

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

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BOOK 9

Parent Left Hand:
Needs of a Spiritual Parent

Lesson 1

Left Hand – Needs of a Spiritual Parent
Thumb: Prayer: Spiritual Warfare

1. AS a spiritual baby you learned to *thank* God and *ask* God in prayer.
2. As a spiritual youth you learned to *worship* and to *intercede*.
3. As a spiritual parent you need to learn *spiritual warfare*. Spiritual warfare is claiming and applying the fruits of the redemption and victory won by Christ through His death, resurrection and ascension. Spiritual warfare is based on three truths:
 - **Truth 1:** Through His death, resurrection, and ascension Christ is now Lord of lords and King of kings (Eph. 1:15-23; Rev. 1:17-18; 19:11-16).
 - **Truth 2:** Satan is a defeated foe (John 12:31-32; Heb. 2:14-15), though God allows him to continue in order to test people until Christ returns (1 Pet.5:8-10; Rev. 20:10).
 - **Truth 3:** Christians occupy a position of authority. They are seated with Christ on His throne at God's right hand, and they have the authority to use His name to defeat Satan and his works (Eph. 2:4-7; Luke 10:17-20; Mark 16:17-18). Prayer and fasting enables Christians to exercise their authority more effectively (Mark 9:29, KJV).

4. The Christian's position of authority is the place of victory. As long as we maintain our position of authority in Christ we will experience victory. Satan's primary objective is to get us off our position, to make us live and serve God from a lower base or position other than our position in Christ. Please carefully read Ephesians 2:1-10.

(1) When we were still separated from Christ, what was our condition? (Eph. 2:1-3)

(2) Because God loved us so much what three things did He do for us in Christ?

- Ephesians 2:5 _____
- Ephesians 2:6a _____
- Ephesians 2:6b _____

(3) On what basis did God accomplish the salvation described in Ephesians 2:5-6? What part did our work contribute to that salvation? Ephesians 2:8-9

MADE ALIVE, RAISED UP, SEATED WITH CHRIST

5. These three actions God did to us, solely and purely on the basis of His grace.

- Made us alive,
- Raised up,
- Seated us with Christ on His throne in the heavenly places!

We did not do anything; we simply believed. And because we believed, the resurrection, ascension, and enthronement of Christ became also OUR resurrection, OUR ascension, OUR enthronement.

6. Now, let's look at the extent of our position in Christ.

- According to Ephesians 1:20, to what place did God seat Christ?

²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,

- According to Ephesians 1:21-22, what powers have been placed under the feet of Christ?

²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

²² And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church,

HEAD AND BODY TOGETHER

7. The extent of Christ's position is all-inclusive and unlimited. All powers and positions in this world and in the world to come – whether angelic, demonic, or human – all have been placed under the authority of Christ. Please read Matthew 28:18.

8. When Christ shouted on the cross "It is finished!" He meant that He had won complete victory over the world, sin and Satan. Christ's enthronement at the right hand of the Father meant that Satan and his hosts had been completely defeated, and all the throne rights in heaven and on earth had been restored to Christ, humanity's new representative Head. According to Hebrews 2:14-15:

- How did Christ accomplish His victory?
- How complete was Christ's victory over the devil?
- What promise in Genesis 3:15 was fulfilled by Christ?

9. In the conflict between Christ and Satan, Satan, the serpent, bruised the HEEL of Christ because he succeeded in killing Christ as a human being. But Christ, the Seed of the woman, bruised the HEAD of the serpent, giving him a mortal blow that rendered him completely powerless.

10. All these truth about Christ's death, resurrection and ascension have direct application to spiritual warfare: CHRIST WON HIS TOTAL VICTORY NOT FOR HIMSELF BUT FOR US! Please study Ephesians 1:22-23. After Christ won the victory, all creation and all powers were put under His feet AND God "gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

11. Christ is the Head, and the Church – all Christians together – is His Body. Both Head and Body are ENTHRONED TOGETHER at the right hand of God, with all things subject to the feet of Christ. This is your position as a Christian. You are seated on the throne with Christ as part of His Body. Someone commented, "Even if I'm only part of the feet of Christ, all the powers of the enemy are still under me!"

CLAIMING – NOT STRIVING

12. Because Christ already won the victory and this victory is counted to us in union with Christ, we do not STRIVE for victory; rather, we CLAIM and APPLY the victory which is already ours in Christ! To claim and apply this victory, we only need to declare the truth that Christ has won the victory for us and that we are now appropriating it for ourselves. Physical actions (shouting, feet stomping, hands flailing, etc., as if you are battling your enemy) most probably give evil spirits a lot of fun watching. One time on a religious tv program someone came on the stage all dressed up in a plastic suit of armor, brandishing a plastic sword, and shouting loudly a command against the devil. The devil

must have left in disgust at being treated in a childish manner, feeling so deeply insulted! It is the firm command of faith in the name of Jesus that evil spirits obey, not any of our physical exertions or gears.

13. Our Lord promised, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). The truth that Christ already won – that Satan is already a defeated foe – that in union with Christ we have been enthroned above and beyond the powers of Satan to defeat us – this truth will set us free and give us continual victory.

