



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

**By Pastor Bien Llobrera**

**BOOK 3**

*Left Hand: Needs of a Spiritual Youth*

**LESSON 1**

**YOUTH LEFT HAND: NEEDS OF A SPIRITUAL YOUTH**

**THUMB: PRAYER – II**

THE Christian life goes through three major stages. Let's read 1 John 2:12-14:

<sup>12</sup> I write to you, little children,  
Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.  
<sup>13</sup> 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 wicked one.  
I write to you, little children,  
Because you have known the Father.  
<sup>14</sup> I have written to you, fathers,  
Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning.  
I have written to you, young men,  
Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you,

Please note the following stages:

- LITTLE CHILDREN (BABY)

- YOUNG MEN (YOUTH)
- FATHERS (PARENT)

In all three stages your spiritual needs as a Christian remain the same, but your understanding and experience of these needs will go deeper as you grow from one stage to the next.

As a spiritual baby you learned that prayer is spiritual breathing. You exhale by giving THANKS to God for His blessings. You inhale by ASKING God for your needs.

As you grow toward the stage of spiritual youth, you will learn more effective ways to exhale (GIVE THANKS) and to inhale (ASK) in prayer.

## **A. WORSHIP**

At the beginning of physical life, a child knows his parents only as suppliers of his needs. As that child grows into a youth, he develops in his appreciation of his parents for who they are.

Similarly in the spiritual life, we first know God as the giver of our needs. Hence, we learned first that prayer is thanking God. Now we must learn that prayer is more than thanking God for meeting our needs.

Prayer is WORSHIP. Worship includes two things, praise and thanksgiving. What is the difference between praise and thanksgiving? PRAISE focuses on God's person and His qualities. THANKSGIVING focuses on God's works and gifts.

### **1. PRAISE**

(1) How do we praise God? One effective way to learn to praise God is to study the prayers of worship in the book of Psalms. For example, note how Psalm 33 focuses on the person and qualities of God:

Psalm 33:

Verses 4-5. Praise Him for His qualities: "The word of the Lord is upright"; "All His work is done in faithfulness"; "He loves righteousness and justice"; "The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the Lord."

Verses 6-9. Praise Him for His power in creation.

Verses 10-12. Praise Him for His power in the affairs of nations and governments.

Verses 13-22. Praise Him for His personal care and concern for individuals.

(2) We also learn to praise God from the prayers of other great believers in the Old and New Testament. During your Daily Devotional Time, meditate on any of these prayers of worship:

1 Chronicles 29:10-13;  
Daniel 2:20-23;  
Habakkuk 3:1-19;  
Luke 1:46-55;  
Revelation 4:8,11; 5:9,10,12,13.

## **2. THANKSGIVING**

(1) After you have praised God for His person and His qualities, thank Him for His works and gifts. The book of Psalms is full of prayers of thanksgiving. During your Daily Devotional Time meditate on any of these prayers of thanksgiving: Psalm 8; 19; 100; 103; 104; 145-150.

(2) God has three works that we should especially thank Him for:

- His work in creation;
- His work in redemption;
- His work in providence, His daily love and care of all His creatures, particularly, of His children; His personal dealings with each of one of us.

## **B. PRAYER FOR OTHERS (INTERCESSION)**

In the physical life, a child is concerned mainly about his needs. As he grows older, he will become conscious that other people have needs, too. In the spiritual life, we first learn to ask God for our needs. As we grow spiritually, we will learn that prayer also includes asking God on behalf of others; we call this INTERCESSION.

### **1. FOR WHOM SHOULD WE PRAY?**

- Family;
- Other Christians;
- God's workers (missionaries, pastors, evangelists, and church workers);
- Non-Christians;
- Government and government officials.

## 2. FOR WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY

- Salvation for non-Christians (Romans 10:1; 1 Timothy 2:3,4);
- Spiritual growth for Christians (Ephesians 3:14-21; 6:18; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-12);
- Protection, provision, and power for God's workers (Ephesians 6:19,20; Colossians 4:2-4; 2 Thessalonians 3:1,2).
- God's sovereign control over government and government officials so that there will be peace and freedom for the Gospel to be proclaimed (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
- Needs and problems (physical, material, financial, emotional, spiritual) of people that God in our circle of relationships. We have the PRIVILEGE of praying for everybody; but we have the DUTY to pray for people that are within our circle of spiritual influence.

