

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

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BOOK 7

Youth Right Hand: Keys to Victory

LESSON 1 – PART ONE

BAPTISM AND VICTORY

From the pattern set for us by the Lord Jesus, baptism and victory have a very close connection.

What happened at the baptism of Jesus? Three things:

- First, IDENTIFICATION WITH FALLEN HUMANITY.

Though He Himself lived a perfect human life from birth up to that point, and He had no personal sins to repent of, He submitted to John the Baptist's baptism of repentance in order to identify with sinful humanity. He did this to confirm that He came to be the Second Representative Head, to replace the First Representative Head, Adam, who had fallen into sin and dragged down all humanity with him. Jesus, as Second Representative Head, would gain the victory and in so doing He will lift up all those who believe in Him back to the perfection which the Creator had planned all along for humanity (Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45-49).

- Second, DECLARATION AS THE FULLY PLEASING SON OF GOD.

At His baptism, the incarnate Son of God was declared by God the Father as fully pleasing to Him, having lived a perfect life of obedience from birth up to His age of about 30 years old (Matthew 3:17; Hebrews 2:18; 4:15; 5:7-10; 1 Peter 2:21, 22). His perfect obedience qualified Him for His three-fold ministry of Prophet (bringer of God's Word), Priest (both as Offerer and Offering of atonement), and King (who will gain completely victory over Satan, sin and the world, and regain the rulership over all creation, which had been lost by Adam (John 1:1-3, 14-18; Hebrews 9:11-15; Hebrews 2:14, 15; Philippians 2:5-11).

- Third, ANOINTING WITH THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

As the divine Word-made-flesh (John 1:1, 14) He came to live among humanity as a complete human being, with His full divine nature and attributes veiled and not to be used. At His baptism God poured on Him the unlimited anointing of the Holy Spirit and throughout His earthly life and ministry He depended without limit on the Holy Spirit as His sole and complete resource (Matthew 3:16; John 3:34, 35; Luke 4:14). Adam had the same access to the unlimited power of the Holy Spirit but he failed to take advantage of it. The risen Lord Jesus now gives the Holy Spirit to all believers the same unlimited resource of the Holy Spirit (John 1:32-34; 14:26; 16:7-15; Acts 2:32, 33).

TEMPTATION AFTER BAPTISM

The temptation of Jesus followed immediately after His water baptism. Mark 1:12 used a very strong word to describe the Holy Spirit's action in bringing Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil: "And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness." The original Greek is BALLO, to throw, with the intensive prefix EK; the intensified verb may be expanded to say "forcibly throw" or "strongly thrust forth".

Let's picture this clearly in our mind:

Jesus fully identifies with humanity apart from sin, certainly, but still retaining all the potential weak points that human flesh is born with.

At the same time, Jesus holds a perfectly clean record up to that point at age 30, but now that flawless record will be challenged.

The only resource Jesus will depend on will be this same Holy Spirit who Himself is the One who is thrusting Him, in a manner of speaking, into the mouth of the lion itself.

WHAT HAPPENED AT OUR BAPTISM?

There are close parallels to the things that happened at Jesus' baptism.

Acts 2:36-38:

³⁶“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

³⁷Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”

³⁸Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the ^[k]remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 6:1-4:

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ²Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- First, REPENTANCE OF SINS AND FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS.

Submitting to baptism is an outward act with a double significance:

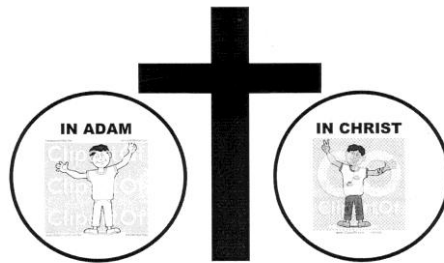
1. Demonstrates our repentance for our sins;
2. Demonstrates our faith in Jesus as Lord and Christ (Messiah, Savior).

- Second, RECEPTION OF FORGIVENESS AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

At the instance of repentance and faith (made visible by the act of submitting to baptism) God grants two gifts:

1. The gift of forgiveness based on the atoning blood of Jesus the Lamb of God;
2. The gift of the Holy Spirit who imparts two blessings:

- a. The blessing of being born again as a child of God, which is also called being adopted into the family of God, Whereas we were dead in trespasses and sins, through the power of the Holy Spirit we are made alive and given a new spiritual nature and we are permanently made a child in God's family (John 3:3, 5; Ephesians 2:1-5; 1 Peter 1:23; Galatians 4:6, 7).
 - b. The blessing of the indwelling Holy Spirit, who assures us of our sonship; who enables us to relate to our heavenly Father; who empowers us to live not as slaves but as children of God endowed with all the rights and privileges as heirs; who guarantees the full realization of our salvation (Romans 8:14-17; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; Ephesians 1:13, 14).
- Third, PERMANENT CUTTING OFF FROM ADAM THE FIRST REPRESENTATIVE AND PERMANENT UNION WITH CHRIST THE SECOND REPRESENTATIVE.



This is a divine action that God accomplished in Christ for our salvation. This is all by grace, received by virtue of God placing us in union with Christ; this accords with His divinely ordered principle of dealing with humanity through their respective representatives. In the same way that we were participants in Adam (our first representative head) and received all the consequences of his choices and actions, even so we were participants in Christ (our second representative Head) and received all the consequences of His choices and actions.

1. In union with Christ we died to our relationship to Adam and to sin; all our sinful past with Adam was buried in union with Christ's burial;
2. In union with Christ we rose to our new relationship with Christ and to new life henceforth to live in righteousness for God;
3. Our baptism stands as a permanent impenetrable wall between our old life in Adam and our new life in Christ. There can be no mixing between the two. Sin can no longer reach over the wall to have dominion over us; our union with Christ permanently secures us in God through His grace;

4. Through our union in Christ's death and resurrection, we also died to the old regime of living under the letter of the Law as a force dictating upon us from the outside as to what to do without giving us the power to do. We rose to the new regime of the Holy Spirit as the indwelling force directing us from the inside what to do while at the same time giving us the power to do (Romans 7:4-6; Galatians 3:21-27; Romans 8:1-4).

In our new life in Christ, we must always keep in mind these three realities regarding our baptism, and choose and behave accordingly.

However, there remains a real problem.

LESSON 1 – PART TWO

THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN NATURE

We still live in the same old human body that we were born with. Spiritually, we are now new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). But physically, we are the same old person inescapably tied to this “body of death”, this flesh that is subject to decay and death (Romans 7:24). Not only are we tied physically, we are tied psychologically to our habits of thinking, feeling, and choosing, tied to our sinful memories, enslaved by our sinful imaginations. We are a bundle of old habits of physical and intellectual pleasures, passions and pursuits (Ephesians 2:1-3). This old “body of death” no longer represents our true new identity in Christ. But only physical death can terminate our relationship with this unwelcome overstaying stranger.

Hence, as newborn believers in Christ, we experience a continual civil war between two irreconcilable combatants.

- THE OLD MAN VERSUS THE NEW MAN.

Ephesians 4:17-24:

¹⁷This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as ¹⁷the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:8-11:

⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

- THE FLESH VERSUS THE SPIRIT.

Galatians 5:16-25:

¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: ^[d]adultery, ^[e]fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, ^[f]murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ ^[g]gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

The dilemma is this:

- On the one hand, we know that the OLD MAN, the FLESH, is no longer our identity. This sinful character belongs to the old Adam, and our union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection has absolutely and permanently terminated our connection with it. And yet he seems still be alive and kicking and seeks to control us – and sadly, he often succeeds. We yield to his calls through the three old avenues, lust of the flesh (bodily appetites); lust of the eyes (desire to possess

what we see and desire to be seen and admired because of the things we possess); pride of life (pursuit of position and power and control over others).

- On the other hand, we know that the NEW MAN, the SPIRIT, is our genuine, new identity; and it has been created in divine knowledge, righteousness and holiness. God gives us the desire to pursue these qualities while at the same time He gives us the power to grow in these qualities. Frustratingly, it seems that often we fail to let the new man and the Spirit take full and consistent control of our lives.
- The issue is always this: How do we make the new man and the Spirit gain consistent victory?

FOUR STEPS

Key scriptures from the apostle Paul suggests FOUR STEPS. Each step deals with one aspect of our person:

- STEP 1 deals with the BODY;
- STEP 2 deals with the MIND;
- STEP 3 deals with the WILL,
- STEP 4 leads back to the BODY receiving a command from the WILL to take the right attitude and action.

Please carefully study the following scriptures, from which we'll discover the FOUR STEPS.

Romans 12:1, 2:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your* ^[b]reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- STEP 1: OFFER YOUR BODY AS A LIVING SACRIFICE TO GOD (Romans 12:1).

Our problem with the “body of death” is that it is the repository of all our past sinful habits embedded in memories of physical indulgences, habits of thinking and imaginings sensual pleasures, habitual emotions which have become practically instinctive, and a settled bent of the will toward prioritizing the physical appetites.

Hence, STEP 1 is to take back decisive control of your BODY by offering it as a living sacrifice to God. A sacrifice to God is an offering you will no longer take back; henceforth, your body belongs to God irrevocably for His exclusive purposes. A dead sacrifice is one-and-done. A living sacrifice is a continual, life-time offering, presented to God from moment to moment, one act at a time, one situation at a time.

- STEP 2: RENEW YOUR MIND (Romans 12:2).

Everything begins with the mind and in the mind. STEP 2 is to take back decisive control of the mind, the fountain of all feelings and decisions and actions.

- a. WORD OF GOD. How do you do this? By filling your mind with God’s Word (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; 119:9-11; 1 Peter 2:2; Colossians 3:16). Regularly, consistently and, as in a balanced diet, take in God’s Word through six avenues: hear, read, study, memorize, meditate, obey.
- b. HOLY SPIRIT. Ephesians 4:23 enjoins renewing “the spirit of your mind”. How do you do this? Through continually being filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). To be filled means to be controlled and guided and saturated by the Holy Spirit, always to set your mind on the Spirit and to walk in obedience to the Spirit (Romans 8:5, 14; Galatians 5:22-25).
- c. ONE THOUGHT AT A TIME. God created the mind in such a way that the mind can only focus on one thought at a time. To get rid of one thought, you do not fight that thought and try to stop thinking that thought. That’s the wrong strategy. The correct and winning strategy is to replace a bad thought with a good thought. When an evil thought enters your mind, the most effective way to kick it out is immediately to think of a verse of scripture and meditate on it, chew on it, pray over it, pray it to God. That’s what the Psalmist discovered when he said, “Your Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against You” (Psalm 119:11).

Someone said, “You can’t keep birds from flying over your head; but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair.” Thoughts are like flying birds; you

can't avoid them coming to you, but you can refuse entertaining or dwelling on the thoughts.

Someone else said, "God's Word will keep you from sin; or sin will keep you from God's Word."

You renew your mind with the Word of God and with the Spirit of God.

- STEP 3: EXERCISE YOUR WILL TO CHOOSE GOD'S WILL.

As your mind is renewed the Holy Spirit will reveal to you God's Will. What is God's will?

- a. God's will is that which is...

