to God and call Him "Father". Remember what we talked about in Lesson 1 concerning prayer? When you have the time, please review that lesson later.

- *Evidence #3: Hunger for God's Word and ability to understand God's Word.*

Read 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Corinthians 2:12-14. A non-Christian, does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, most especially the Word of God. In fact, he despises the Word of God and calls it foolishness. On the other hand, if you are a true Christian, you will hunger for God's Word and you will understand God's Word, because of the Holy Spirit who lives in you.

- *Evidence #4: A changed life, characterized by hatred for sin and love for holiness.*

Read Romans 8:4; Galatians 5:17-25; 2 Corinthians 5:17. The non-Christian is controlled by a power called the "flesh" (old sinful nature); therefore, he sets his mind on things of the flesh. The flesh manifests itself through all kinds of sinful attitudes, sinful actions, and sinful habits (Galatians 5:19-21). Before you became a Christian you were a slave to the flesh.

When you received Christ as Lord and Savior, God sent the Holy Spirit to live in your heart to give you the power to overcome the flesh and the power to obey God's holy commands. You need to submit to the control of the Holy Spirit by setting your mind on things of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit manifests Himself through His fruit (Galatians 5:22,23).

How do you set your mind on the things of the Spirit? One practical and powerful way is to memorize verses and then review and meditate on them whenever the flesh tempts you to go back to your old sinful habits and pleasures.

- *Evidence #5: Desire and ability to tell others about Christ.*

Read Acts 1:8; according to this verse, when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will become a witness for Christ. You will no longer be afraid or ashamed to tell others about Christ.

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

Continually trust and obey the Holy Spirit when He motivates you to:

- (1) Follow Christ as your Lord in all areas of life.
- (2) Pray regularly.
- (3) Read and study your Bible consistently.
- (4) Avoid sin and seek after holiness.
- (5) Tell others about Christ.

**MEMORIZE**

*John 14:16-17 - And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever -- the Holy Spirit, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. John 14:16-17*

**DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING**

- a. Continue your PRAYER PARTNER evangelistic outreach, using Book 1 with your prospects.
- b. THIS WEEK

Meet with your Bible study leader:

- (1) To have Daily Devotional Time together;
- (2) To review your memory verses.