## 3. HOW DO WE PRAY FOR SO MANY PERSONS AND NEEDS?

- Trust the Holy Spirit. Prayer should always be in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 6:18). The Holy Spirit will impress upon our hearts to pray for certain persons and needs (Romans 8:26, 27).
- Make a prayer list. When writing in your prayer list, God wants us to use the sound mind that He has given us while always depending on the Holy Spirit to guide us in who and what to include (persons and needs to be prayed for) (2 Timothy 1:7, KJV; Ephesians 5:17; Philippians 4:6,7). A prayer list helps us to pray intelligently and systematically. (Sample prayer list below.)

## 4. THE LORD'S PRAYER: A PATTERN

The Lord Jesus gave us THE LORD'S PRAYER as a pattern (Mateo 6:9-13). It is good to pray the Lord's Prayer from memory exactly as it is. But the Lord gave us the Lord's Prayer as a guide regarding what we should include in our prayers.

- *OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN.*

Normally, we should address our prayer to God the Father, in the name of Christ, depending on the power of the Holy Spirit.

- *HALLOWED BE THY NAME.*

The first thing we should do in prayer is to worship God, to praise Him for who He is and to thank Him for His blessings.

- *THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.*

In prayer, let us ask God to give us discernment regarding His will and let us submit to His will as He reveals it to us.

- *GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.*

In prayer we ask God for our daily needs, material as well as spiritual.

- *AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US.*

In prayer let us make sure that we are in right relationship with God and with other people. Let's ask for forgiveness and cleansing for our sins and failings. We must make sure we do not have any hatred or unforgiving spirit against those who have hurt us.

- *AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.*

In prayer let us ask for wisdom and strength to fight against the temptations and lies and works of Satan.

- *FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOREVER. AMEN.*

We began our prayer in worship, let us also end our prayer in worship.

### **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

- You exhale by PRAISING God for His person and qualities; and by THANKING God for His works and gifts.
- You inhale by asking God for PERSONAL needs and problems as well as for the needs and problems of OTHERS. Begin making your prayer list now. Use your prayer list daily, and update them regularly.

### **MEMORIZE**

*Ephesians 6:18 - Praying with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. Ephesians 6:18*

**DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING**

Continue your PRAYER PARTNER evangelistic outreach, using Book 1 with your prospects.

**THIS WEEK**

Meet with your Bible study leader:

(1) To have Daily Devotional Time together;

(2) To review your memory verses.



Read Ephesians 6:17. The Word of God is the Sword of the Spirit. How should we hold our sword? The Navigators, a Christian discipleship organization, originally designed an illustration, which shows us how we may grasp the Sword of the Spirit firmly with the whole hand.

### **LITTLE FINGER: HEAR GOD'S WORD.**

Our little finger represents the first way of grasping God's Word: HEAR IT.

Read Romans 10:17. The word of God which we need to hear first is the Gospel of salvation. Then, after we become Christians, we are commanded to continue hearing the Word of God as it is taught and preached by Bible teachers and preachers.

*EVALUATE YOUR HEARING:*

*Where and when do you HEAR God's Word regularly taught and preached?*

### **RING FINGER: READ GOD'S WORD.**

Our ring finger represents the second way of grasping God's Word: READ IT.

Reading God's Word is commanded and commended. Look at Revelation 1:3. You should read at least one chapter of the Bible everyday. Many Christians have set as their goal to read the Bible through once a year. This is easily done by reading two chapters in the morning and two chapters in the evening from Monday through Saturday; and by reading six chapters on Sunday.

The important thing is not the amount you read. The important thing is to read at least a portion of God's Word everyday.

*EVALUATE YOUR READING:*

*How much of the Bible do you READ everyday?*

### **MIDDLE FINGER: STUDY GOD'S WORD.**

Our middle finger represents the third way of grasping the Sword of God's Word: STUDY IT.

An excellent example is provided by the new Christians in Berea. Read Acts 17:10,11.

How were the Bereans described? They were called noble. Why? Because they studied the Scriptures carefully, daily, in order to find out for themselves if what the apostle Paul said was indeed true. Can you believe it? The ordinary Christians in Berea checked whether or not the apostle Paul's teaching was truly from the Bible! And God's Word called them NOBLE!