GOOD – it is characterized by God's quality of goodness;

ACCEPTABLE – it is beautiful and pleasing in God's eyes;

PERFECT – the word comes from a root suggesting purpose as well as completeness. God's will fulfills His purpose of bringing wholeness and completion in your life and in all His creation.

- b. Why do God's will? Because God's will is...

GOOD – it always results in life, love, joy and peace;

ACCEPTABLE – God's commands are not grievous but kind and loving and utterly desirable;

PERFECT – it will result in my becoming perfect like the Son of God and in my achieving eternal meaning and significance.

- c. In contrast, three ways that sin is described in the Bible are:

Missing the mark;

Vanity or emptiness;

Causing injury and pain to myself and to others.

- d. How much more preferable then is God's will because it is good, acceptable, and perfect!

1 John 2:15-17:

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

- e. Once God’s Will becomes clear, exercise YOUR WILL by choosing the good, acceptable and perfect action and then by issuing a COMMAND to your body to implement it. This brings us full circle back to the BODY.
- STEP 4: YOUR LIVING SACRIFICE, THE BODY, WILL NOW ACT ACCORDINGLY TO FULFILL GOD’S WILL.

In Romans 6:6-13 these steps are put together in THREE ACTIONS:

KNOW (vss. 6, 9)

RECKON (vs. 11)

PRESENT or YIELD (vs. 13)

⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be ^[a]done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷ For he who has died has been ^[b]freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³ And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

1. The actions of knowing and reckoning belong to the RENEWED MIND. The action of presenting the members or parts of the body as instruments of righteousness to God belongs to the WILL, choosing God’s Will and commanding the BODY to fulfill God’s Will.
2. The “body of sin” can only control you if your WILL decides to present or make available a member of your BODY to satisfy one or all of the sinful lusts (lust of

the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life). This is the meaning of “do not yield your members” (do not give your bodily parts) to the FLESH (the old sinful nature).

3. But with your redeemed BODY irrevocably offered to God and with your RENEWED MIND knowing God’s Will, followed by your SPIRIT-EMPOWERED WILL choosing God’s Will and issuing the command to your BODY to do God’s Will, victory is assured that you will be able to PUT OFF the old man and PUT ON the new man.

REMEMBER!

The strategy for victory described in this lesson is grounded in the fact and meaning of your BAPTISM.

Always keep in mind these truths about your baptism as your most powerful weapons of offense and defense against Satan, sin and the world.

LESSON 2

GOSPEL: PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

In order to have victory in the spiritual life, we must know about our union with Christ. We discussed that truth in our previous less.

A second important truth for victory is to know the true nature of Evangelism (Gospel Proclamation), as sowing the Word of God, and to know that, according to the Lord Jesus, we must expect four different responses to God’s Word. This double knowledge of what true Evangelism means and that there are four different responses will help us also in two ways:

- (1) Make our Evangelism biblical, not humanly manipulated;
- (2) Guide us in helping listeners make the correct response.

KEY PARABLE

The Lord Jesus gave a parable which He Himself designated as the key to all His parables. Popularly called the Parable of the Sower, it may be also called the Parable of the Soils, recorded in Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:1-15. Let us read Mark 4:1-20.

Mark 4:13, 14:

¹³ And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you

understand all the parables? ¹⁴ The sower sows the word. ¹⁵ And these are the ones...
“ (sown in the different soils).

As the key parable, the Lord Jesus emphasized the three core components of Evangelism:

- (1) The Seed
- (2) The Sower
- (3) The Soil

THE SEED

In the parable there are four kinds of soil but only one kind of seed. What does the seed represent?
(Matthew 13:19; Luke 8:11)

The seed is the Word of the Kingdom, the Gospel or Good News which the Lord Jesus brought (Mark 1:14-15). This is the Word of God which offers the same promise of salvation, life, growth and fruit to all its hearers.

The question arises: If the Word holds the same promise to all, how come that not all hearers grow to maturity and not all hearers bear fruit? Since the difference does not lie in the seed, where does the difference lie?

The difference lies in how each soil – how each hearer – responds to the Word of God. To respond wrongly means defeat, to respond rightly means life, growth, fruitfulness, and victory. Hence, the first step to victory is to know how to respond rightly. The parable of the soils (parable of the sower) shows us the right and wrong ways to respond to God’s Word.

TRUE EVANGELISM

Through the picture of the pathway soil the Lord Jesus shows us the true nature of Evangelism. Evangelism is not a human program or activity. It is supernatural warfare for the souls of people, and it is a mission of deliverance of those enslaved by principalities and powers and rulers of darkness in heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).

When we proclaim the Gospel we must be aware of the following realities:

- (1) SATAN.

In this parable, the “birds”, which picked and ate the seed from the pathway soil, represent Satan himself as the one stealing God’s Word from the heart of the hearer. As the enemy of the Gospel, Satan’s main activity is to blind the mind of unbelievers in order to prevent them from seeing the light in Christ (2 Corinthians 4:3, 4).

(2) SINNERS.

On top of the veil of blindness cast by Satan on the minds of sinners, we must always remember what the Bible says about the spiritual condition of sinners in regard to spiritual truth, especially in regard to God's Word.

Romans 8:7:

Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

1 Corinthians 2:14:

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Many Christians learn how to do apologetics, which essentially means methods of presenting and arguing for the Gospel's veracity, validity and acceptability, based on human reason and logic. Apologetics has benefits, more for believers than for unbelievers. It is not as effective with unbelievers. We must always remember that sinners are blinded by Satan, and no human reasoning or argument can break through their blindness. By nature they are enemies of God; they are incapable of receiving or discerning divine truth; they consider divine truth as foolishness. Below, we shall discuss the only biblical method of Evangelism.

(3) HUMAN PROCLAMATION & DIVINE REVELATION.

Sowing the seed of God's Word, Evangelism or Gospel Proclamation, is always two-fold: on the one hand, it is HUMAN proclamation; on the other hand, it is DIVINE revelation.

Human Proclamation.

The Lord Jesus commands us simply to announce, proclaim, the bare truth of the Gospel, the unadorned Seed of the Word of God. The Gospel core's message consists in three truths: Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures, He was buried, He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4). In its barest form, the Gospel proclaims the message of the crucified Savior.

1 Corinthians 1:23, 24:

²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

In proclaiming the Gospel, the apostle Paul did not defend or argue. He simply announced to the people: that Jesus Christ died on the cross to save sinners. Paul was fully aware that for Jewish hearers, the crucified Savior was a stumbling block. They were waiting for a conquering Messiah, who would kill of all His enemies, not one to be killed by them. Paul was not ignorant of the sophistication of his Greek audience, to

whom the crucified Savior was utter foolishness. How could someone who suffered the most despised form of death save a world whose great men consisted of nobles, sages and men of wealth and power?

Divine Revelation

Hand in hand with human proclamation is Divine Revelation.

Salvation is ultimately the work of divine grace through REVELATION. A perfect illustration is the Lord Jesus Christ revealing Himself to Saul on the road to Damascus. Most conversions are not as dramatic as that of Saul, but in every case the Lord Jesus reveals Himself to a person by the power of the Holy Spirit. This revelation opens the mind and heart of a sinner to realize at least three things: (1) God's love and justice; (2) the sinner's sinfulness and his need of forgiveness and deliverance from God's wrath; and (3) Christ as the only atoning Savior from sin and judgment.

The apostle Paul proclaimed the plain, unembellished Gospel with absolute trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to rip away the Satanic blindness over people's minds and hearts. He trusted in the Holy Spirit's power to open the minds and hearts of his hearers, and he trusted in God's Word to impart life which would be expressed in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He trusted God to draw people to Christ and to reveal Himself to them. Please study the verses below.

Romans 10:17:

Acts 20:21:

1 Corinthians 2:1-5:

Acts 16:11-15:

John 6:37, 44, 63:

John 17:6-8:

PATHWAY SOIL

Let us now analyze the first response to God's Word, as pictured by the pathway soil person.

Please describe the pathway soil from Mark 4:4.

From Mark 4:15, please describe the pathway soil hearer.

Exactly what was the problem with this pathway soil person? Obviously, the problem was lack of PREPARATION. The pathway soil is not part of the field that's prepared by

plowing. The pathway soil is a mere hard surface soil, and the seed which landed on it was totally exposed, easily seen by the birds. No wonder that the birds spotted, picked and ate the exposed seed.

LESSON FOR GOSPEL SOWERS

Gospel sowers should be the first to learn from the pathway soil person. In view of the realities pointed out above (Satan, Sinners, Human Proclamation & Divine Revelation), there are certain things we can do to PREPARE for effective evangelism.

- SPIRIT'S POWER.

We must make sure that we are living and serving in the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Corinthians 2:4).

- PRAYER.

We must intentionally, systematically pray for people to whom we plan to share the Gospel (1 Timothy 2:1-7; 2 Timothy 2:25, 26; Acts 26:29).

- LIFE WITNESS & FRIENDSHIP.

We prepare non-Christians around us by maintaining a Christ-like public testimony as light and salt accompanied by good works, and cultivating friendly relationship with them (Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:16, 17; 4:1-4).

- READY TO SHARE.

We must always be ready to share the Gospel by word or with appropriate literature (1 Peter 2:15).

PREPARATION FOR UNBELIEVERS

For non-Christians, there are some steps we do, to prepare them for the Gospel. The first step in all relationship with God and His Word is to HEAR the Word; the Word must enter the sinner's awareness.

- TESTIMONY OR VERSE.

In your normal conversation with your non-Christian friends, there may be opportunities when you can appropriately share a brief personal testimony or a verse of scripture; no preaching, just brief sharing.

- TRACTS & OTHER MATERIALS.

Part of intentional sowing of God's Word is giving a tract or a piece of evangelistic literature. With lots of excellent online Christian resources, you may recommend a certain program online (for example, conversion testimonies on YouTube) to your non-Christian friends.

- INITIAL GOSPEL PRESENTATION.

Pray for God to open up an opportunity to share the Gospel with your non-Christian friend, using a clear initial Gospel presentation, containing the core truths of God's love, human sin, Christ's atoning death, burial and resurrection, and about genuine repentance and faith in Christ.

- **EVANGELISTIC BIBLE STUDY.**

Do not stop at one initial Gospel presentation. Whether or not your friend prays to receive Christ after your initial Gospel presentation, make sure to invite him/her to attend a regular evangelistic Bible study, where the Gospel will be explained more fully. (Suggestion: NewLife Book 1 is an excellent book for evangelistic Bible study.)

- **S. E. E.**

Persons to whom you have given the initial Gospel presentation, who have not yet made definite commitment to Christ, must be regularly invited to attend **SPECIAL EVANGELISTIC EVENTS.**

LESSONS FOR BELIEVERS

Though the pathway soil hearer represents an unbeliever, this parable has important lessons for believers in regard to how they can make their response to God's Word more effective.

From Matthew 13:19, please point out what the pathway soil person failed to do in response to the Word of God.

The pathway soil person failed to **UNDERSTAND** the Word of God which he heard. Not only was he incapable of understanding. Matthew uses a word which suggests that he did not take time or make an effort to understand.

Here is one major cause of failure not only for unbelievers but for Christians as well – not taking time and not making an effort to understand God's Word.

HOW TO UNDERSTAND

In order to understand God's Word we must give time and effort.