FOUR WAYS OF DEFEAT

14. But can Christians still be defeated? Yes, we can still experience defeat in four ways:

- **THROUGH IGNORANCE.** As long as Satan can keep you ignorant of the full truth of Christ's victory, he can defeat you to the extent of your ignorance.
- **THROUGH UNBELIEF.** You may know the truth, but you don't have the faith to believe the full extent of the truth. This unbelief can be caused by believing a lie or a deception. For example, Satan will say, "No, this victory belongs only to the apostles, to pastors and missionaries, not for an ordinary Christian like you." Or Satan might say, "Don't be a fanatic; those things are not included in the things Christ had won."
- **THROUGH SIN.** Satan can keep you from claiming complete victory in Christ through sin. Sin always destroys faith; without faith you cannot claim God's salvation and blessing.
- **THROUGH NON-ESSENTIALS.** If Satan can keep you busy with non-essentials and sidetracked by the earthly, material aspects of Christian service, then he can keep you from claiming full victory in Christ. For example, church buildings are helpful; but if all you do is to improve and beautify the building, then you are limited in your ability to claim souls or reach the world for Christ.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

CLAIMING TERRITORY FOR THE GOSPEL

15. How can you claim and apply Christ's victory in your situation? Let's illustrate. For example, you are the only Christian in your office. You plan to witness to everyone, but there seems to be much opposition. How will you apply Christ's victory in your situation? Below are some suggested steps:

STEP 1: DECLARE that Christ has already won the victory on the cross over all the forces of Satan in this office.

STEP 2: In the name of Christ, COMMAND Satan to move out of this office and to stop blinding the minds of your office-mates.

STEP 3: In the name of Christ, CLAIM this office and everyone in it as now belonging to the rightful Lord and Owner, Jesus Christ (Psalm 2:7-8).

STEP 4: UTILIZE the open doors or opportunities that God will begin to give you to share the Gospel with your office-mates.

STEP 5: ESTABLISH your "beachhead": In war-time, the invading force first seeks to establish a "beachhead" from which to launch further attacks on the mainland. When a person receives Christ, use that person as your "beachhead" to reach out to that person's family and friends with his/her assistance, using the same steps as shown above.

CASTING OUT EVIL SPIRITS

16. How can you claim and apply Christ's victory in casting out evil spirits?

NOTE: WORST CASE SCENARIO:

THESE STEPS ARE FOR A SITUATION IN WHICH THE EVIL SPIRIT HAS MANIFESTED ITSELF AND HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF A PERSON (such as the person seems to have fainted and is lying on the floor; or the person is resisting and talking/screaming evidently under the power of the evil spirit. OTHERWISE, begin by talking to the person normally until such time as the evil spirit will manifest itself).

ALWAYS REMEMBER: CHRIST HAS GIVEN YOU AUTHORITY TO CAST OUT EVIL SPIRITS IN HIS NAME.

- STEP 1: DECLARE that Christ has already won the victory on the cross over all the forces of Satan. Read Philippians 2:6-11
- STEP 2: COMMAND:

After reading Philippians 2:6-11:

- (1) Say in a firm authoritative voice: "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I say to you, evil spirit, the Lord Jesus Christ has already defeated you and Satan and all his hosts.
- (2) (If the exorcism is in the home with family present): In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I declare to you that this whole family is redeemed and covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.

(3) In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I declare that (NAME OF PERSON BEING PRAYED FOR) has been redeemed by the blood of Jesus; he/she belongs to God; you have no power or right to hold on to him/her or touch. Therefore, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I command you, evil spirit, come out of (NAME OF PERSON) now and never return. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

- STEP 3: The evil spirit may leave instantly, or it may resist. Its tactic is to rattle your faith and make you doubt in the power of the name of Jesus. Prepare a sheet with which to cover the patient if a female; sometimes the demon pulls up the skirt of the patient. But stand firm in your faith, and with a firm voice, keep repeating in a normal tone of voice:

Jesus Christ is Lord, Jesus Christ is Victor, Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

- STEP 4: When the evil spirit leaves, if appropriate hold the person's hands and assure him/her of your love and acceptance and complete safety in the embrace of the family. Pray a prayer of thanks for the deliverance. Help him/her to relax until he/she feels safe and comfortable. If hungry, give him/her some food; or just let him/her continue to relax and sleep.
- STEP 5: Instruct the family what to do.

(1) Treat him/her normally as you have always treated him/her, with love and full acceptance. The goal is help him/her recover normal patterns of eating and sleep and relaxing. Don't force him/her to talk or engage in conversation. Just be sensitive if he/she needs anything. Avoid always asking, "Are you all right?"

(2) If he/she shows some signs as if the evil spirit is returning, let the family pray this prayer over her:

"We declare that Jesus Christ is Lord. Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, that You bought our whole family with Your blood, we belong to You alone and we are fully covered by Your blood. Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, that our son/daughter is fully redeemed and covered by Your blood. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we declare that the evil spirit has no power or right to come back and oppress him/her anymore. Jesus Christ is Lord, Jesus Christ is Victor, Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords, to the glory of God the Father. Amen."