By the way, this is one major sign whether a church is true or false. In a true Christian church everybody – pastors and teachers and ordinary members – EVERYONE has equal right and privilege to read and study the Bible for himself or herself. In a false religion like the Manalo Church, the minister actually tells the members: “Only I, the minister, have the right the look into the Bible and I will tell you, the members, what it says.” So avoid a church or group where the members are not allowed or encouraged to read and study the Bible for themselves.

There are many helpful Bible study guides available in Christian bookstores. But you can have a profitable Bible study by yourself or with a group of Christians by answering questions, which are based on the four purposes of the Scripture. Read 2 Timothy 3:16,17. The Bible was given by God's inspiration for four purposes:

1. *TEACHING OR DOCTRINE* to tell us what truth to believe.

Question 1: What truth does this verse or chapter teach?

2. *REPROOF* to tell us to stop or remove from our lives sins, sinful habits, or sinful relationships.

Question 2: What action, habit, or relationship does this verse or chapter reprove me of? What does the passage tell me to stop doing or stop keeping in my life?

3. *CORRECTION* to show us how to get back to the right path.

Question 3: What does this verse or chapter show as my means of correction, or as my way of getting back to the right path?

4. *INSTRUCTION OR TRAINING* to help us to stay and continue on the right path until we develop a mature, Christlike character and way of life.

Question 4: What does this verse or chapter give as my means of training, or as the practical way that I can follow in order to stay on the right path and to keep going on in the right direction?

*EVALUATE YOUR STUDY:*

*What Bible study course are you presently involved in? Where and how often do you attend a regular Bible study group? If not yet, do you know of a Bible study group that you can join?*

**POINTING FINGER: MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD**

The pointing finger represents the fourth way that we grasp the Sword of God's Word: MEMORIZE IT.

Read Psalm 119:11. According to this verse, what is the resource that God has provided to keep us from sin? Memorizing God's Word – keeping God's Word in our heart – will keep us from sin.

*EVALUATE YOUR MEMORIZATION:*

*Are you memorizing scripture verses regularly? What is the last verse that you memorized?*

**THUMB: MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD**

The thumb represents the fifth way of grasping our spiritual Sword, God's Word: MEDITATE ON IT.

Just as our thumb is used in combination with all four fingers in order for us to have a firm grip; even so, we must MEDITATE on what we HEAR, READ, STUDY, and MEMORIZE, in order for God's Word to become effective in our life. How do we meditate? Follow three steps:

*Step 1:* Think about what the verse was really saying to the original hearers and readers.

*Step 2:* Think about what the verse means to you today.

*Step 3:* Think about ways of obeying and applying God's Word to your life at this time.

*EVALUATE YOUR MEDITATION:*

*How much time do you give to meditating or thinking over God's Word?*

**PALM: OBEY GOD'S WORD.**

The final way of firmly holding God's Word as our Sword is represented by the palm of our hand: OBEY IT.

(This point is not part of the original illustration by the Navigators.) We must apply and practice God's Word in our life. Jesus illustrates the absolute importance of applying and practicing God's Word. Read Matthew 7:24-27.

*EVALUATE YOUR OBEDIENCE:*

*Do you make it a habit to apply God's Word regularly to your daily life? What was the last thing that you learned from the Bible? How did you apply or obey it in your life?*

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

These are the SIX WAYS of grasping firmly the Sword of the Spirit, the Bible: HEAR, READ, STUDY, MEMORIZE, MEDITATE, and OBEY.

As we learn to grasp the Sword of the Spirit in six ways, then we are able to grow spiritually, and we can use God's Word as our Sword for offense and defense against the world, the flesh and the devil.

**MEMORIZE**

*Ephesians 6:17 - And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:17*

**DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING**

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**THIS WEEK**

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

**LESSON 3**

**YOUTH LEFT HAND: NEEDS OF A SPIRITUAL YOUTH**

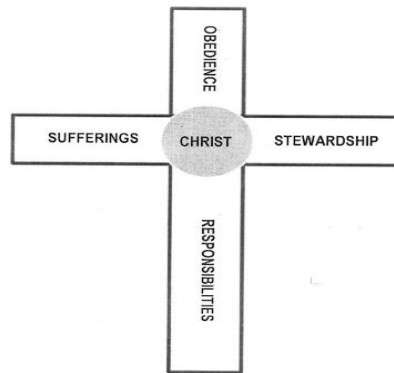
**MIDDLE FINGER: CROSS**

AS a spiritual baby, you received the assurance of eternal life. Both the heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus hold you safely in their mighty and loving hands (John 10:28-29).

