

# Abiding in Christ

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# The devil has been defeated

## Lesson 1

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### A. Know your enemy the devil

**If you do not know your enemy you will not know how to deal with him.**

- He is the one who rose up against God with a third of heaven's angels and was cast out of heaven.
- He is the one who tempted man to sin in the Garden of Eden and caused the great fall of mankind.
- He is the one who robbed mankind of his authority over the earth and is now called the prince of this world. John 12:31.
- He is the one who tempts men today to sin and who leads them to hell. 1 John 3:8.
- He is the one who accuses us to God. Revelation 12:10.
- He is the god of this world who blinds the minds of unbelievers. 2 Corinthians 4:4.
- He is the thief who comes to steal, to kill and to destroy. John 10:10.
- He disguises himself as an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:14.
- He is the head of many demons. Matthew 8:28.
- He is a murderer from the beginning. John 8:44.

### B. The greatest battle on earth

**Read Colossians 2:15**

Jesus made a public spectacle of the devil and his demons, by marching them past the cross of Calvary in front of all the hosts of heaven. By leading a perfectly holy life and by dying on the cross He broke the penalty of sin over man.

**Question:** Do you think that the demons of today know about the humiliation that they received at the cross – were they all there?

**Answer:** Demons do not multiply, so all must have been there at the cross of Calvary. Therefore every demon must bow his knee when he hears the name of Jesus because he saw the victory of Jesus over him.

### C. We have power over Satan and his demons

**Read Luke 10:19**

Because Jesus won the victory at the cross He has the right to give us power over all the powers of the enemy!

1. We have power to rebuke and cast out demons.
2. We have power to break curses over our lives. We must rebuke the curse and the

one who has made the curse.

## **D. Methods that Satan uses against believers**

**Think about some methods that Satan uses against Christians:**

1. He uses every conceivable means to hold men in subjection to himself and keep them from turning to God.
2. If he fails in this he tries to kill the believer's testimony and ruin his influence for God.
3. He tries to get them lukewarm and then keep them lukewarm.
4. He causes saints to think they are missing everything in life if they do not go into all kinds of sin. He emphasizes sinful pleasures as innocent enjoyment!
5. He stirs unholy passions in men and women causing them to throw away all restraint and live a worldly life.
6. He tries to make people think there is no joy in serving God.
7. He convinces the diligent in business that they need to spend all their time on getting rich rather than serving the Lord and attending to their families.
8. He encourages Christian leaders to be very busy in the church so that they spend very little time with God and in His Word.
9. He causes preachers to compromise in their message, i.e. lowering standards of holiness, making salvation easy for all, compromising essentials of the faith in order to please men.
10. He brings doctrine into the church that denies things taught in Scripture or causes doubt and unbelief concerning them. 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 1 John 4:1-6.

## **E. God's purpose in allowing Satan to continue**

**Question:** Why does God allow Satan to continue?

1. To develop character and faith in the believer. James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:7-13, 5:8-9.
2. To keep the believer humble. 2 Corinthians 12:7.
3. To provide a conflict for saints that they may be rewarded through overcoming. 1 John 2:13, 4:1-6; Revelation 2:7,11,17; Revelation 2:26-28; Revelation 3:5,12, 21.
4. To demonstrate the power of God over the power of Satan. Mark 16:17-20; Ephesians 2:1-7, 3:10.
5. To use him in afflicting people to bring them to repentance. 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; Job 33:14-30.

6. To use him to sift the believer. Job 1:6-11; Luke 22:31-32; 1 Corinthians 5:5, 1 Timothy 1:20.

## **F. Duty of the saints regarding Satan**

Mark the following verses in your Bible and meditate on them.

1. Put on the whole armour of God. Ephesians 6:11-18.
2. Know Satan's devices. 2 Corinthians 2:11.
3. Give him no place. Ephesians 4:27.
4. Resist him. James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9.
5. Be sober and vigilant. 1 Peter 5:8.
6. Overcome him by the Word. Matthew 4:1-11; 1 John 2:14.
7. Overcome him by the blood of Christ and your testimony. Revelation 12:11.
8. Overcome him by Christ and His power. Ephesians 1:19-22, 2:6.

### **Memory Verse**

Luke 10:19, *"Behold I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you"*.

### **Teacher's Notes**

#### **Origin of Satan**

1. Satan was created by God along with other beings, principalities and powers in heaven and earth. Job 38:4-7; Ezekiel 28:11-17; Colossians 1:15-18.
2. Satan fell because of pride in his own beauty, Ezekiel 28:11-17; 1 Timothy 3:6, and by trying to exalt himself above God, Isaiah 14:12-14.