- **PHYSICAL EFFORT.**

The Lord Jesus tells us in Mark 4:23, "If any man has ears to hear, let him hear." Have you observed people talking in the marketplace? How are they able to understand each other with all the noise around them? They exert physical effort to hear. In the same way, in order to understand God's Word we must concentrate and use all our physical powers

- **MENTAL EFFORT.**

The Lord Jesus says in Mark 4:24, "Take care what you listen to." This may be literally translated as "See what you hear." How can you see the sound you hear? This means the

active use of your imagination. When you picture in your mind what you are hearing or reading, you will understand much better.

- **STEWARDSHIP.**

We must practice STEWARDSHIP of learning. In Mark 4:24-25, Jesus our Master Teacher, gives the key to true learning: “By your standard of measure it shall be measured to you; and more shall be measured to you; and more shall be given you besides. For whoever has, to him shall more be given; and whoever has, to him shall more be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.”

This law of stewardship applies to learning as much as to earning, to mental acquisitions as well as to material possessions. The more effort we give to the Word of God, the more of it we will understand.

EVALUATE YOURSELF. How much time and effort do you give in order to understand the Word of God?

ROCKY SOIL

The second type of response which a person may show to the Word of God is pictured by the rocky soil.

From Mark 4:5-6 describe what happened to the seed in the rocky soil.

From Mark 4:16-17, describe the rocky soil person

Before we point out the failure of this rocky soil person, what are some good points found in him? He heard the Word. He received the Word. In fact, his attitude seemed ideal, he received the Word of God immediately and joyfully. Isn't this person worth commending?

Yet something was radically wrong with the rocky soil person's response; it was shallow, it had no deep root. Lacking this deep root, his relationship to God's Word was very short lived.

LESSONS FOR GOSPEL SOWERS

The problem with the rocky soil kind of hearer is making a commitment based on inadequate understanding of the FULL IMPLICATIONS (both positive and negative) of such a commitment. This inadequate understanding is often the result of a Gospel presentation which emphasizes the blessings of receiving Christ without including some explanation of the cost following Christ.

As Gospel sowers, like Jesus we must never hide or minimize the cost of following Him. Study the following instances. From the verses below, describe how Jesus clarified the cost and how the would-be followers reacted.

Luke 9:57-62

Luke 14:25-33

Luke 18:18-23

INTELLIGENT COMMITMENT

The rocky soil kind of hearer lacked deep root.

What does deep root symbolize? It symbolizes deep and intelligent commitment. Your commitment is deep and intelligent when you realize that receiving the Word of God has both negative and positive consequences. Deep root means having adequate understanding that faith in Christ means receiving Him as Savior and Lord.

There are Christians and churches that preach a divided Christ. They say you may receive Jesus first as Savior, to have assurance of salvation; with Jesus in your heart you are assured that you will escape hell and go straight to heaven when you die. They say, later on you may decide to receive Jesus as Lord in order to grow in your spiritual life.

Separating Jesus as Savior from Jesus as Lord is wrong; it is NOT biblical. Jesus is one indivisible Person. When you receive Jesus, you receive Him as complete Savior and Lord. Please study the following verses:

Luke 2:10, 11

Romans 10:9, 10

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 7:21-23

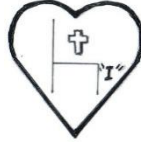
Deep root means understanding the nature of sin and the nature of true faith in Christ.

- THE NATURE OF SIN.



Sin is essentially the SELF (“I”) sitting as king/queen on the throne of my life, with Jesus kept outside. This was the temptation to Adam and Eve, to become like God. In other words, they themselves would become their own god or master of their life.

- TRUE FAITH IN CHRIST.



True faith in Christ is surrendering the throne to Christ so that He becomes the Savior, Lord and King of my life. My SELF (“I”) will be submitted totally to Him.

In the initial presentation of the Gospel, there is no need to give a detailed explanation of the cost of following Christ. It is enough to point out clearly that receiving Christ means receiving Him as Savior and Lord. This means that from now on, it is the Word and will of the Lord Jesus to be followed, not my personal wishes and not the wishes of other people. This may mean suffering and persecution. Am I ready to continue following the Lord Jesus, even if I experience suffering and persecution for His sake?

The problem with the rocky soil person was that he did not consider the negative consequences of receiving the Word; or probably he was not made aware of these consequences. When troubles and persecutions came, he was not willing to pay the price. He had no deep or intelligent commitment.

Following Christ is not all negative. We must also make the person aware of the positive effect of the Word of God as explained by the Lord Jesus, for example, in John 16:33. According to this verse, what does the Lord Jesus promise the believer in times of suffering and persecution?

The rocky soil person did not realize that even though troubles would come because of the Word, the Lord Jesus would not forsake him. When the difficulties came, he failed to take advantage of the resource which the Lord promised.

EVALUATE YOURSELF. Are you making the same mistake that the rocky soil person made? Do you enjoy hearing and studying God’s Word, but are you prepared to suffer for it?

Are you experiencing troubles and persecutions at this time? Do you know how to get victory from the Lord Jesus?

THORNY SOIL

The thorny soil pictures the third type of response to the Word of God.

From Mark 4:7 please describe what happened to the seed of the Word of God in the life of the thorny soil person?

Again, let’s first note some commendable things about the thorny soil person. He heard the Word. He continued for some time in the Word. This implies that he overcame troubles and persecutions that came to him.

But where did the thorny soil person fail? He failed to bear fruit. And what caused his failure to bear fruit? He allowed certain things to choke, to strangle, the Word of God in his life.

REMINDERS FOR GOSPEL SOWERS

To help believers grow to maturity and fruitfulness, we need to warn them against the “weeds” that could choke God’s Word in their lives.

These “weeds” compete for the time and energy of the thorny soil person. As a result, this person has no time and energy left for the Word of God. These “weeds” are of three types.

- CARES OF THIS WORLD.

These are necessary needs, not bad in themselves. However, the thorny soil person is obsessed with worrying over these things so much that he has little time left for God and His Word.

According to 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12 and 1 Timothy 6:6-9, what should be our attitude toward the cares of this world? Which of two sisters (Mary or Martha) allowed the cares of this world to rob her of the opportunity to receive Christ’s Word (Luke 10:38-42)?

- DECEITFULNESS OF WEALTH.

Money is not bad. It is love of money that is spiritually deadly. According to 1 Timothy 6:10, 17-19 and Matthew 6:19-21, 24, what should be our attitude toward earthly wealth?

- DESIRE FOR THINGS.

The thorny soil person did not know how to discipline his desires. He allowed covetousness to control his life. When he saw something which he liked, he gave much of his time and energy in trying to obtain it. According to 1 Timothy 6:6-8 and Matthew 6:33, what should be our guiding principles about accumulating things?

EVALUATE YOURSELF. Which of these three enemies of God’s Word have come into your life? Will you decide to uproot and surrender these weeds to God today?

GOOD SOIL

Through the picture of the good soil, the Lord Jesus shows to us the only correct way to respond to the Word of God.

From Mark 4:8, please describe what happened to the seed sown in the good soil.

From the following verses, list all the qualities you could discover about the good soil person.

Matthew 13:23

Mark 4:20

Luke 8:15

CORRECT RESPONSE

The correct response to the Word of God includes the following attitudes and actions. As you study the list below, grade your response on a scale of 1 to 4:

1 = Very Weak;

2 = Weak;

3 = Strong;

4 = Very Strong.

- Hear God’s Word with UNDERSTANDING (Matthew 13:23).

We must understand that the Word of God may bring us troubles and persecutions. But we must also understand that the Lord Jesus will give us the power to overcome all troubles and persecutions.

My Grade (encircle one) 1 2 3 4
How can I improve?

- Hear God’s Word with an HONEST & GOOD HEART (Luke 8:15).

To be honest means to be sincere; it means you will take the Word seriously. A good heart means that you will obey and practice God’s Word fully, promptly, unquestioningly.

My Grade (encircle one) 1 2 3 4
How can I improve?

- ACCEPT God’s Word (Mark 4:20).

The Word used by Mark is the same word used in Hebrews 12:6 to describe God’s acceptance of us as His children. This word also means the welcome and respect shown to royal messengers. To accept God’s Word is to believe its truth, obey its authority, and trust its power. There is enthusiasm in true acceptance of God’s Word, but it is enthusiasm coupled with the readiness to sacrifice for it.

My Grade (encircle one) 1 2 3 4
How can I improve?

- HOLD FAST God’s Word (Luke 8:15).

To hold fast God’s Word means to be faithful to it in times of troubles and persecutions. It means to consider it more important than the necessities of life, worldly treasures, and earthly pleasures and possessions. Equally important is to store God’s Word in our hearts (Psalm 119:9, 11). We cannot hold fast or retain what we have not stored in our heart.

My Grade (encircle one) 1 2 3 4

How can I improve? _____

- We must bear fruit with PATIENCE (Luke 8:15).

Fruit bearing requires time, and time requires patience. Patience means lots of effort with single-hearted devotion. Patience means sticking with Christ and doing His will consistently, continually, completely.

My Grade (encircle one) 1 2 3 4

How can I improve?

- We must bear fruit according to our God-given CAPACITY (Matthew 13:23).

Why did the Lord Jesus say that some bore fruit thirtyfold, sixtyfold, a hundredfold? This is to encourage us when we have little fruit as compared with others. This is to challenge us to strive until we bear as much fruit as God has equipped us to bear. This is to warn us against allowing anything that might limit our ability to bear fruit.

My Grade (encircle one) 1 2 3 4

How can I improve?

IMPORTANT!

We must always remember that in exercising the qualities and actions listed above regarding the correct response to God’s Word, we must continually depend on the Holy Spirit, to give us the motivation, the illumination and the application.

- Zechariah 4:6
- Acts 1:8
- Ephesians 1:15-19
- Ephesians 3:14-19
- Ephesians 5:18
- Philippians 2:12, 13
- Colossians 1:27-29

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Describe what kind of soil you think you are.
Give your reasons for thinking so.

MEMORIZE:

Luke 8:15:

“But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience.” (NKJV)

LESSON 3

VICTORY OVER SATAN: AN OVERVIEW

WHEN we talk about VICTORY, we mean victory over our enemy, Satan, and over the temptations to sin that he continually throws against us. In war the first principle of victory is know your enemy. To achieve victory over Satan we must know who he is and what are his traps.

The Bible gives us very clear descriptions and illustrations of Satan’s nature and his traps. As we study these, we will discover two amazing truths:

- First truth: Satan has only a few but very deadly traps. He has used these traps from the beginning;
- Second truth: people of God fall again and again into these traps.

NAMES OF SATAN

We get to know Satan by the names which the Bible uses to describe him. From the following verses, list as many names and as many characteristics of Satan as you can discover.