However, as a growing youth Christian, the Lord Jesus wants you to know that there is a price you must pay in following Him. The price of following the Lord Jesus is the cross. He says to you: "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23).

Let us draw an illustration of the cross to show what carrying your cross means. There are five things involved in carrying the cross, and these may be easily remembered through the symbol and acronym of the C – R – O – S – S:

- Christ
- Responsibilities
- Obedience
- Sufferings
- Stewardship



**C – R – O – S – S**  
Christ (Cristo); Responsibilities (Responsibilidad);  
Obedience (Pagsunod); Sufferings (Paghihirap);  
Stewardship (Katiwala)

**CENTER OF THE CROSS: CHRIST THE LORD OF YOUR LIFE**

To begin, let's draw a circle. In mathematics the circle represents zero. In order to carry your cross, the first thing you must do is to DENY YOURSELF, to remove yourself from the center of your life, in order to crown CHRIST AS LORD. From now on, you must submit yourself to His full control. Read Philippians 2:9-11.

Around this circle, we draw the four bars of the cross.

**BOTTOM BAR: RESPONSIBILITIES**

The bottom vertical bar of the cross represents the RESPONSIBILITIES OF A DISCIPLE that the Lord Jesus commands all His followers to exercise daily.

1. *THE WORD* (read John 8:31). If you are truly Christ's disciple, you will continue in God's Word (as explained in Youth Left Hand – Pointing Finger).
2. *PRAYER* (read John 15:7). If you are truly Christ's disciple you will continue in the daily discipline of prayer, especially your DAILY DEVOTIONAL TIME (as explained in Youth Left Hand – Thumb).

3. *FELLOWSHIP* (read John 13:34-35). If you are truly Christ's disciple you will continue in fellowship with the BODY OF CHRIST (as explained in Youth Left Hand – Ring Finger).

4. *WITNESSING* (read John 15:8). If you are truly Christ's disciple, you will continue in WITNESSING for Christ (as explained in Youth Left Hand – Little Finger).

### **TOP BAR: OBEDIENCE**

The top vertical bar represents total OBEDIENCE to the WILL OF GOD. If you are truly Christ's disciple, you will walk in the same path as He walked, in the path of the will of God. While He was on earth, He said: "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work" (John 4:34). "And He who sent Me is with me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him" (John 8:29).

If you want to follow Christ, dedicate yourself to do will of God for the rest of your life. When you make decisions, you will no longer say, "This is what I want." Rather, you will ask, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

### **LEFT BAR: SUFFERINGS**

The left horizontal bar represents SUFFERINGS that may come to you as a result of following God's Will. These may come in the form of persecutions from your own family and friends, and from the world in general. If you are truly Christ's disciple, you will be ready to be rejected even by your own parents, brothers, sisters, husband or wife, children, and friends. Read Luke 14:26-27. What does "hate your wife or brother or sister or children, etc." mean? It means this: When the claims of Christ come in conflict with the wishes of your loved ones, you have to choose which to follow. If you choose to follow Christ, then your loved ones will think you "hate" them because you love Christ more.

### **RIGHT BAR: STEWARDSHIP**

The right horizontal of the cross represents STEWARDSHIP. This means that from now on we are no longer owners but stewards or managers of what God has given to us – we are no longer owners of our life, our time, abilities, money, possessions, relationships, opportunities. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. As stewards our main responsibility is to use the treasures entrusted to us for God's glory and purposes. Later on, we will study further this important topic of stewardship.

As stewards we will offer ourselves to God as a living SACRIFICE in order to serve Him. Read Romans 12:1. In the Old Testament, an animal offered as sacrifice was killed; it was totally and irrevocably given up to God; and it was consumed by the fire of the altar. In the New Testament, when you offer yourself as a living sacrifice, you give yourself completely to God to be filled

and controlled by the living fire of God's Holy Spirit (Youth Left Hand -- Palm), in order to spend yourself to fulfill God's purpose for the rest of your life and to serve Him in the ministry that He gives you.

But someone said, there is one problem with a living sacrifice: sometimes it wants to crawl away from the altar in order to follow its own desires. This is why we must continually maintain the attitude of absolute surrender and obedience to God's Holy Spirit.

### **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

Always remember C-R-O-S-S: Carry your CROSS daily and follow Christ.