Keep assuring him/her, and keep repeating softly: Jesus Christ is Lord, Jesus Christ is Victor, Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Do this until he/she finally relaxes and feels comfortable and resting. One person will continue to sit with him/her until he/she feels secure to be by him/herself. Make sure he/she eats and sleeps normally.

- STEP 6: Long term healing and deliverance depends on the person and his/her family nurtured in the Word of God, beginning from the basics of the Gospel and continuing on in the discipleship process. You may use the NewLife Series or an equivalent material; the important thing is to get everybody grounded in their faith in Christ through the Word and in fellowship with other believers.

MEMORIZE

MARK 9:28-29: AND WHEN HE HAD COME INTO THE HOUSE, HIS DISCIPLES ASKED HIM PRIVATELY, "WHY COULD WE NOT CAST IT OUT?" SO HE SAID TO THEM, "THIS KIND CAN COME OUT BY NOTHING BUT PRAYER AND FASTING."

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Encourage your disciples to:

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

Lesson 2

Left Hand -- Needs of a Spiritual Parent Pointing Finger: Word: Basic Bible Truths

1. AS a spiritual baby, you learned to take in God's word as your spiritual *milk*.
2. As a spiritual youth, you learned to take hold of God's Word as the *sword of the Spirit*.
3. As a spiritual parent, you need to know and follow God's Word as your complete *guidebook*, for life and service. In order to grow as a spiritual parent you need to know the basic doctrines or truths from the Bible. The outline below will give you an idea at this time what these doctrines are. These were covered in *NewLife Book 5 (updated 2025)* under the title BASIC BIBLE TRUTHS. The outline below will help refresh those truths in your mind:

- **Palm:** Truths about the Bible.
- **Thumb:** Truths about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Trinity).

- **Pointing Finger:** Truths about Creation (man, spirit beings, things).
- **Middle Finger:** Truths about Sin; salvation; discipleship.
- **Ring Finger:** Truths about the Church.
- **Little Finger:** Truths about Last Things (Second Coming of Christ and the end of the world).

PERSONAL APPLICATION

4. CHECK YOUR PRESENT KNOWLEDGE OF DOCTRINES. Write down two or three things that you know and believe ...

ABOUT THE BIBLE

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

ABOUT GOD THE FATHER

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

ABOUT THE TRINITY

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

ABOUT MAN

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

ABOUT ANGELS

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

ABOUT SATAN AND DEMONS

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

ABOUT CREATION

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

ABOUT SIN

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

ABOUT SALVATION

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

ABOUT THE CHURCH

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

ABOUT THE LAST THINGS (SECOND COMING OF CHRIST, ETC.)

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Encourage your disciples to:

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

MEMORIZE

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17: ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD, AND IS PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE COMPLETE, THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.

Lesson 3**Left Hand -- Needs of a Spiritual Parent
Middle Finger: Stewardship**

1. PREVIOUSLY we studied about stewardship in two places (Book 3, Lesson 3; Book 4, Lesson 6). In this lesson we will look at the meaning of stewardship one more time and study some examples of people who practiced it.

MEANING OF STEWARDSHIP

2. First, stewardship means that we recognize that God owns everything because ...
 - God created everything (Gen. 1:1; Psalm 24:1);
 - God sustains everything (Psalm 36:6; Heb. 1:3);
 - God redeemed everything (Eph. 1:7-10);
 - Someday God will judge everyone (2 Cor. 5:10).
3. Second, stewardship means that we recognize that God wants us to use everything – time, talent, money – for His glory and His service (Rom. 12:1-2).
4. Third, stewardship means that we believe God will bless us when we give our life, time, talent and treasure to God's work, based on three principles:
 - Putting God first: As we put God first, He promises to bless us with everything else that we need (Matt. 6:33; 2 Cor. 8:1-5).

- Sowing and reaping: God promises that the more we sow, the more we shall reap (2 Cor. 9:6).
- The tithe (Mal. 3:10-11): In the New Testament, we are no longer under the law of the tithe. But the principle and promise of the tithe remains as a good standard for God's people. If the Old Testament believers were able to give the tithe, we New Testament believers can do no less. As we faithfully give God a regular portion of our income to support His work, He promises to open the windows of heaven so that we shall not have enough room to store the blessings He will give us.

MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

5. Out of so many, we shall look at two examples of material and financial stewardship, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament.

1. THE WIDOW IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

Please read 1 Kings 17:8-16. In this story God sent His prophet Elijah to a widow who was so poor, she had only a handful of flour and a few drops of cooking oil left.

- When Elijah asked the poor widow to give him some bread, what did the widow say in reply? (1 Kings 17:11,12)
- What did Elijah assure the widow if she fed God's servant first? (1 Kings 17:13,14)
- What blessing did the widow and her son, along with God's prophet, receive because she practiced stewardship (giving her all to God)? (1 Kings 17:15,16)
- Compare this widow to another widow in Luke 21:1-4. What lesson or lessons about stewardship can we learn from these two widows?

2. THE YOUNG LAD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Please read John 6:1-13. In this story, a young lad gave to the Lord Jesus his meager lunch of five loaves and two small fish.