Genesis 3:1 _____

Matthew 4:3 _____

John 8:44 _____

John 10:10 _____

Rev 12:9-10 _____

Note the nature and works of Satan from his various names:

1. SATAN or DEVIL means enemy or opposer. He is always against God, God's people, work, and Word. When God says white or good, Satan says black or bad.
2. As the TEMPTER he is continuously, day and night, persuading, pushing, or forcing people to commit sin, to side with him, and to oppose God.
3. His name SERPENT or SNAKE shows his great wisdom. Genesis 3:1 describes him as more crafty or cunning than all other creatures of God.
4. Because of his great wisdom, he is an expert LIAR and DECEIVER. He can even pose as an angel of light, and his human agents can pretend to be your best friends (2 Corinthians 11:14-15).
5. He is also called the ACCUSER of believers. Even in front of God he is gossiping against Christians (as if God did not see or know everything about Christians); he also gossips about Christians to other Christians, and sadly many Christians believe Satan's lies and condemn their innocent brothers and sisters in Christ.
6. The Lord Jesus specifically called him the THIEF and MURDERER (John 10:10). He will steal from you, then kill you, and finally destroy everything left, your family, relatives, friends, and possessions.
7. As the DRAGON he has great power and he is full of hate. He is very powerful and he always uses his power to hurt God's people and God's work. Satan may pretend to be your friend, but he only wants to destroy you in the end. The dragon respects no rules, and he does not recognize fair play. He will hit you when you are standing, and he will kick you when you are down. And when you are most weak and defenseless he will use his greatest power to attack you so that you will never be able to stand up again. What is the source of his hate? His hate springs from his knowledge that he is surely going to hell, and all he wants to do is to drag others with him to give him company in hell.

PROPER ATTITUDE TO SATAN

We should never ignore Satan or take him for granted. We should never joke with him or joke about him. We must respect but not fear him; and just as he has an unmitigated hatred toward us, we must maintain an uncompromising hatred of his person, his works and tricks.

Respect means that you know he has great wisdom and power, and that he can defeat you anytime, if you give him even a little opening (Ephesians 4:27). In your own strength, you are no match for him.

At the same time, we must be fearless before Satan. We know that the Lord Jesus has already defeated him on the cross. With the Lord Jesus in you and with you, you can have victory over Satan all the time.

But in order to experience victory over Satan consistently, you must learn to hate him completely. You must always realize that he is God's enemy and therefore your enemy too. You must learn to take the same stand which the Lord Jesus took. He said, "The prince of this world has nothing in me" (John 14:30).

TRAPS OF SATAN

One foundational truth we must remember: ALL temptations center on GOD'S WORD VS. OTHER'S WORDS, our own words, or other people's words, or Satan's words.

Based on the account in Genesis 3:1-7, to be victorious over Satan, we must know and discern Satan's traps. Write down some of the traps which you notice.

TRAP #1: DOUBT GOD'S WORD

First, we must be clear about the Word which God gave.

GOD'S WORD;

Genesis 2:16, 17:

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Literally: you will die, die; or, in dying, you will die; emphatic, repeated verb, leaving no doubt as to the result).

According to Genesis 3:1, what did the serpent say first to the woman Eve?

Genesis 3:1:

And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

The first trap of Satan is to cause you to doubt God's Word. Satan did this in two ways:

- (a) First, he said, "Has God indeed said?" He implied: "Did God really say that? Is it possible that you heard wrong? Did you perhaps misunderstand what God meant?"

- (b) Second, he made God’s Word more harsh by adding “of every tree”: “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”

Now let’s compare Eve’s knowledge and understanding of God’s Word.

Genesis 3:2, 3:

² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”

Explain how Eve showed her inadequate knowledge and understanding of God’s Word.

Eve showed her inadequate knowledge and understanding of God’s Word in two ways:

- (a) By addition: “nor shall you touch it”;
- (b) By subtraction (mitigation): Instead of God’s emphatic double verb, “you will die, die”, Eve used the simple future, “lest you die”, a hint of doubt that you might not die after all.

Satan’s first trap will work only when you do not know God’s Word exactly. The only way to have victory over this trap is to know God’s Word by heart. According to the following verses, what should we do with God’s Word?

Psalm 1:2 _____

Psalm 119:11 _____

Acts 17:11 _____

Col 3:16 _____

TRAP #2: DOUBT GOD’S CHARACTER

In Genesis 3:4-5, what did Satan next say to Eve?

⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

The second trap contains a double attack.

- First, Satan attacks God’s truthfulness. When Satan said, “You shall not surely die”, he directly accused God of being a liar
- Second, Satan attacks God’s trustworthiness. He promised a different result, other than the one God strictly warned about. “You will not surely die; instead, you will become like God.” This is the deception of sin: Sin will make you think you will find true life and happiness in disobeying God’s Word. The Bible does honestly speak that sin offers pleasures but only “for a while” (Hebrews 11:25).
- Third, Satan attacks God’s character, that God was not truly good but He was actually selfish. Essentially Satan was saying, “God is forbidding you to eat of the tree not because He cares about you, but because He is selfish. Actually He does not want competition. He doesn’t want you to become like God.”

This is a deadly attack. So long as you have confidence in the goodness of a person, you will believe that he is telling the truth. The moment you suspect that he is selfish, then you will also suspect he is lying. Satan succeeded in casting doubt on God’s character; as a result, he succeeded in casting doubt on God’s truthfulness.

Satan continues to use this trap today. He continues to tell lies about God’s character. He whispers to you, “God doesn’t really love you. He doesn’t really care about your welfare. God is really cruel and selfish. So why obey the Bible? Why read the Bible at all?”

How can the verses below help you overcome Trap #2?

Matthew 6:26-32 _____

Romans 8:35-39 _____

Hebrews 6:17-20 _____

Hebrews 13:5, 6, 8 _____

TRAP #3: DESIRE SELF-GLORY

What did Satan promise to Eve in Genesis 3:5?

The third trap caters to human selfishness. After Satan had accused God of selfishness, he went on to feed human selfishness – he tempted Eve to become like God. This is the same selfish ambition which Satan had, and which caused his downfall. According to the following verses what was Satan’s ambition?

Isaiah 14:12-14 _____

Matthew 4:8-9

Satan aspired to be equal with God and to receive worship like God. He also tempted man to become like God, and to receive the glory instead of giving glory to God.

The only way to defeat this third trap of Satan is to recognize that we are only creatures, and that God is the Creator who alone deserves all glory and honor. Our responsibility as creatures is to love, obey, and serve God alone.

Instead of pride and self-glory, what attitude should we have according to Philippians 2:1-5?

TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

What does the tree of knowledge of good and evil mean?

It was an actual tree like the other trees, because it is mentioned among the other trees (Genesis 2:9). But it was different because it had unique powers to impart knowledge of good and evil.

As Satan correctly pointed out, the knowledge of good and evil belonged to God (Genesis 3:5). God created the whole universe and He designed how everything will work individually and together. He knows what is good and what is evil, because God Himself is the one who decides what is good and what is evil, how everything in His creation works and how it doesn't.

The temptation consisted in grabbing the right, which belonged to God. When Eve ate of the forbidden tree, she took the right to decide for herself what was good and evil. She no longer needed to consult God; she herself decided what was good and evil. This made her a god to herself.

This is the essence of sin – the self in control. I decide what is good and bad for me. I don't care about what God says, or about what other people say. I decide what is good or bad for me, Satan did not lie; Adam and Eve became like God – they actually became god – in that they wrested from God the authority to decide what is good and evil for themselves, without consulting God or anybody else.

This is the tragedy of sin. We have a world in which each person has become a kingdom unto himself/herself, in which the SELF sits as king/queen on the throne in the heart, and does what he/she likes because he thinks it's good for him/her, without regard for God or other people.

How did this state of affairs, self in control, start? It started when man rejected the control of God's Word.

- It began as a doubt in God's Word;
- It grew as a doubt in God's character;
- And it flowered and bore fruit in the action of enthroning man as god over his own life. And its fruits are disorder, disease, destruction, and death for everyone.

The problem with what humans call "good" is that "good" is always mixed with evil. For example, when humans discovered nuclear power they thought it was good because it promised an unlimited source of energy. Scientists subsequently discovered that nuclear energy is a mixed blessing; it also produced toxic wastes which are difficult, almost impossible, to dispose of safely. Antibiotics provide another example of good and evil mixed together. An antibiotic cures a certain disease but there are always side-effects which prove destructive, even deadly. Every human idea of good, but when pursued to its logical conclusion, it always bring negative side-effects.

The Solution: Return to God's Word

How then do we gain victory over the self-controlled life? The way of victory is by overcoming the three traps of Satan with FOUR CONVICTIONS/ACTIONS:

- CONVICTION/ACTION #1: We must accept the full authority of God and His Word in our lives. We must know and do the Word of God. No longer must we decide what is good and evil for ourselves; instead we must always pray, "Lord, what will you have me to do? Not my will but yours be done." Proverbs 3:5-6 provides the right attitude in every situation.
- CONVICTION/ACTION #2: We must absolutely trust God's character of love, goodness, truthfulness, and wisdom. We must believe that God's Word is always true, and it is motivated by His desire for our good.
- CONVICTION/ACTION #3: We must always give God the glory and honor. No longer must we live for our honor or even comfort, but only for God's glory.
- CONVICTION/ACTION #4: We must always remember sin has an inevitable consequence; sin always brings death.

These FOUR CONVICTIONS/ACTIONS taken together amounts to what Matthew 6:33 means: putting God first, His kingdom and His righteousness. The Lord Jesus, as a

human being, demonstrated this kind of life lived under the absolute control of God’s Word. Please summarize the following verses:

John 4:34 _____

John 5:30 _____

John 6:38 _____

John 8:39 _____

Heb 10:5-7 _____

In conclusion, let’s say this principle aloud together:

TO GAIN VICTORY OVER SATAN: KNOW SATAN’S NATURE AND HIS TRAPS.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Evaluate yourself, in what ways Satan is using the three traps in your life; write what you need to do to gain victory.

a) How Satan is using **TRAP #1** in my life: _____

What I need to do to overcome: _____

b) How Satan is using **TRAP #2** in my life: _____

What I need to do to overcome: _____

c) How Satan is using **TRAP #3** in my life: _____

What I need to do to overcome: _____

MEMORIZE:

John 4:34 NIV, "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

- a. Continue your PRAYER PARTNER evangelistic outreach, using Book 1 with your prospects.
- b. Continue your own study of your current NewLife Book.

LESSON 4**YOUTH RIGHT HAND: KEYS TO VICTORY****THUMB: BODY**

The spiritual youth has three characteristics. Let's read 1 John 2:12-14; let's note these characteristics:

- (1) The Word of God abides in them.
- (2) They are strong.
- (3) They have overcome the evil one.

The lessons in the Baby Left Hand and Youth Left Hand were all designed to help you to have God's Word abide in you. In these lessons in the Youth Right Hand you will learn about KEYS (principles) to help you overcome the temptations of the enemy in different areas of life.

WARNING!

But always remember this WARNING:

In themselves, these KEYS have no power to deliver you from sin; and in yourself, you have no natural desire or ability to apply these keys (Romans 7:15-25). The Holy Spirit alone will give you the desire and the ability to apply the keys (Philippians 2:13). Hence, you must always maintain the Holy Spirit-filled life (Ephesians 5:18), as explained in the previous lesson on the Youth Left Hand, Palm.

In the previous lesson we had a general overview about how to overcome Satan and his traps.

To gain consistent victory over Satan, we must also be aware how he directs his temptations against the different areas of our personality.