### **MEMORIZE**

*Luke 9:23 - "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." Luke 9:23*

### **DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING**

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## **LESSON 4**

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

#### **RING FINGER: BODY OF CHRIST**

AS a spiritual baby, you learned that you have become a part of the Family of God.

To develop as a spiritual youth, you need to understand other aspects of the Family of God.

Christians are described in many ways in the Bible. They are called the *Family of God* because they are called to a parent-child relationship with God, and to a relationship with other Christians as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Christians are also called the *Body of Christ*. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. The Body of Christ is composed of every person who believes and obeys Christ as Head, and who has received the Holy Spirit through the new birth. The moment a person truly accepts Christ as Lord, that moment he receives the Holy Spirit as an indwelling Presence, and at that same moment he is placed into the Body of Christ.

The picture of the Body brings out the following truths:

### **A. CHRIST THE HEAD**

Christians receive their life, direction, and support from Christ the Head, to whom they give complete obedience and trust.

### **B. ONE BODY**

Christians are bound to each other in a relationship that is characterized by unity, diversity, and mutual care.

- 1) *Unity* means there is only one Body. Although Christians may gather as small groups or congregations in different localities, yet there is only one Body of Christ. To this Body belong all true Christians in all places throughout the world through all time, past, present, and future.
- 2) *Diversity* means that Christians have different gifts and ministries, just as the physical body has different parts with differing abilities and functions.
- 3) *Mutual care* means that all Christians together are working toward one goal: that of building up the Body of Christ so that Christ may be fully glorified in and through His Body.

### **BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST**

In the human body growth depends on the proper functioning of each part. Even so in the Body of Christ, spiritual growth comes only when each Christian within the fellowship does his part. There are at least SIX BASIC FUNCTIONS which you, as a growing Christian, must learn to exercise in order to contribute to the growth of the Body of Christ. We may also place these truths on a hand illustration which we'll call THE HAND OF FELLOWSHIP, containing the "ONE ANOTHER" MINISTRIES that believers are commanded to exercise within the Body of Christ.

**PALM: LOVE ONE ANOTHER (read John 13:34-35).**

This is our all-embracing responsibility within the Body of Christ. We are to love one another with the same quality and intensity as Christ loves each one of us. When problems and misunderstandings arise within the fellowship, we must learn to ask constantly, "How can I show Christ's perfect love in this situation toward this or that member?"

**THUMB: ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER (read Romans 15:7).**

If love is the all-embracing responsibility, then accepting one another is the first demonstration of love. If you love me you will accept me as Christ has accepted me. When you accept a person you stop looking at his face, money, education, dress, or even his smell. You will look at the person as an individual for whom Christ died. And because that individual is now your brother or sister, you are willing to accept the value Christ placed upon him or her.

**POINTING FINGER: PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER (read Ephesians 6:18).**

This verse says we are to pray for all saints. Saints, in the Bible, refer living Christians. We are commanded to pray for all Christians. Think of prayer in this way. When you pray for someone, you are actually opening the windows of heaven so that God's blessings are poured out upon the one we are praying for. Can there be a more effective way to give gifts to others than by praying for them?

**MIDDLE FINGER: HELP ONE ANOTHER (read 1 John 3:16-17).**

This refers to practical, material help. We cannot love only in words; we must back up our words with action. The first Christians exercised this helpfulness toward one another (read Acts 2:44,45). Of course, helpfulness must be guided by wisdom. We must avoid encouraging the dependent or beggar mentality. We must help people to help themselves. Also, we must avoid the attitude of self-exalting paternalism. In other words, those who give must never think or feel that they are superior to those to whom they give. Still another attitude that we must avoid is the pride of the poor. Some needy people refuse to receive help because they feel abased before the eyes of others. In the Body of Christ, mutual helpfulness is the rule. The abundance and strength of one member will supply the lack and weakness of another member (read 2 Corinthians 8:13-15).

**RING FINGER: TEACH ONE ANOTHER (read Colossians 3:16).**

We need to teach the Word of God to each other. You may ask, "But what can I teach?" You can teach what you have already learned, applied, and experienced in your life. As you teach, maintain the attitude of openness and teachability. Always keep in mind that we are all learners together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**LITTLE FINGER: RESTORE ONE ANOTHER (read Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-17).**

This deals with the important duty of CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

What do we do when a part of the Body gets sick? Do we cut off the sick part? No, we restore it back to health and normal functioning. In the Body of Christ, sickness means that sin has entered the life of a Christian brother or sister. The usual symptom of sin-sickness is broken relationship. Sick members stop talking to one another; they start avoiding one another. How do we restore one another?