- Suppose the lad kept his bread and fish for himself, only how many could have been fed?
- However, when the lad gave to the Lord Jesus his small lunch, how many people were able to eat?
- How much was left over after everybody had eaten?

(d) What lesson or lessons about stewardship can we learn from the young lad?

STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE, TIME, TALENT AND SERVICE

6. From Philippians 2:5-30, how did the following individuals practice the stewardship of their life, time, talent and service?

1. *THE PHILIPPIAN BELIEVERS (Philippians 2:12-16)*
2. *THE APOSTLE PAUL (Philippians 2:17)*
3. *TIMOTHY (Philippians 2:18-23)*
4. *EPAPHRODITUS (Philippians 2:25-30)*
5. *CHRIST, OUR SUPREME EXAMPLE (Philippians 2:5-11)*

PERSONAL APPLICATION

7. How are you practicing stewardship regarding:

- Your life?
- Your time?
- Your talent?
- Your money?

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Encourage your disciples to:

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

MEMORIZE

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8: AND GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ALL GRACE ABOUND TOWARD YOU, THAT YOU, ALWAYS HAVING ALL SUFFICIENCY IN ALL THINGS, MAY HAVE AN ABUNDANCE FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.

Lesson 4

**Left Hand -- Needs of a Spiritual Parent
Ring Finger: Bride of Christ**

1. As a spiritual baby you came to know that the Church is *God's family*.
2. As a spiritual youth you learned that the Church is the *Body of Christ*.
3. As a spiritual parent you will discover that the Church is the *Bride of Christ*. This means...

CHRIST MORE THAN MINISTRY

4. *As the Bride of Christ, our love to Christ must have priority over our service to Christ; we must never lose our first love for Him (Rev. 2:1-7; Luke 10:38-42).*

(a) The clearest illustration of this is Mary and Martha in their relationship to Jesus. Please read Luke 10:38-42.

(b) What did Martha complain about? What was the answer of Jesus to Martha?

(c) As spiritual parents, the primary emphasis of our Christian activity is ministry, serving God by serving His people. However, this emphasis on ministry presents a common pitfall: It is very easy to become more devoted to ministry than to the Person of the Lord Jesus. The symbolism of Christ as the Bridegroom and of the Church as the Bride must always remind and challenge us to give priority to developing our personal love relationship with Christ. And then out of that love relationship we should serve Christ, not with diminished but rather with growing zeal and effectiveness.

- PERSONAL CHECK-UP: At this stage of your Christian life, are you more like Martha or Mary? Can you honestly say that you are growing in your personal love relationship with Christ?*

CHRIST'S GOAL FOR HIS BRIDE: HOLINESS

5. *As the Bride of Christ, perfect purity and holiness is Christ's goal for us (Eph. 6:25-27; Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 1:14-16; 1 John 3:1-3).*

(a) The true Gospel of salvation should always emphasize that we are saved by grace through faith, and our human works have absolutely nothing to contribute to our salvation (Ephesians 2:8,9).

(b) However, the apostle Paul kept warning people that this salvation by grace is very easily misinterpreted or distorted to mean that holiness of life is optional, not necessary. For example, Paul had this distortion in mind when he asked in Romans 6:1, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?" And he went on to answer in the next verse, "Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" (Romans 6:2).

(c) As spiritual parents, we must continue to hold up before ourselves and before younger Christians, that the ultimate goal of Christ for His Bride is perfection. "That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:26,27).

(d) There is a tendency for older Christians to become more lax and careless in their standard of personal holiness. The opposite should happen: As we grow in our knowledge and experience of God's holiness, we should become more and more sensitive to sin and its deceptions.

- *PERSONAL CHECK-UP: As you become more mature in your Christian life, do you feel more confident in your ability to walk closer to the edge of temptation? Or do you feel more and more the need to stay as far away as you can from the edge of temptation? What does 1 Corinthians 10:12 mean to you?*

LOVE THE ONLY MOTIVATION

6. *As the Bride of Christ, love for Christ should motivate everything we do for Him (John 14:15,21; 21:15-22).*

(a) The very personal interaction between Jesus and Peter in John 21:15-22 is instructive for all Christians. Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times about his love? What was the connection between Peter's love for Jesus and the task of feeding the lambs and sheep of Jesus?

(b) As spiritual parents our task is to care for the lambs and sheep of Jesus in the church. But we must always make sure that our primary motivation is our love for our Bridegroom. It is very easy to make our love for the lambs and sheep to become our motivation. For example, when the Christian we are discipling is very teachable, we enjoy teaching him/her. But what happens if the Christian becomes rebellious? We might be tempted to give up helping the rebellious Christian. But if we are helping that Christian because we are motivated by our love for Christ and by His love for that Christian, then we will never give up even in the most difficult and trying times.

- *PERSONAL CHECK-UP: What is my primary motivation for helping other Christians – my love for Christ or my love for these Christians?*

LOVE OTHERS WITH CHRIST'S LOVE

7. *As the Bride of Christ, we must love fellow Christians with Christ's own kind of love (John 13:34-35; 15:13).*

(a) A very wise Christian warned that we Christians must never seek direct relationship with other people, specially with fellow Christians. He said that we must always have a **MEDIATED RELATIONSHIP**, meaning, **MEDIATED THROUGH CHRIST**. My

attitude and action toward you as a fellow Christian must always go through Christ. This is exactly what Christ has established as His new commandment for His followers: love one another as Christ has loved us. We might also express it this way: I LOVE YOU WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST. Or, I ALLOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN ME TO FLOW TOWARD YOU. It's not my love, because my love is limited and it tends to dry up. But the love of Christ will always flow abundantly and His love can never get tired or defeated.