The physical BODY is usually the first area that the enemy attacks. It is in the body that you first need to begin to experience victory.

VICTORY IN THE BODY

KEY #1: GOD, MY HEAVENLY FATHER, WILL PROVIDE FOR ALL MY NEEDS.

1. For many people, the needs of the body keep them away from God. They are so busy working for these needs, they have no time for God. According to the Lord Jesus, people are divided into two groups, depending on the way they seek to satisfy the needs of the body. Let's read Matthew 6:25-34.

(1) *GENTILES (NON-CHRISTIANS)*. Their priority is seeking to satisfy the needs of the body, and they don't care if they disregard and disobey God in the process (Matthew 6:31-32).

(2) *GOD'S CHILDREN (CHRISTIANS)*. They seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and in the process God Himself helps them to find the supply to the needs of their body (Matthew 6:33).

2. The Bible gives us keys to victory in regard to our physical needs. (Note: For every area of our life THREE KEYS TO VICTORY will be provided):

3. Together let's read out loud the essence of Key #1 for Victory in the Body (below):

*GOD MY HEAVENLY FATHER HIMSELF IS THE CREATOR OF MY BODY,
AND HE HIMSELF IS THE PROVIDER OF MY BODILY NEEDS.*

(a) As Creator and Father, God has made it *His own responsibility* to provide for the needs of His creatures, particularly of His children. Let's read Genesis 2:7-9 and Matthew 7:9-11. When God created man, He placed him in a world where provisions for his needs were supplied. God is more concerned about my needs than I could be about them (Psalm 104:10-28). As my heavenly Father, I may trust Him to supply my physical and material needs more than I trust my earthly parents. I express this trust by a continual habit of PRAYER, by which I bring to Him all my needs. God promises to supply these things (Matthew 7:7-11; Philippians 4:6,7,19).

(b) God will supply my needs *in His own way*. God's normal way is through work. Before Adam sinned God gave him the work of taking care of the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15). After he sinned, the earth was cursed and made his work more difficult, but work itself was not part of the curse (Genesis 3:17-19). Even so today, God will supply my needs through my work. When I have no job, I can ask God to give me a job (2 Thessalonians 3:10). When I am unable to work, God will still meet my needs through other means (Exodus 16:4; 17:6; 1 Kings 17:1-16; Matthew 14:15-21; 17:24-27; Acts 4:34,35; 11:27-30).

(c) God will supply my needs *in His own time*. Read Matthew 4:1-11. The example of Jesus illustrates the importance of God's time. The devil tempted Jesus to produce bread without waiting for the Father's instruction. But Jesus waited for God's time; and God sent angels to feed Him.

(d) God designed every need and appetite of the body to be satisfied within *the boundaries of God's commandments*. For example, God gave us the appetite for food; but God forbids gluttony (Proverbs 23:1-3, 21; Philippians 3:19). The power and appetite for sex is part of God's design for our physical body; but sex may be enjoyed only within the bounds of marriage. All sex outside of marriage is condemned as sin -- fornication (sex relations among unmarried people) or adultery (sex relations with a married person not your spouse); or perversion (sex between the same sex); read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

VICTORY IN THE BODY**KEY #2: MY BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

1. Some people are hindered in their spiritual growth by physical vices and addictive behavior. Many defend their vices, for example, of smoking or drinking by saying, "The Bible does not specifically prohibit smoking or drinking."
2. It is true that the Bible does not specifically prohibit many of the vices which people practice today. But the Bible gives a principle by which we may judge whether a habit or behavior is right or wrong. This principle also provides us with the key to victory over vices and addictions. Together let's read aloud the principle below:

THE BODY IS A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; WE SHOULD AVOID EVERYTHING THAT DESTROYS THE HEALTH AND NORMAL FUNCTIONING OF THE BODY.

3. God made the Christian's body as a Temple of the Holy Spirit, to be kept fit, pure, and holy for the Lord. Based on 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:12-20, the things listed below have no place in the temple of the Holy Spirit:

- Sin, especially sexual immorality (verses 15-18).
- All forms of addiction to foods, drinks, drugs, tobacco, and other addictive substances and behavior (verses 12-13).
- Abuse, misuse, and overuse of the body. Because the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, it must be properly maintained with good health habits and a healthy lifestyle. Proper diet, proper rest, and proper exercise, must be given to the body.

VICTORY IN THE BODY**KEY #3: MY BODY IS A LIVING SACRIFICE TO GOD.**

1. For other people, including some Christians, their self-centered lifestyle keeps them away from God. They reason out, that as long as they do not do anything bad or sinful with their body, they may cater to the comforts and pleasures of their body as much as they like. The Bible gives the key to victory over a self-centered lifestyle. Together let's read aloud the principle below::

MY BODY IS TO BE OFFERED AS A LIVING SACRIFICE TO GOD, TO BE USED FOR GOD'S GLORY AND SERVICE, AND NOT FOR SELFISH PHYSICAL PLEASURES.

2. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND BEAUTY CARE should be done without sacrificing inner spiritual growth and beauty. Study 1 Timothy 4:8; 1 Peter 3:3,4.

3. LEGITIMATE PLEASURES OF THE BODY should be satisfied without sacrificing eternal values. There may be times when lawful physical enjoyment (for example, sexual relations in marriage) will be sacrificed in order to accomplish a God-given mission.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:13 and Galatians 6:8. A person who lives only for selfish pleasures is described as dead (1 Timothy 5:6; Philippians 3:18-19).

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Gain victory in your physical body by using the keys to victory. Put God's kingdom first, and trust God to supply your physical needs. Take care of your body as a temple of the Holy Spirit. And continually offer your body as a living sacrifice, for God's glory and service.

MEMORIZE

Romans 12:1 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Continue:

- c. Your PRAYER PARTNER evangelistic outreach, using Book 1 with your prospects.
- d. Your own study of your current NewLife Book.

LESSON 5

YOUTH RIGHT HAND: KEYS TO VICTORY

POINTING FINGER: MIND

NEXT to the body, the second area where you need to experience victory is in your MIND. Read Romans 12:2; this verse emphasizes to us the importance of renewing our minds. Here are three keys to victory in our mind.

VICTORY IN THE MIND

KEY #1: THE TRUTH SETS OUR MINDS FREE.

1. The basic problem of the human mind is that it is in bondage. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). The truth is the Word of God (John 17:17). From what will the Word of God free us?

(1) God's Word will free us from wrong TRADITIONS.

Our parents and the elders of our family and society have handed down to us various kinds of information and practices as traditions. How do we know if such traditional information and practices are true? The Word of God, the Bible, will show us the truth. For example, during the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus, He demonstrated to the religious leaders that their tradition actually contradicted the Word of God. Study Mark 7:6-9.

WE MUST TEST EVERY TRADITION BY THE WORD OF GOD.

(2) God's Word will free us from mere HUMAN KNOWLEDGE.

Human knowledge is gained through the five physical senses and explained by human reason. The five physical senses are seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling, touching. The senses and human reason can only tell us about things on and of the earth. God's Word reveals truth beyond the reach of the human senses and human reason – about God, about heaven, about spiritual things. Read John 3:10-13; Isaiah 55:8-9.

WE MUST TEST ALL KNOWLEDGE BY THE WORD OF GOD.

(3) God's Word will free us from SATAN'S LIES.

Satan is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 11:13-15; 1 John 4:1-6). Christ is the truth (John 14:6). As we study God's Word, we will be delivered from Satan's lies, and we will know the truth as it is in Christ (Ephesians 4:21).

WE MUST BASE ALL OUR BELIEFS ON THE WORD OF GOD.

VICTORY IN THE MIND

KEY #2: THE SPIRIT OF GOD ENLIGHTENS OUR MINDS.

1. A second problem with the human mind is that it is incapable of knowing the things of God. In fact, under the influence of sin the human mind is at war with God. Study the following scriptures:

- 1 Corinthians 2:14: "But the natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised." Note: (a) the natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; (b) the natural man despises the things of the Spirit of God – they are foolishness to him; (c) the natural man cannot understand the things of the Spirit of God.
- Romans 8:6-7: "For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God." The human mind is controlled by the flesh; in other words, it is so enslaved to the flesh or sinful nature, that it is

constantly set on pleasing or satisfying the sinful desires of that nature. Therefore, the mind of the flesh cannot please God and will not serve God. The mind of the flesh is eternally in rebellion against God.

2. To give us victory over the spirit of the world and over the mind of the flesh, God gave us His Spirit. The Bible says: "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God" (1 Corinthians 2:12).

- The Spirit of God inspired the writing of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21).
- This same Spirit now enlightens us and gives us understanding as we read God's Word and He reveals to us things that God wants us to know for our everyday life (John 14:16, 17, 26; 16:13-15).

WE MUST ALWAYS DEPEND ON THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING, AND WISDOM.

VICTORY IN THE MIND

KEY #3: THE MIND OF CHRIST PRODUCES A HUMBLE AND OBEDIENT LIFE.

1. Under the influence of sin, the human mind develops a dangerous kind of wisdom that results in an ungodly life. Listen to the warnings of the Bible: "Knowledge makes arrogant" (1 Corinthians 8:1). "But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing" (James 3:14-16).

2. True wisdom must produce in us a holy life. "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" (James 3:17-18).

3. The wisdom that brings forth a holy life comes to us through the mind of Christ. "For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16). We need to know two things about the mind of Christ:

- The mind of Christ is part of the new nature that God imparted to us in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- We must personally exercise the mind of Christ to make it produce in us a holy life (Philippians 2:5-8). We exercise the mind of Christ primarily by humility and by obedience. We must humble ourselves to the position of servants, who seek the good of others more than our own. And we must determine to obey God in all areas of our life, even to the point of sacrifice.

WHEN WE THINK LIKE CHRIST, WE WILL ACT LIKE CHRIST.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Renew your mind by letting God's Word liberate your mind; by letting the Holy Spirit teach your mind; and by letting the mind of Christ mold your life.

MEMORIZE

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

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Continue:

- e. Your PRAYER PARTNER evangelistic outreach, using Book 1 with your prospects.
- f. Your own study of your current NewLife Book.

LESSON 6

YOUTH RIGHT HAND: KEYS TO VICTORY

MIDDLE FINGER: EMOTIONS

VICTORY in the body and the mind must be followed by victory in the area of our emotions.

VICTORY IN THE EMOTIONS

KEY #1 – ACCEPT YOUR EMOTIONS.

1. The first key to victory is to accept our emotions.

God created us with emotions. As the physical body has the five senses, our soul has emotions. Emotions are a normal part of our personality. Christ, as our example of the perfect man, possessed the full range of human emotions; this was part of His complete identification with our humanity (Hebrews 2:17).

Note some of the emotions that Christ experienced while He was on earth: Love (John 11:3,5; 13:1; 14:31; 15:9; Hebrews 1:9); hate (Hebrews 1:9; Revelation 2:6); anger (Mark 3:5; John 2:13-16)); joy (Luke 10:21; John 15:11); sorrow (Matthew 26:38; John 11:35);

zeal or jealousy (John 2:17); agitation and distress (John 12:27; Mark 14:33); godly fear (Hebrews 5:7, KJV; RSV); compassion (Matthew 9:36); loneliness (Matthew 27:46).