THE LORD'S 3-STEP PROCESS: The Lord Jesus gives very clear instructions, which we must strictly follow, regarding the proper steps to take in church discipline.

**Matthew 18:15-17:**

*<sup>15</sup> “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ <sup>17</sup> And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.*

- **Step 1:** One-on-One Meeting. The member who becomes aware of the problem should talk directly to the person involved in a sin, without letting anybody else know about the problem between the two of them. If the problem is solved by the two of them, the matter is closed, and nobody else should know anything about it.
- **Step 2:** Small Group Meeting. If the problem is not resolved in Step 1, proceed to Step 2. The member who took Step 1 should take one or two mature Christians, to serve as witnesses; these mature Christians may also help in clarifying and counseling regarding the problem. If the problem is solved by the small group meeting, then the matter is closed. Nobody else needs to know about it.
- **Step 3:** Church Meeting. Only if Steps 1 and 2 fail to resolve the problem will you resort to Step 3. At this stage, the whole Body of Christ, the church, must be made aware of the problem. The people involved in Step 2 must make a report to the pastor and leaders (elders, deacons), who will then call a special meeting of the church members. The purpose of the meeting is to seek the mind of the Lord from the Scriptures and through the leading of the Holy Spirit as to what action to take. This action will include calling the offending member to repent and to ask forgiveness from the Lord and from the church, with a promise to forsake his/her sin completely.

The Lord makes it clear, if a person refuses to repent, that person must be removed from the membership of the church. But after removal, he/she must be treated lovingly as a sinner needing the Lord's salvation.

This last function, RESTORING ONE ANOTHER, may seem very difficult. But let's remember: if we faithfully do the first five functions, the process of restoration will most often result in healing, instead of cutting off.

### **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

Faithfully fulfill your functions and you will grow spiritually, and God will also use you to help others grow.

### **MEMORIZE**

*Romans 12:4-5 - For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Romans 12:4-5*

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- (2) To review your memory verses.

## **LESSON 5**

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

#### **LITTLE FINGER: WITNESSING**

AS a spiritual baby, you learned how to speak spiritual "baby talk" – inviting non-Christian relatives or friends to a Bible study or to a church service; or introducing them to a mature Christian who can share the Gospel with them.

As a spiritual youth, you must learn to talk more clearly and meaningfully about the Lord. There are two effective ways that you can use in witnessing for Christ: through your personal testimony and through a Gospel presentation.

#### **A. PERSONAL LIFE TESTIMONY**

In Acts 26 the apostle Paul gives an excellent example of a personal life testimony.

- 1) *Tell of your past life before you received Christ (read Acts 26:1-11).* Note the things Paul mentioned about his life as a non-Christian. In your testimony, describe your life before you met Christ.
- 2) *Tell of your encounter with Christ (read Acts 26:12-18).* Note the things Paul said concerning his meeting with Christ. Describe when, where, and how you came to know Christ. Also mention the Bible verse or verses that helped you to receive Christ.
- 3) *Tell of your life after you received Christ (read Acts 26:19-29).* Note the changes in his life that Paul mentioned as a result of his encounter with Christ. Describe several changes that you have experienced after you have accepted Christ.

### **GUIDELINES IN WRITING YOUR TESTIMONY**

In preparing your personal testimony, it is best to write it down, following these guidelines:

- 1) Cut it down to a length that you can share in 3-5 minutes.
- 2) Make it personal. Tell about your attitudes, ideas, and way of life, both before and after you have met Christ.
- 3) You don't need to be very specific about the actual sins of your past life. Give a general description of your life to show that life without Christ has no meaning, no purpose, no satisfaction, no joy, and no assurance about the future. Avoid mentioning specific persons in your past life that may embarrass them.
- 4) In sharing about your encounter with Christ, be specific about the following: what verse or truth from the Bible convicted and enlightened you; what was your first reaction to Christ; what finally convinced you to accept Christ.
- 5) In mentioning changes, also be specific about the things that changed, in terms of actions, attitudes, directions, habits, and relationships.
- 6) Memorize your testimony after you have polished it. Memorizing your testimony will keep you from forgetting important facts about your experience in Christ; it will also help you to keep your spoken testimony down to 3-5 minutes. Of course, when you share your testimony, don't recite it mechanically, but share it naturally.