- *PERSONAL CHECK-UP: Is there anyone within your Church fellowship that you unconsciously relate to DIRECTLY, instead of THROUGH CHRIST? Make sure that all your relationships are MEDIATED THROUGH THE LOVE OF CHRIST.*

PERSONAL APPLICATION

8. In a sense, all the points in this lesson – from point one to point four – are only four different ways of expressing the same thing: the love relationship between Christ the Bridegroom and the Church His Bride must always remain a priority for the spiritual parent. Wherever this love relationship is nurtured, and wherever it grows as it should, the result can only be joy and health and fruitfulness in spiritual parenthood.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Encourage your disciples to:

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

MEMORIZE

Ephesians 5:26-27: THAT HE MIGHT SANCTIFY AND CLEANSE HER WITH THE WASHING OF WATER BY THE WORD, THAT HE MIGHT PRESENT HER TO HIMSELF A GLORIOUS CHURCH, NOT HAVING SPOT OR WRINKLE OR ANY SUCH THING, BUT THAT SHE SHOULD BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLEMISH.

Lesson 5

Left Hand -- Needs of a Spiritual Parent Little Finger: World Mission

- AS a spiritual baby you learned to "baby talk" as a way of witnessing for Christ by inviting friends to Bible study.

2. As a spiritual youth you learned to give your personal *testimony* and to present the *Gospel Hand*.

3. As a spiritual parent you will begin to understand and feel *God's eternal missionary heartbeat*. From 1 John 2:12-14, note again the degrees of knowing God that Christians have at the three levels of spiritual development:

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

- Spiritual babies know God as the One who forgives sins and as their heavenly Father;
- Spiritual youth have the word of God living in them; they are spiritually strong and have consistent victory over self, sin, the world and Satan;
- Spiritual parents are described twice as those who have known God “who is from the beginning” – the Eternal One who is accomplishing His eternal plan of salvation for His people.

THE HEARTBEAT OF THE ETERNAL GOD

4. To know God “who is from the beginning” means also to know what is the heartbeat of the eternal God, from the beginning. What is this heartbeat? What is this BIG PLAN that God is accomplishing today?

5. Hebrews 2:10-11 shows us the heartbeat of God; it shows us what is the BIG PLAN that God has been working out from the beginning until the end of human history. Let's read this scripture carefully:

“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.”

6. From the above scripture please note well the phrase: “in bringing many sons to glory” – that phrase expresses the heartbeat of God. He has planned from eternity past to form a family for Himself, who will spend all eternity future with Him!

7. We find this heartbeat revealed in another key scripture. Let's read Romans 8:29-30:

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

8, From the above scripture, think well on the over-riding motivation behind God's eternal twin actions of foreknowledge and predestination: that those so foreknown and predestined might be "conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren". It has been the heartbeat of God to form a family of which every member would share in the perfect character of His own Son; in other words, God's plan from eternity past was to bring forth a family of Christ-like sons and daughters!

9. How do we know that this plan for bringing forth a family was precious to the heart of God? We know it from the cost He was willing to pay in order to make the formation of such a family possible. Let's return to Hebrews 2:10-11. There we read about what the cost was: "For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."

10. The cost was extremely high – it required the giving of God's only begotten Son and the giving Him over to experience the ultimate suffering of separation, humiliation, pain, and death. Not that the Son was forced to do it. No, wonder of wonders, the entire Godhead of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – all three Persons were in one loving accord to achieve the divine plan of bring a family to glory.

11. Of the Son's part in this plan we read in Philippians 2:5-8:

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

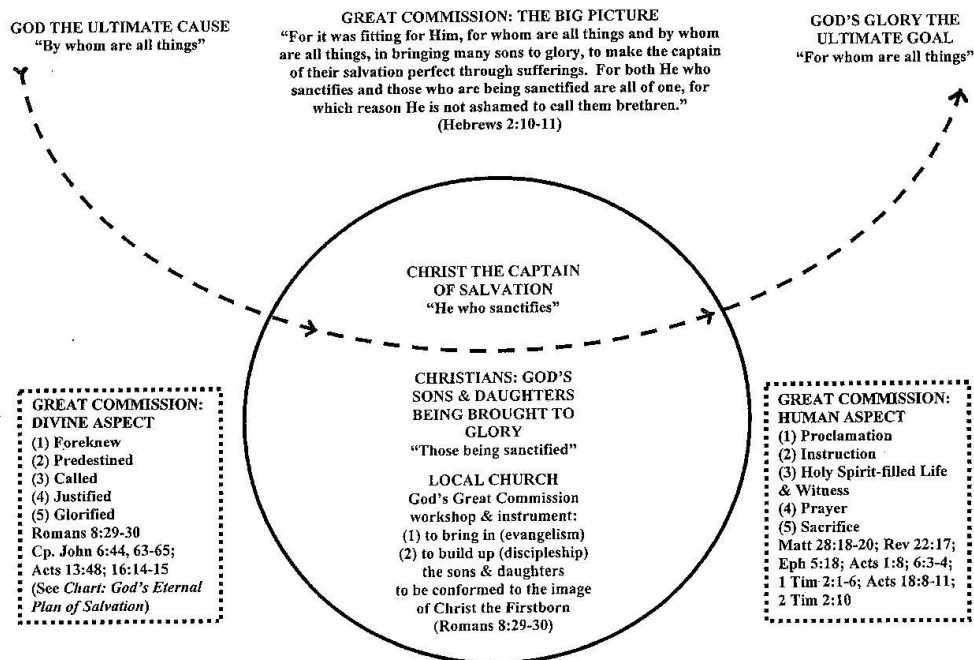
12. And this is what we read of the Spirit's part in Hebrews 9:14:

¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

13. The Father sent the Son; the Son joyfully obeyed the Father's will; and the Holy Spirit helped the Son every step of the way to accomplish the redemption necessary for the dreamed-of family to be brought to glory.

GOD ALREADY DID HIS PART – WE NEED TO DO OURS

14. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is nothing more and nothing less than the fulfilling of God’s great plan, the satisfaction of the heartbeat of God. Let’s study the diagram below.



15. From Hebrews 2:10-11 let’s note that bringing God’s family to glory requires a process through which the sons and daughters must go through. This is the process of SANCTIFICATION. God is in charge of this process. To guarantee that this process would succeed He provided the SANCTIFIER. To qualify for His task, the Sanctifier Himself had to go through utmost suffering. We know this suffering included His incarnation, His life of perfect submission and obedience on earth, His passion and death on the cross, His burial, resurrection, ascension and exaltation.

16. The process of sanctification has a location, a “workshop”. This location is in this world, in the present life, but more specifically within the LOCAL CHURCH, which serves both as the workshop and as the instrument to accomplish the double objective of the Great Commission:

- Objective #1: EVANGELISM – to bring in the people who will be sanctified;
- Objective #2: DISCIPLESHIP – to build up (to sanctify) the people into worthy sons and daughters.

17. As the workshop, the local church is where God is molding and refining His sons and daughters through the principle of “iron sharpens iron” (Proverbs 27:17). As the instrument, God is using the members of the local church to bring in the people and to build them up in the faith.

DIVINE ASPECT

18. As far as the divine aspect or perspective is concerned, God's plan is already finished. Most commentators note that the five actions involved in God's plan are all described in the PAST tense:

- Foreknew
- Predestined
- Called
- Justified
- Glorified

19. Whether your interpretation of Romans 8:29-30 is Calvinistic or Arminian, the glorious fact remains that when God foreknew and predestined people in eternity past, He also already considered them as GLORIFIED (past tense) at the end of time.

THE HUMAN ASPECT

20. What is already finished from the divine perspective, however, has still to be worked out in time from the human perspective. This means that we, believers and members of the local church, must do our part, which includes at the very least five things:

- Proclamation: We must proclaim the Gospel to the whole world;
- Instruction: We must instruct believers;
- Holy Spirit-filled Life & Witness: We must always depend on the power of the Holy Spirit;
- Prayer: Everything we do must be bathed in prayer.
- Sacrifice: Just as Christ suffered to accomplish our redemption, we must be ready to accept suffering in order to bring that redemption to others.

21. Here's how the process looks like as it is going on in the church at present and what the goal of the process is:

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a

holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22).

The family (household) of God is actually a building that's being fitted together to become a holy temple in the Lord for a dwelling place of God – here and now, but ultimately and most fully in the eternal kingdom at the end of time.

22. And what will we see at the end of time? We will see a multitude which no one could number...

REVELATION 7:9-10: ⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

23. And in the midst of that big family we will see God dwelling in and among His people.

³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:3-4)

PERSONAL APPLICATION

21. Seek to feel God's heartbeat this week, by meditating on this powerful prayer hymn by Bessie F. Hatcher:

O God, the world is lost in sin,
And so few that seem to care!
Many of whom profess Thy name
No burden will help to bear.

We need a passion, Lord, for souls,
To bring the lost back to Thee;
Our hearts must be stirred, till all have heard
At least once of Calvary.

Let me burn out for Thee, dear Lord,
Burn and wear out for Thee.
Don't let me rust, or my life
Be a failure, my God to Thee.

Use me and all I have, dear Lord,

And get me so close to Thee
That I feel the throb of the great heart of God,
Until I burn out for Thee.

How cold has been our giving, Lord!
How selfish our love has been,
Keeping from those who never heard
The gospel that saves from sin!

How often we have turned aside,
Neglecting to do our part,
Forgetting Thy tears and agony,
Forgetting Thy bleeding heart!

Meet us and break us up, dear Lord,
Until driven to our knees.
Bare to our gaze Thy cross and love,
Of blood-baptized Calvary.

Speak till we hear again Thy call,
And hold nothing back from Thee.
Oh, burn on our hearts the hopeless wail
Of souls damned eternally.