2. Like the five physical senses, emotions are normal responses.

When the weather is cold or hot, your physical senses will make you shiver or sweat. The emotions work in a similar way. When you get something you like very much, you respond to it with the emotion of happiness; when you lose something precious, you respond to it with the emotion of sadness.

3. Can you imagine yourself without the sense of heat or cold?

It is also hard to imagine yourself to be without the emotion of happiness or sadness. Emotions are part of God's wonderful gift to our personality. Each emotion, expressed in the right place and the right way, enriches our life. To be without any of the emotions will be as tragic as to be without hearing or sight or smell or taste or touch. Accept your emotions.

VICTORY IN THE EMOTIONS

KEY #2: MANAGE YOUR EMOTIONS.

The second key is to manage our emotions. There are three ways that people handle their emotions.

1. *Some people deny or suppress their emotions.*

For example, a common idea is that a man should not cry. This idea is wrong; it is saying, in effect, that men were created by God without the emotion of sadness. The Bible warns us against persons who have lost all feelings (Ephesians 4:19).

2. *Other people are controlled by their emotions.*

Being controlled by your emotions is as wrong as suppressing them. The Bible warns us against people who have no self-control (Proverbs 25:28).

3. *The biblical way is to manage your emotions.*

To manage your emotion is to express it in a way that it becomes constructive and not destructive. The Bible underlines the importance of the ability to control one's emotions. Read Proverbs 16:32. The Bible gives us practical help in managing our emotions:

- Do not act or react at the height of your emotion. Study James 1:19-20. Someone suggested: "If you are angry, count 1 to 10; if you are very angry, count 1 to 100." Another suggestion: If a situation is too emotional for you, excuse yourself if you can, and return after you have calmed yourself down.

- Do not act or react until you get all the facts or until you have heard both sides. Proverbs 18:13,17: "He who gives answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.... The first to plead his case seems just, until another comes and examines him."
- Express your emotion but do not commit sin or hurt anyone in doing so. Ephesians 4:26-27: "Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity." How do we express anger without committing sin? Follow these suggestions: (1) Hate the sin, but love the sinner. (2) Always speak the truth in love. (3) Don't act or react in self-defense; seek to please God and to help the other person.
- Do not be ashamed of your emotions; there are no manly or womanly emotions. As shown above, Christ our Example expressed normal human emotions; but His emotional responses were always motivated by love for God and love for people.

VICTORY IN THE EMOTIONS

KEY #3: TRANSFORM YOUR EMOTIONS.

The real key to transforming your emotions is the Holy Spirit. He transforms you as you allow His fruit to flow through you. Let's study the fruit of the Holy Spirit as listed in Galatians 5:22,23. We may divide the fruit into three groups.

IN RELATION TO GOD

1. Your emotions will be transformed as you maintain love, joy, and peace in your moment-by-moment fellowship with God:

- LOVE. Make love the controlling motivation and emotion of your life. Whatever the situation, whoever the person involved, always remind yourself: *I am here to love God; and I am here to become a channel of God's love for other people.*
- JOY. Joy is enjoying God's abiding presence. Psalm 16:11: "Thou hast made known to me the path of life; in Thy presence is fullness of joy; in Thy right hand there are pleasures forever." Whatever the situation, whoever the person involved, say to yourself: *God is here, and I will enjoy His company; and I will share His fellowship with others in this situation.* Joy is an attitude of genuine enjoyment of life and everything it brings as God's blessings.
- PEACE. Peace is resting in God's sovereign goodness, wisdom, and power; it is assured confidence that Romans 8:28 is always true. Whatever the situation, whoever the person involved, say: *God is working for His glory and for everybody's good in this situation.*

A Christian who maintains love, joy, and peace in unbroken fellowship with God will have sufficient resource to overcome negative emotions.

IN RELATION TO OTHERS

2. *Your emotions will be transformed as you exercise patience, kindness, and goodness toward other people.*

- PATIENCE or long-suffering, when used of God, usually describes God's attitude in holding back His wrath. God is not quick to punish people; He gives many chances – people may say, much too many chances -- for sinners to repent. As a Christian emotion, long-suffering means essentially the same thing, an attitude of forbearance toward people, which gives them as many chances as they need in order to change.
- KINDNESS. Whereas long-suffering is withholding the punishment people deserve, kindness is giving them the good they do not deserve. In this sense, kindness is equivalent to grace, which is favor undeserved. People may not deserve your understanding or help or forgiveness or friendship, but you give it anyway, simply because the Holy Spirit's kindness is flowing through you.
- GOODNESS, when used of God, refers to His perfect nature that is the source of His good actions and benevolent dealings with people. When used of the Christian, goodness is the moral excellence imparted to him by the Holy Spirit; and because of this moral excellence, the Christian will seek to do good to other people and to seek their highest good.

These three emotions or attitudes are related to one another. Patience enables the Christian to put up with the trying actions and traits of others. Kindness enables him to look at the other person as someone to whom a blessing should be given. Goodness enables the Christian to give those blessings, out of the treasures of God's goodness in him.

IN RELATION TO YOURSELF

3. *Your emotions will be transformed as you exercise faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in regard to yourself:*

- FAITHFULNESS is closely tied up with faith. Faith is you resting confidently on the trustworthiness of God's Word. Faithfulness is you assuring others that they may rest confidently in your word of promise. Always tell yourself: *Even if others prove unfaithful, with the Holy Spirit's help I will remain faithful and worthy of the trust of others.*
- GENTLENESS or meekness was a quality of Christ (Matthew 11:29); it is exercising humility while possessing power and authority. The gentle Christian knows he is strong in the Lord, but he uses this strength to be a servant to others.

Always tell yourself: *Even if others look down on me as weak and insignificant, with the Holy Spirit's help I will humble myself to serve others.*

- SELF-CONTROL is beautifully illustrated by the self-restraint in all things, which an athlete in training exercises toward himself (1 Cor. 9:25). Always tell yourself: *Even if this situation is difficult and other people are inconsiderate, God is training me, and with the Holy Spirit's help I will learn everything that God is teaching me.*

A Christian who maintains faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in relation to himself will have no difficulty in showing positive emotions to others.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Gain victory in the area of your emotions. Accept your emotions; manage your emotions; and always ask the Holy Spirit to cause His fruit to flow through you continuously and abundantly until all your emotions are transformed into Christ-like emotions.

MEMORIZE

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Continue:

- g. Your PRAYER PARTNER evangelistic outreach, using Book 1 with your prospects.
- h. Your own study of your current NewLife Book.

LESSON 7

YOUTH RIGHT HAND: KEYS TO VICTORY

RING FINGER: WILL

The problem of the will is described in Isaiah 53:6: "All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way". This is the essence of sin: self on the throne of our life, running our life according to our own will, in total disregard of God's will. To gain victory in the will, we must surrender our will totally to God and live wholly for the will of God.

VICTORY IN THE WILL

KEY #1 – SURRENDER COMPLETELY TO CHRIST AS LORD OF YOUR WHOLE LIFE.

(1) Someone compared our heart to a house with many rooms – living room, guest room, bedroom, dining room, study room, recreation room, attic, other kinds of rooms, and lots of closets. When we first received Christ, we might have thought it was enough to give Him the guest room. Christ does not come into our life as a guest; He comes in as Master of the house. He waits for us to give all the keys to Him. Victory in the area of your will begins when you give the Lord Jesus your whole life along with all the keys to every room and closet in your heart.

(2) Our previous lessons have been leading up to this. First, we surrendered our body to Him (Lesson 2); next, we surrendered our mind (Lesson 3); then, we surrendered our emotions (Lesson 4). Now, are we ready to surrender to God our whole life, our present position and possessions, and all our future plans?

VICTORY IN THE WILL**KEY #2 – RECOGNIZE THAT GOD HAS A BIG PLAN; INSIDE THIS BIG PLAN, YOU WILL FIND GOD’S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE.**

From the diagram below, please note the important elements of God's plan:

(1) **GOD’S GLORY.** God’s eternal purpose is to bring praise and glory to His name and to give eternal blessing to His people (Romans 11:36; 14:11; Ephesians 1:3-14; 3:10-11; Revelation 4:11).

(2) **THE PRESENT WORLD.** God created the first humans perfect in the beginning and placed them as rulers over the earth (Genesis 1:26-31). But the first humans sinned and forfeited their position of authority to Satan (Luke 4:6), who now leads non-Christian humanity in revolt against God (Psalm 2:1-2).

(3) At **CHRIST’S FIRST COMING**, he solved the **SIN PROBLEM** through His death, burial, resurrection and ascension, thereby removing Satan from his Usurper position.

Christ now holds all power and authority in heaven and in earth (Colossians 1:13-14; 2:14-15; Ephesians 1:20-23; Matthew 28:18), although Satan and his hosts are still allowed to operate in order to test people (1 Peter 5:8-11).

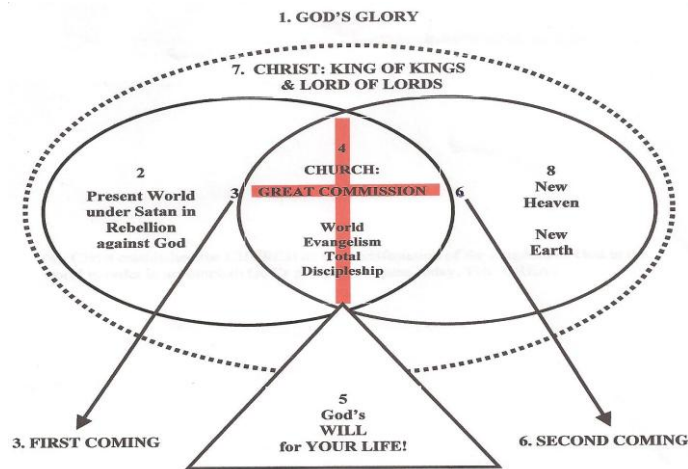
(4) Christ established the **CHURCH** as the manifestation of the kingdom of God in the world in order to accomplish God’s primary business today, **THE GREAT COMMISSION** (Matthew 28:19-20), which involves two tasks:

- **World Evangelism.** The Gospel of Christ must be proclaimed to all creatures throughout the world before the end (Mark 16:15; Matthew 24:14).

- Total Discipleship. All Christians must be built up, individually and as a church, to become like Christ, and to be equipped as co-laborers with God in accomplishing the Great Commission (Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Corinthians 3:8-9).

(5) GOD’S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE involves (a) your personal discipleship; and (b) your place of ministry in world evangelism. Everything you do must contribute to the fulfillment of this two-fold will of God for your life.

(6) At Christ’s SECOND COMING the whole world will finally acknowledge (7) CHRIST AS LORD OF LORDS & KING OF KINGS, who will personally rule on earth for one thousand years, ending in the Last Judgment, after which God will usher in (8) THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH in which God will reign with His people for ever and ever.



VICTORY IN THE WILL

KEY #3 – DISCOVER GOD'S UNIQUE PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE BY FOLLOWING THESE GUIDELINES.

God has a unique plan for your life. This plan includes specific details such as education, career, marriage and family, and your place or calling in the over-all work of the Great Commission. To discover God's will for you regarding these details, follow these guidelines.