### **HOW TO SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY**

How do you get opportunities to share your personal testimony? Here are some suggestions:

*Suggestion 1:*

When your non-Christian friend brings up a religious topic, you may say: "You know, I'm glad you brought up a religious topic. Myself, there was a time when religious things were so far from my mind." (At this point bring in your testimony.)

*Suggestion 2:*

You may introduce a religious or spiritual topic yourself, by saying: "By the way, have you ever thought about your relationship with God? There was a time in my life when such a relationship was foreign to me." (Give your testimony.)

*Suggestion 3:*

When your non-christian friend shares a problem or need, you may say: "Like you, I also face problems and needs. But you know what I found out? If we have God on our side, we will have the strength to face any problem that comes. May I share with you how I came to be assured of my relationship with God?" (If your friend allows you, give your testimony.)

**B. GOSPEL PRESENTATION**

A Gospel Presentation is an orderly arrangement and explanation of the basic truths of the Gospel. Two popular presentations are "The Bridge" (from the Navigators) and "Four Spiritual Laws" (from Campus Crusades). In this discipleship training, we are going to learn the GOSPEL HAND. .

REVIEW BOOK 1, LESSON 1. Read through the lesson several times, then practice READING IT TOGETHER with a Christian friend who will role play as a non-Christian.

**INTRODUCING THE GOSPEL**

How do you introduce the Gospel Hand while conversing with a friend? Follow these suggestions:

*Suggestion 1:*

When the person you're talking with shows an interest in spiritual matters, you may begin by saying: "May I present to you an illustration, which helped me to clarify my spiritual need." (Proceed to the Gospel Hand.)

*Suggestion 2:*

You may use the direct approach by saying: "Has anyone shared with you God's message of love for you in the Bible? May I share this message with you?"

*Suggestion 3:*

You may use the need-centered approach. When a person expresses a need for which he is looking for a solution desperately, you may say: "I have found that God has the answer to all our needs. But first we must have a right relationship with Him. May I share with you an illustration, which shows how a person may have a right relationship with God?" (Proceed to the Gospel Hand.)

*Suggestion 4:*

If you have not done this yet, do this with the members of your Book 3 Discipleship Cell Group.

1. **PRAYER PARTNER TEAMS.** Organize your cell members into PRAYER PARTNER TEAMS consisting of two or three members, same sex, about the same age.
2. **LIST PROSPECTS.** Instruct the PRAYER PARTNER TEAMS 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 PARTNER TEAMS will regularly pray in their personal prayers and as a team for their prospects.
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 for our life, not only materially but spiritually."

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

Why should you witness? There are three compelling reasons:

- First, God commands it (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8);

- Second, people need it (Romans 10:13,14);
- Third, you experienced it (1 John 1:3).

**MEMORIZE**

*Acts 1:8 - But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8*

**DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING**

Continue your PRAYER PARTNER evangelistic outreach, using Book 1 with your prospects.

**THIS WEEK**

Meet with your Bible study leader:

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

**LESSON 6**

**YOUTH LEFT HAND: NEEDS OF A SPIRITUAL YOUTH**

**PALM: HOLY SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE**

AS a spiritual baby, you learned about the indwelling Holy Spirit.

As a growing youth Christian, you must learn how to let the Holy Spirit take full control of your life so that you may have victory over sin and have power to serve God.

The Christian life is the easiest and also the hardest life to live. If we live the Christian life in our power, we will fail. If we live the Christian life in God's power, great victories and blessings await us. What is this power that God has given?

This power is not a WHAT, but a WHO, not a thing but a Person – the Holy Spirit. Christians must always seek to live and work under the control of the Holy Spirit, who lives within them. Read Ephesians 5:18. The command in this verse contains a negative and a positive aspect.

Positively, we should be filled with – controlled by – the Holy Spirit. Negatively, we must remove everything that blocks the flow of the Holy Spirit in our lives. To experience the complete control of the Holy Spirit, follow these six steps.

- **STEP 1: KNOW THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES IN YOU.**

Read Romans 8:15-16. According to these verses, when a person is born again, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in his life. Are you a Christian? Have you truly received Christ as your Lord and Savior? Do you remember when you asked Christ to come into your heart? If you have truly believed in Christ and received Him, then know for sure that the Holy Spirit is already inside you.