O God, with shame I humbly bow,
In tears and with contrite heart.
Forgive me for the broken vows,
And failure to do my part.

I heed Thy call and say, "Farewell,"
To all that would hinder me;
Thy grace and Thy love to lost ones tell,
And my life burn out for Thee.

By Bessie F. Hatcher

Note: See YouTube for a hymn version of this poem.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Encourage your disciples to:

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

MEMORIZE

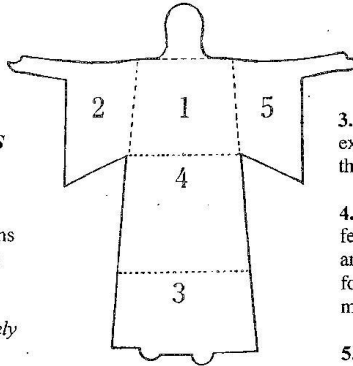
REVELATION 7:9-10: AFTER THESE THINGS I LOOKED, AND BEHOLD, A GREAT MULTITUDE WHICH NO ONE COULD NUMBER OF ALL NATIONS, TRIBES, PEOPLES, AND TONGUES, STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE AND BEFORE THE LAMB, CLOTHED WITH WHITE ROBES, WITH PALM BRANCHES IN THEIR HANDS, AND CRYING OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE, SAYING, "SALVATION BELONGS TO OUR GOD WHO SITS ON THE THRONE, AND TO THE LAMB!"

Lesson 6

**Left Hand -- Needs of a Spiritual Parent
Palm: Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

1. AS a spiritual baby you learned that when you accepted Christ as Lord and Savior you received the *indwelling Holy Spirit*.
2. As a spiritual youth you learned about the steps to the *Holy Spirit-filled life*.
3. As a spiritual parent you will discover and use the *gifts of the Holy Spirit*. In *NewLife Book 12* you will study in detail about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In this study we will give an overview of the main truths regarding spiritual gifts, using the diagrams below.

**CHRIST THE HEAD
OF THE CHURCH**



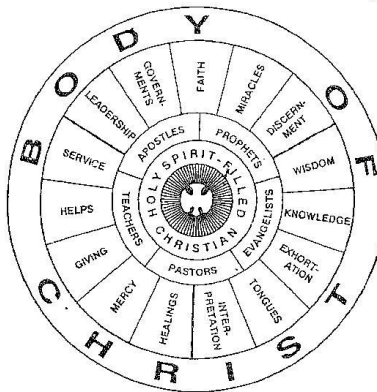
**5 BASIC
MINISTRIES**
Eph 4:11-13

- 1. **APOSTLES**
lay the foundations
of new ministries
- 2. **PROPHETS**
proclaim the *timely*
Word of God.

3. **EVANGELISTS**
extend and expand
the Gospel outreach

4. **PASTORS**
feed, nurture, train,
and equip believers
for maturity &
ministry.

5. **TEACHERS**
teach the *timeless*
Word of God.



**GIFTS FOR
SERVING**

- 1. SERVICE
- 2. HELPS
- 3. GIVING
- 4. MERCY
- 5. HEALINGS

**GIFTS FOR
TEACHING**

- 1. WISDOM
- 2. KNOWLEDGE
- 3. EXHORTATION
- 4. TONGUES
- 5. INTERPRETATION

**GIFTS FOR
LEADING**

- 1. LEADERSHIP
- 2. GOVERNMENTS
- 3. FAITH
- 4. MIRACLES
- 5. DISCERNMENT

Notes: (1) Indispensable Pre-requisite: Every believer must be Holy Spirit-controlled in order to exercise his/her spiritual gifts. (2) This listing & arrangement of ministries & spiritual gifts are suggestive not exhaustive.

5 BASIC MINISTRIES

4. Spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to enable believers to do their assigned tasks to build up the Body of Christ and to witness for Christ in the world.

5. There are five basic ministries in the Body of Christ (the Church). Christ the Head holds the sovereign authority to ordains people to specific areas of ministry, and He makes known His will through the Holy Spirit who calls (assigns) each believer to serve primarily in one of these ministries; for example, Barnabas and Saul in Acts 13:1-2 were called very specifically to serve as apostles (missionaries).

- **APOSTLES** (Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:28). Holy Spirit-given position and ability to lay the foundations of new missions and local churches and to exercise spiritual

authority over them. Ex.: Christ (Heb. 3:1; Col. 1:18); Twelve apostles (Luke 6:12-16); missionaries (1 Cor. 3:9-11; 9:2).

- **PROPHETS** (Eph. 4:11; Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:10,28,29). Holy Spirit-given position and ability to fore-tell and forth-tell God's timely Word. Ex.: Christ (Matt. 24); John (Rev. 1-22)
- **EVANGELISTS** (Eph. 4:11). Holy Spirit-given position and ability to proclaim the gospel to masses, groups, and individuals. Ex.: Christ (Luke 4:16-21); Philip (Acts 4:4-40).
- **PASTORS** (Eph. 4:11). Holy Spirit-given position and ability to shepherd God's flock in the role of spiritual parent, pedagogue, pattern, and protector. Ex.: Christ (John 10:1-30); Peter and the other elders (1 Pet. 5:1-4).
- **TEACHERS** (Eph. 4:11; Rom. 12:7). Holy Spirit-given position and ability to impart the whole counsel of God, God's timeless Word, and to apply it to all of life. Ex.: Christ (Matt. 5-7); Priscilla and Aquilla (Acts 18:24-26).