GUIDELINE #1: BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

This is the all-inclusive guideline. You must continually make sure that you are living the Spirit-filled life (Youth Left Hand – Palm). When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you will sense His leading: Romans 8:14; Acts 8:29; 10:19-20; 16:6,7; John 14:26. This leading may come as an inner voice; as an inward impression to do something or to avoid something; or as an idea. The Holy Spirit will always lead according to -- never in contradiction to -- God's Word.

GUIDELINE #2: KNOW AND OBEY GOD'S WORD.

(1) The Word of God, the Bible, is God's revealed and written will. We do not need to hear an inner voice or an impression or an inspired idea from the Holy Spirit every time. Knowing and doing the Word of God is already knowing and doing God's will. Study Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

(2) But what do you do if you think you hear a voice or receive an inner impression or even see a vision? Check the voice or impression or vision by these questions:

Question 1: Does it support or follow the clear teachings of the Bible?

Question 2: Does it minimize, set aside, or contradict the clear teachings of the Bible?

Question 3: Does it make me more committed to the Bible, or does it assume to be a higher authority than the Bible? For example, Mormons claim that they believe in the Bible; however, after they gain your trust they will tell you there is another book that we must follow and this is the Book of Mormon and their other books. And from then on all they want to talk about is the Book of Mormon. As a result, they have succeeded in setting aside the Bible as sole authority.

A voice, impression, or vision which minimizes, sets aside, supersedes, or contradicts the Bible should be rejected as coming from the enemy.

GUIDELINE #3: CHECK YOURSELF AGAINST THE GREAT COMMISSION.

This third guideline will aid you to check your decisions, plans, or actions by the Great Commission. Ask yourself these questions:

Question 1: Will my decision, plan, or action help or hinder the Great Commission?

Question 2: Will my decision, plan, or action enhance or diminish my ability to help the Great Commission?

Question 3: Will I become a more effective witness; will I become more Christlike, through this decision, plan, or action?

If your answer to all three questions is YES, that's a sign that you are in God's will. However, before you take action, continue testing yourself by the next guidelines.

GUIDELINE #4: SEEK THE PEACE OF GOD.

(1) When the Holy Spirit leads, He will give you peace in your heart. Peace is the sense of assurance and confidence that you are doing what is pleasing to God. The absence of peace is indicated by some doubt or questioning in your mind and heart; this absence of

peace is a warning signal not to proceed, but to continue to wait for God to make things clear. Study Philippians 4:6-7.

(2) The peace of God does not mean the absence of outward opposition or difficulty. In fact, when you do God's will you will experience more opposition and difficulty; but in the midst of outer opposition and difficulty, you have inner peace. The peace of God is the absence of panic and haste. You may be doing things very fast and very efficiently, but you do not panic or make haste out of fear. From the following verses, describe attitudes that accompany the peace of God:

2 Timothy 1:7 _____

Isaiah 28:16 _____

Isaiah 30:15 _____

Isaiah 32:17 _____

Isaiah 57:12 _____

GUIDELINE #5: SEEK THE COUNSEL OF GODLY CHRISTIANS.

(1) We make sure of the will of God for our lives by seeking the counsel of mature Christians, who know us and who have observed God's work in our lives. Study the following verses from Proverbs about the importance of godly counsel: Proverbs 12:15; 15:22; 19:20-21; 20:18.

(2) We need counsel in regard to matters in which we are emotionally involved. The Bible warns us against the deceitfulness of our hearts (Jeremiah 17:9). Although our old nature has already been crucified (Romans 6), our old habits of thinking and choosing need to be renewed. Godly Christian counselors can point out to us areas where our heart may be deceiving us. In seeking counsel, we must avoid these pitfalls:

Pitfall #1: Don't seek advice that agrees with what you have already decided on. Present all pertinent facts and information to your counselor, and be open to his advice, whether this is agreeable or disagreeable to you.

Pitfall #2: Don't pass the responsibility of choice to your counselor. The choice is yours alone. Seek as much godly advice as you can get. But when you make the decision, do it in the light of all the guidelines that you have used.

GUIDELINE #6: ASK FOR PROVIDENTIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, IF NECESSARY.

(1) The basis for this guideline is the so-called "Gideon's fleece". Read Judges 6:36-40. This guideline is put last, because it may not be necessary to use it. Furthermore, providential circumstances should not be the deciding factor in discovering and doing the

will of God; the deciding factors are Guidelines 1 through 4. Guideline #5 and Guideline #6 provide us with a way of further confirming our decision.

(2) Often, this confirmation is needed as to the TIMING of God's will. For example, Paul already knew that it was God's will for him to go to Rome. Providential circumstances prevented him from traveling to Rome immediately (Acts 9:15; 19:21; Romans 1:13). How do we ask for providential circumstances?

(3) Ask God for providential circumstances that are meaningful but not usually expected to happen. Look at the following examples:

Illustration 1:

A Christian girl had already received confirmation through Guidelines 1-4 that a certain guy will become her future husband. She asked God to cause the guy to express two specific requests that were related to something other than their relationship. Without knowing about her prayer, the guy did make those requests.

Illustration 2:

A Christian guy asked the Lord to bring about a situation in which the girl, not he, will bring up a topic that will lead to his marriage proposal. The Lord caused the girl to insist on knowing who the guy is praying for to be his future wife. That proved to be the sign the guy waited for.

Illustration 3:

A Christian worker felt led to open a new ministry. This was already indicated with the help of the first four guidelines. In order to confirm God's will, he asked God to bring in an offering totaling a specific amount to come in on a particular Sunday. God gave the exact amount, not a cent more and not a cent less.

REMINDER: The providential circumstance must be meaningful. It must be consistent with God's character and with the nature of our relationship with God. It must not be part of the usual or normal events of our life.

Illustration 4:

One guy prayed, "Lord, if she wears a blue dress this Sunday, then that's a sign that she will be my future wife." It turned out that the girl had only a blue Sunday dress, which she usually wore to church. Later this guy was counseled by his pastor to ask God for a specific amount of money, to come in on or before a specific date, from an unexpected source; this money would be used to take the girl out for a date, during which time the guy would propose to her. God supplied the specific amount, on the date specified, from an unexpected source (the guy saw a friend, whom he had not seen for a long time, and this friend gave him money, the amount he was praying for).

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- If you are not doing so already, start praying for God to make clear His will regarding specific areas or the future direction of your life.

MEMORIZE

John 4:34 - Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Continue:

- i. Your PRAYER PARTNER evangelistic outreach, using Book 1 with your prospects.
- j. Your own study of your current NewLife Book.

LESSON 8

YOUTH RIGHT HAND: KEYS TO VICTORY

LITTLE FINGER: ARMOR OF GOD

WE have studied how to gain victory in the major areas of our personality: body, mind, emotion, and will. To equip us fully for victory, God has given us an armor, illustrated by the armor of the Roman soldier in New Testament times. The different pieces of the armor provide more keys to victory.

Before we put on the armor of God, we must have a correct spiritual attitude. Let's study Ephesians 6:10-17, by answering the following questions:

1. In whom should the soldier of Christ find his strength and confidence? Ephesians 6:10

2. The soldier of Christ should stand firm against the _____ of the devil. Ephesians 6:11

NOTE:

We do not stand against the power of the devil, because Christ had already defeated him and rendered him powerless (Hebrews 2:14). We need to stand against the devil's

WILES -- his lies, deceptions and tactics. If Satan succeeds in deceiving you, he will succeed in keeping you from enjoying Christ's victory.

3. According to Ephesians 6:12, who is NOT our enemy?

4. According to Ephesians 6:13, who are our real enemies?

NOTE:

(a) This is a favorite trick of Satan. He will make you think people are your enemies. No; people are merely blind instruments of Satan; the deliverance of these people from Satan is our objective. People who oppose us should be loved, forgiven, and helped to come to know Christ. We should concentrate on resisting the devil who is enslaving the people.

(b) Another effective deception of Satan is to make Christians fight other Christians over non-essential matters of doctrine or method. In non-essential matters, we should show love and understanding toward other Christians; we should keep a united front in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:15-18).

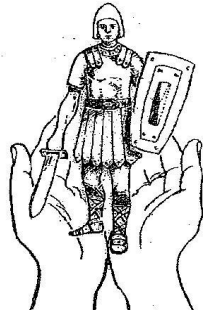
(c) A wise Christian suggested:

In essentials, UNITY;
In non-essentials, LIBERTY;
In all things, CHARITY.

5. How much of God's armor should we put on? Ephesians 6:13

NOTE:

Just as the soldier puts on his complete armor before going to battle, so the soldier of Christ must always check that he has put on his whole armor properly and securely.



ARMOR OF GOD: KEYS TO VICTORY

Read Ephesians 6:14-17. As we study the armor pieces one by one, check yourself if you have your armor on properly by answering the questions. On the blank space before each question, draw a STAR if your answer is YES, or a QUESTION MARK if your answer is NO.

- *KEY TO VICTORY #1: PUT ON THE BELT OF TRUTH.*

- ___ 1. Do you have a personal relationship with Christ, the LIVING TRUTH?
- ___ 2. Are you growing in your knowledge of the WRITTEN TRUTH, the Bible, by faithfully exercising the disciplines of the Youth Right Hand -- Pointing Finger?
- ___ 3. Do you consistently practice TRUTH IN DAILY LIFE -- truthful in speech, faithful in promises and commitments, honest in business practices?

- *KEY TO VICTORY #2: PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.*

- ___ 1. Do you trust solely on the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST, as your basis of acceptance before God, and as your own confidence before people? (See Philippians 3:9.)
- ___ 2. Do you always strive to live a RIGHTEOUS LIFE by prompt and complete obedience to God's Will as you understand it?
- ___ 3. Do you always strive to maintain a CLEAR CONSCIENCE? Do you immediately confess your sin to God, and forsake it?

- *KEY TO VICTORY #3: PUT ON THE SHOES OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE*

- ___ 1. Have you mastered the skill of sharing your PERSONAL TESTIMONY and the skill of presenting the GOSPEL HAND (or an equivalent Gospel presentation)?

___ 2. Do you regularly pray for -- and take advantage of -- WITNESSING OPPORTUNITIES? Are you presently active in a specific task that helps to fulfill the Great Commission?

___ 3. Do you always seek to LIVE IN PEACE with everyone? Do you take steps to reconcile a broken relationship as soon as possible? (See Romans 12:17-21; Matthew 5:23-26.)

- *KEY TO VICTORY #4: TAKE THE SHIELD OF FAITH.*

___ 1. Do you consistently live by the principle of GRACE THROUGH FAITH? (See Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:8,9.) God always relates to us on the basis of His grace. We should always respond to Him in faith. In other words, we will never come to a time in our Christian life when we will think that God is obligated to do something for us because of our works or our righteousness.

___ 2. When faced with a choice, do you always choose to BELIEVE GOD'S WORD even when your senses, your human reason, other people, and Satan say something contrary to God's Word?