- **STEP 2: REMOVE THINGS THAT BLOCK THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

Read Ephesians 4:30. In this verse, we are commanded to stop grieving or blocking the Holy Spirit. If He is blocked, He cannot flow freely to fill us. What things block the Holy Spirit? Habitual sins; sinful habits; sinful attitudes, such as hatred, unwillingness to forgive, pride, worry, bitterness, etc. (read Ephesians 4:17-5:17). Any doubtful thing in your life also blocks the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:23).

Before you can experience the filling of the Holy Spirit, you need to confess and forsake all known sins, sinful habits, sinful attitudes, and sinful relationships, even doubtful matters in your life. Take time to examine your heart in the light of God's Word; allow the Holy Spirit to convict you right now. Fully confess all sins which the Holy Spirit exposes. Then claim the complete forgiveness and cleansing which God promised in 1 John 1:9.

- **STEP 3: SURRENDER YOUR LIFE FULLY AND UNRESERVEDLY TO GOD.**

Read Romans 12:1,2. To be filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit, we must surrender every part of our life to His control. We are like containers. After removing the dirt and blockages, we need to turn the whole container over to God for His exclusive use. Sincerely pray this prayer:

*"Dear heavenly Father, I now fully surrender my life to you, my whole spirit, soul, and body, and all the days of my life, all that I have, and all my relationships. From now on I am yours alone and yours forever. In Christ's name. Amen."*

- **STEP 4: CLAIM BY FAITH THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

We became children of God by simply asking in faith that Christ will come into our life. We receive the filling of the Holy Spirit also by asking in faith that God will fill us with His Holy Spirit. The basis of our faith are these verses: Ephesians 5:18; Luke 11:13; and 1 John 5:14,15. Note:

- *God's will.* God commands you to be filled with His Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
- *God's promise.* God promises to give you the Holy Spirit when you ask (Luke 11:13).

- *God's guarantee.* God guarantees that if you pray according to His will, you may already claim God's positive answer to your prayer on the basis of 1 John 5:14,15.

Sincerely pray this prayer:

*"Heavenly Father, You command me to be filled with the Holy Spirit. You promise to give the Holy Spirit if I ask. You also assure me that You will answer my prayer because it is according to Your will. Therefore, in obedience to Your command and encouraged by Your promise, I ask you now, Father, to fill me and control me with your Holy Spirit. By faith I now claim the filling of the Holy Spirit. Thank You for filling me now. In Christ's name. Amen."*

After praying this prayer in faith, act upon God's promise. From that moment on, always count on the Holy Spirit's control of your whole life. As you go about your daily task, always depend on the presence, power, and control of the Holy Spirit. At the beginning of each day, take time to meditate on the fact that He has filled you and is filling you. As you do your work throughout the day, maintain the attitude of dependence upon and fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

- **STEP 5: WALK BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

Read Galatians 5:16-17, 22-25. To walk by the Holy Spirit means to maintain the disciplines of the Christian life, as you have learned these in the Youth Left Hand: Middle Finger. Always be in the attitude of PRAYER. Obey GOD'S WORD. Maintain your DAILY DEVOTIONAL TIME. Practice active FELLOWSHIP with other Christians. WITNESS for Christ as God gives you the opportunity.

Above all, allow the Holy Spirit to bear His FRUIT in and through you (Galatians 5:22,23). For example, don't say, "It's hard to love my enemy." Rather say, "Holy Spirit, I want You to love that person through me." Don't say, "I cannot witness." Rather say, "Holy Spirit, witness for Christ through my lips." The secret is to let the Holy Spirit fill you until He overflows with His fruit and power through your life to others.

- **STEP 6: EXERCISE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7. Every Christian has been given a spiritual gift, or a God-given ability to serve the Lord. Later on in Book 13, we shall study how you may discover, develop, and use your spiritual gifts. For now, start by exercising love as expressed in serving others according to your present ability.

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

Always make sure that you are filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit. Take time to follow the six steps explained in this lesson. The Holy Spirit-filled Life is the normal Christian life. Don't live any day longer without the Holy Spirit's fullness.

**MEMORIZE**

*Ephesians 5:18 - And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18*

**DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING**

Continue your PRAYER PARTNER evangelistic outreach, using Book 1 with your prospects.

**THIS WEEK**

Meet with your Bible study leader:

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

**YOUR NEXT STUDY: NEWLIFE BOOK 4.**