6. Once the believer discovers the ministry to which he/she is called, he/she then serves in that ministry using the gift/s which the Holy Spirit has given him/her (see the list below).

5 GIFTS FOR SERVING

7. All Christians are called to serve, but some are especially gifted to provide assistance to others in the following ways.

- **SERVICE** (Rom. 12:7). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to provide basic necessities (food, clothing, shelter, etc.). Ex.: Christ (John 6:1ff.); Seven deacons (Acts 6:1-5)
- **HELPS** (1 Cor. 12:28). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to give practical assistance. Ex.: Christ (John 13:3-5); Timothy (Phil. 2:19-23)
- **GIVING** (Rom. 12:8). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to provide material and financial aid with a cheerful, generous, self-sacrificial spirit. Ex.: Christ (2 Cor. 8:9); Barnabas, early Christians (Acts 4:34-37).
- **MERCY** (Rom. 12:8). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to comfort and lighten the pain of chronic sufferers or terminally ill persons. Ex.: Christ (Matt. 9:36,37); Onesiphorus (2 Tim. 1:16,17)
- **HEALINGS** (1 Cor. 12:9,28). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to restore health – physical, emotional, relational, spiritual. Ex.: Christ (Matt. 8:1-17); Peter (Acts 3:1-8; 5:15,16).

5 GIFTS FOR TEACHING

8. There is a a ministry of teaching and below are the gifts that support that ministry.

- WISDOM (1 Cor. 12:8). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to show the practical application of truth. Ex.: Christ (Luke 2:52; Matthew 13:54); Paul (Acts 27:21-44)
- KNOWLEDGE (1 Cor. 12:8). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to know or explain truths from God's Word and from other fields of knowledge. Ex.: Christ (John 1:47); Peter (Acts 10:19,20)
- EXHORTATION (Rom. 12:8). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to counsel, encourage, inspire, and comfort; to confront, rebuke, and correct. Ex.: Christ (Matt. 16:17-19,23); Barnabas (Acts 2:26,27; 15:37-39).
- TONGUES (1 Cor. 12:10,28). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to speak a language not learned by the speaker. Ex.: Christ taught it (Mark 16:17); the apostles (Acts 2:1ff.); the Corinthians (1 Cor. 12, 14).
- INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES (1 Cor. 12:10, 30). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to express in known language what has been spoken in unknown tongue. Ex.: Christ (John 12:28-30); the Corinthians (1 Cor. 14:26).

5 GIFTS FOR LEADING

9. Some Christians are called to help lead and guide the church.

- LEADERSHIP (Rom. 12:8). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to lead people and to keep them working harmoniously together. Ex.: Christ (Matt. 20:20-28); James (Acts 15:13-22).
- GOVERNMENTS (1 Cor. 12:28). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to clarify the vision and goal and to direct and organize people to achieve a definite vision and goal. Ex.: Christ (John 4:34-38); Paul (Rom. 15:20-28).
- FAITH (1 Cor. 12:9). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to know what God wants to do in lives and situations and to accomplish these by believing prayer and action. Ex.: Christ (Mark 11:1-14,22-24); the believer (Matt. 17:20; John 14:12-14).
- MIRACLES (1 Cor. 12:10,28). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to bring about divine intervention in impossible situations. Ex.: Christ (John 2:1-11); Peter (Acts 9:36-41).

- **DISCERNING OF SPIRITS** (1 Cor. 12:10). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to distinguish between spirits (Holy Spirit, human, angelic, evil); and to discern motives (spiritual, carnal, sinful). Ex.: Christ (John 6:70,71); Peter (Acts 5:1-4)

PERSONAL APPLICATION

10. If you have not completed NewLife Book 8, please go back and study that book on how we may discover, develop and deploy your spiritual gifts.

11. There are FIVE INDICATORS that may show the presence of a gift or gifts in your life. These include:

- **AWARENESS** - When the Holy Spirit gives a gift, he also makes you aware of your ability to serve God in a certain way.
- **BURDEN** - You are burdened or motivated by the Holy Spirit to use your gift.
- **CAPABILITY** - You are enabled by the Holy Spirit even as he opens opportunities for you to use your gift.
- **DELIGHT** - You and those to whom you minister experience joy and spiritual growth as you exercise your gift.
- **ENCOURAGEMENT** - Other Christians will notice your gift and its results on the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit will use these Christians, specially your spiritual leaders, to confirm your gift.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Encourage your disciples to:

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

MEMORIZE

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-6: THERE ARE DIVERSITIES OF GIFTS BUT THE SAME SPIRIT. THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF MINISTRIES, BUT THE SAME LORD. AND THERE ARE DIVERSITIES OF ACTIVITIES, BUT IT IS THE SAME GOD WHO WORKS ALL IN ALL.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Your next study book will be *NewLife Book 10*.