___ 3. Do you know how to claim GOD'S PROMISES for your life and ministry?

- *KEY TO VICTORY #5: PUT ON THE HELMET OF SALVATION.*

___ 1. Do you believe in Christ as your ALL-SUFFICIENT SAVIOR AND ALL-CONQUERING LORD?

___ 2. Do you have ASSURANCE OF SALVATION from God's Word and from the inner witness of the Holy Spirit? (See 1 John 5:11-13; Romans 8:15,16; John 10:27-29.)

___ 3. Do you consistently experience VICTORY OVER SELF, THE FLESH, THE WORLD, AND THE DEVIL?

- *KEY TO VICTORY #6: TAKE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT.*

___ 1. Do you consistently OBEY GOD'S WORD in your life, ministry, and warfare?

___ 2. Are you regularly and seriously studying the DOCTRINES OF GOD'S WORD?

___ 3. Are you developing skills in TEACHING GOD'S WORD to others?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Put on – in one decisive action, install and fasten the whole armor around yourself, never to take it off again until the conflict is over: Christ Himself is the whole armor of God (see Romans 13:14; Galatians 3:27).

MEMORIZE

Ephesians 6:10-11 - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Continue:

- k. Your PRAYER PARTNER evangelistic outreach, using Book 1 with your prospects.
- l. Your own study of your current NewLife Book.

LESSON 9

YOUTH RIGHT HAND: KEYS TO VICTORY

PALM: THE EXCHANGED LIFE

From Lessons 1 to 7 we studied principles, which we called "KEYS TO VICTORY". In this lesson we shall study a principle, which we shall call the "MASTER KEY". The Master Key gathers in itself all the principles of victory we have covered.

The Lord Jesus Christ, as the Perfect Man, used the Master Key. The disciples of the Lord and Christians of all ages, who experienced mighty victories in their spiritual life, have all learned to use the Master Key.

What is the MASTER KEY TO VICTORY? It is the principle of the EXCHANGED LIFE.

A. THE MASTER KEY IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST

- 1. Christ described the Master Key in His life (write the following verses in your own words):

John 5:19 _____

John 8:28,29 _____

John 10:38 _____

John 14:10 _____

2. Christ, as the Perfect Man, lived the EXCHANGED LIFE. He offered His whole life and personality to God as a living sacrifice to be used exclusively by God. He did not come to live His own life. He let the Father live in Him and to work in and through Him. When Christ spoke it was not He Himself, but the Father speaking. When Christ worked it was not He Himself but the Father working. And because it was really the Father who lived and talked and worked in Him, Christ took all His resources of wisdom, power, and love from the Father, and He gave back all the praise and glory to the Father. "Not I but the Father" – this was the Master Key of Victory in the life of Christ.

B. THE MASTER KEY IN THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN

1. The apostle Paul best expressed the Master Key for all Christians in Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."

2. NOT I BUT CHRIST – this is the Master Key of Victory for the Christian. All the Keys to Victory (Lessons 1- 6) are summed up in this principle: THE EXCHANGED LIFE. There are three steps in using the Master Key to Victory.

• STEP 1: ACCEPT THE TRUTH OF YOUR CRUCIFIXION

1. This is the first step: Accept the fact of the Crucifixion of your old sinful self: "I have been crucified with Christ." Paul described this in another way in Galatians 6:14, "But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

2. Please note: We do not crucify our self. Christ ALREADY did this for us. Christ took our sin and our self to the cross, and when He was crucified we were crucified with Him. To accept the fact of our crucifixion with Christ means:

- a. I no longer have a life of my own to live.
- b. I no longer have any plans for myself.
- c. I no longer have any resources of my own.
- d. I am already dead to everything the present world and present life can offer, be it praise or blame, be it reward or punishment. It is as if a funeral service has already been performed over me, and my dead body has already been laid to rest in the cemetery. For

someone buried in the cemetery, there is nothing anymore in the present world that means anything.

e. I now offer my whole life and personality as a living sacrifice to God for His glory and service alone.

3. Study carefully the following scriptures: Romans 6:3,4,10,11; 2 Corinthians 5:14,15; 1 Peter 4:1,2. These scriptures are best summarized by Colossians 3:3: "For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

4. Now, if I am already dead, as far as life in the present world is concerned, and if my life is presently hidden with Christ in God, who then is the Person living in me? Christ! This leads us to the second step of the exchanged life. (Please study the illustration below.)

• *STEP 2: ABIDE IN THE INDWELLING OF CHRIST*

1. "Christ lives in me." John 15:5 explains the relationship between the indwelling Christ and myself. Christ is the Vine, the Source of life and fruit; I am His branch, an instrument, a vessel, a channel through which His life and fruit will flow. In the same way that Christ said, "It is not I but the Father who speaks and works in me"; so I must learn to say, "It is not I but Christ who speaks and works in me." "Christ lives in me" means that Christ is again incarnate – in the flesh – in me. If this is so, then:

2. I must continually put on Christ, until His life absorbs me completely and only He is seen in me. Romans 13:14 tells us to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ." This is very significant in the light of the command to put on the whole armor of God. Meditate on the pieces of the armor.

- The belt of truth is CHRIST THE TRUTH (John 14:6).
- The breastplate of righteousness is CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (1 Corinthians 1:30).
- The shoes of the Gospel of Peace is CHRIST THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL and THE PRINCE OF PEACE (1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Isaiah 9:6).
- The shield of faith is CHRIST'S FAITH by which we live (Galatians 2:20).
- The helmet of salvation is CHRIST OUR SALVATION (Matthew 1:21).
- The sword of the Spirit is CHRIST THE WORD OF GOD (John 1:1; Revelation 19:13).
- CHRIST Himself is the whole armor of God that we put on! Christ lives in me, and He is all around me!

3. St. Patrick expressed the truth of Romans 13:14 and Galatians 2:20 in a prayer popularly known as “St. Patrick’s Shield”:

Christ beside me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ within me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me.

James Quinn adapted this into a hymn as follows (Tune: “Morning Has Broken”):

1. Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me,
Christ above me, never to part.
2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me, Shield in strife;
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising, Light of my life.

Repeat verse 1.

Also check Michael Fischer’s adaptation “Christ Be Beside Me” on You Tube.

4. My whole life must be dedicated to the will of God and to the work of God. Study John 4:34; 17:4.
5. I must exclusively depend on the resources of God. Christ lives in me to finish God's work in my life, and I trust Him to do it in God's power. Study John 5:19,30; Philippians 2:13.
6. The life of Christ is for my whole personality, BODY (Romans 8:11); SOUL (2 Corinthians 4:16); and SPIRIT (1 Corinthians 6:17).
 - As I DIE DAILY to myself, CHRIST’S LIFE will flow into and through my whole personality (2 Corinthians 4:10,11; 12:9,10).
 - For my BODY, I have Christ's healing and health (1 Peter 2:24);
 - For my MIND, I have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16);
 - For my EMOTIONS, I have the emotions of Christ as manifested in the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23);

- For my WILL, I have the purpose of Christ to do the will of God (Hebrews 10:5-7).

7. DAILY LIFE. "Christ in me" does not mean continual comfort, material abundance, and physical well-being. The conditions and circumstances of my earthly existence will be decided solely by God's sovereign ordering. Rather, I will experience both happy and hard conditions and circumstances to bring out the highest glory of God and the highest good of God's people. Study 2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Ephesians 3:13; Philippians 4:11-13; Colossians 1:24; 2 Timothy 2:8-10.

8. END OF LIFE. The purpose, time, and manner of my physical death is absolutely at His disposal. Study John 21:18-19; Philippians 1:20,21; Revelation 6:11. John Wesley and George Whitefield, two spiritual giants who changed the course of the history of England and America in their generation, encouraged each other with these words, "We are immortal until God's work is done!"

9. How will Christ's full indwelling become a reality in my life? The third step shows us how.

- *STEP 3: APPROPRIATE CHRIST'S LIFE BY FAITH*

1. I appropriate Christ's full indwelling by faith. "The life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me".

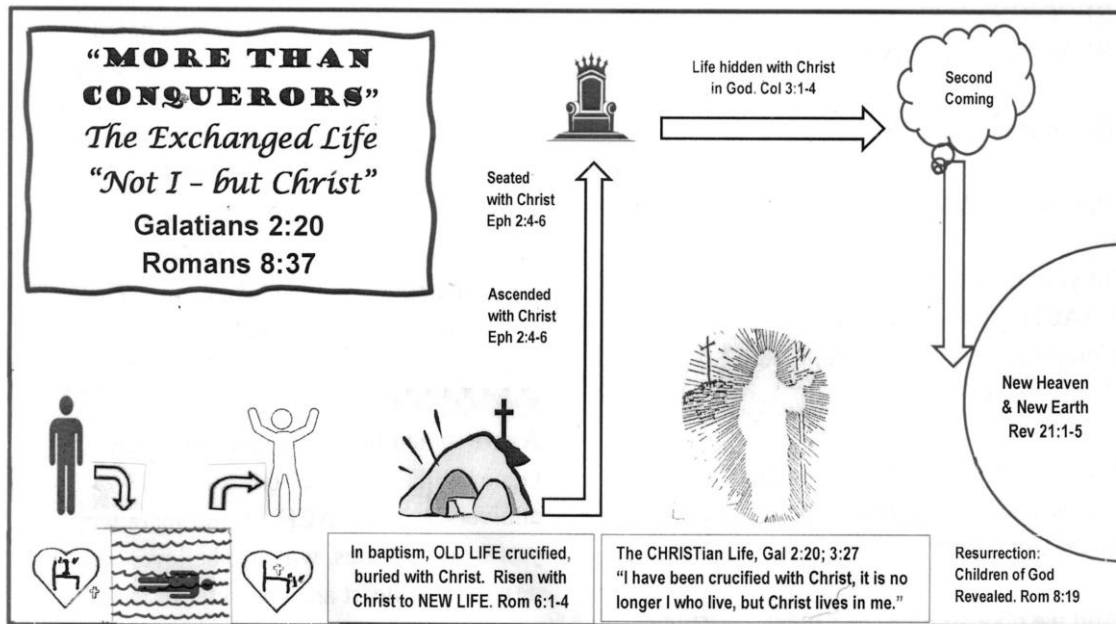
2. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). When Christ healed the lame man, He commanded him to stand up and walk, and as the lame man obeyed strength and healing were given to him. In the same way, Christ's tells me "Go, live My life". So as I go and live in full dependence upon Christ, His life will rush into my body, soul, and spirit, and in the power of Christ's life I will love and serve God to the end.

3. This faith means constant abiding in Christ (John 15:5). I can always count on Christ because He loved me and will always love me. He gave Himself for me on the cross, and every moment of the day He continually makes His life available for me to take in. It is like breathing: I exhale out to him my self (I am crucified with Christ); and I inhale Christ into my being (Christ lives in me).

4. As I learn to exercise the EXCHANGED LIFE, like Paul I will discover that indeed I can do more than any mere human being can do. "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). "And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me" (Colossians 1:29). "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me" (1 Corinthians 15:10).

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:37-39)

More than conquerors – through Christ! That’s the EXCHANGED LIFE!



PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Live the exchanged life. Put on Christ everyday!

MEMORIZE

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

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Continue:

- Your PRAYER PARTNER evangelistic outreach, using Book 1 with your prospects.
- Your own study of your current NewLife Book.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Your next book of study will be *NEWLIFE BOOK 8*.