#### **The work of Satan**

1. He is the deceiver of all men. 2 Corinthians 11:14; Revelation 12:9.
2. He accuses the Saints before God. Revelation 12:10.
3. He exercised the power of death until Christ conquered death, hell and the grave. Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 1:18.
4. He is the leader of all sinners of the human race. 1 John 3:8-10; 1 Timothy 5:15, and all spirit rebels, Matthew 9:34; Ephesians 6:10-18.
5. He causes sickness, disease, physical and mental problems in the human race. Luke 13:16; Acts 10:38.
6. He tempts men. Mark 1:13; 1 Corinthians 7:5.
7. He provokes men to sin. 1 Chronicles 21:1.
8. He disguises himself as an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:14.
9. He hinders the gospel. Acts 13:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:18.
10. He steals the Word of God from men. Matthew 13:19; Luke 8:12.
11. He works miracles. 2 Thessalonians 2:9.
12. He makes war on the saints. Ephesians 6:10-18.

# We have died to sin

## Lesson 2

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### A. Sin is an awful poison

#### Read Romans 5:12

Adam was the representative of the whole human race and we were in his loins when he was innocent and also when he sinned. When he sinned he acted for the entire human race, and the awful poison of sin has been passed on from father to son since Adam fell in the Garden of Eden.

### B. Men are servants of sin and the penalty is death

1. **Read Romans 6:16** – we are servants of sin.
2. **Read Romans 6:23** – the wages of sin is death.

### C. God has made a way

Jesus did not die on the cross just to save us from the penalty of sin, but also to free us from the power and bondage of sin.

1. **Jesus Christ died for our sins.**

#### Read 1 Peter 2:24

Jesus Christ bore our sins on the cross. Because it was the blood of Christ, God the Son, which was shed for us all, there is no sin so great that the blood of God cannot cleanse it.

2. **Jesus broke the power and authority of sin.**

#### Read Romans 6:9-10

Christ not only died for our sins but also died **to** sin, thus breaking the power of sin over us.

**Illustration:** A man commits a terrible crime, is found guilty and is sentenced to death. He is put to death. But a great miracle happens: After he dies he suddenly rises from the dead. What power and authority does the law of the land have over this man concerning the crime he had committed and for which he has paid the full penalty? Of course the judge would have to say that the law no longer has any power over him. Since the law put him to death, he is now dead to that sentence of law.

So it is with Jesus – He died on our behalf for our sin but rose again by the power of the Holy Spirit, thus breaking the power of sin.

## **D. Every believer has been baptized into the death of Jesus**

### **Read Romans 6:3, 6-7**

When we accept Christ as our Lord and Saviour we have died with Him to sin so it no longer has power over us. We can overcome sin through Jesus.

**Illustration:** Can a dead man: a) still speak bad things?; b) listen to bad things?; c) smoke, drink or lust?; d) think on bad things? Of course the answer is **no**.

## **E. Sin has not been banished from our presence but it no longer has the authority to dominate us**

The old sinful nature and the devil are not dead and they can still tempt us, but their authority over us is broken.

We now belong to Christ and no longer to sin or to the devil, so when they approach us we should reject them and not allow them into our lives or entertain them.

### **Now Read from Romans chapter 6**

Verse 6 That henceforth we should not serve sin.  
12 Let not sin reign in your mortal body.  
14 For sin shall not have dominion over you.  
17 You **were** (past tense) the servants of sin.  
18 Now made free from sin.  
22 Now become servants of God.

Therefore "dead to sin" does not mean that sin is dead in you. Neither does it mean that there is never any response to sin in you. But, by your union with Christ in His death, the dominion of sin over you has been broken.

## **F. We must apply this great fact in our lives by faith**

### **1. Read Hebrews 4:2.**

We must mix this great truth (that we are dead to sin) with faith, and then God will release His power into our lives to overcome the temptation to sin.

### **2. Read James 1:22-25.**

Be not just a hearer of this truth but meditate on it asking the Holy Spirit to give you revelation. Then you will know the perfect law of liberty.

## **G. Victory over sin belongs to every child of God**

### **1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:56-57.**

### **2. Speak this following statement about sin out aloud:**

"I am conscious of your presence in me. I know too well the appeal you make to me. But I believe with all my heart that your dominion over me was broken by

what God did in Christ Jesus for me, and this faith is the beginning of a new and glorious victory in Christ Jesus for me".

### **Memory Verse**

Romans 6:6-7, *"For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin, because anyone who has died has been freed from sin".*

### **Teacher's Notes**

#### **Sin and law:**

**Read Romans 8:3** and note the following:

Where this scripture says that the law was "weak" it means impotent or powerless to control the flesh, for sin already had control of it before the law came. Sin would not permit the flesh to obey the law.

**Read Romans 7:15-24** which confirms the above statement, but see how Paul rejoices in verse 25 when he sees how Jesus is the answer.

#### **Sin is passed from father to child:**

1. The Bible always speaks of passing iniquity or sin from the fathers to the sons and not through mothers. Exodus 20:5, 34:7, Leviticus 26:39-40, Numbers 14:18, Deuteronomy 5:9.
2. Adam, not Eve, was the source, the moral, spiritual and legal "head and representative of the whole race". All were in his loins when he was innocent and when he committed sin; just as Levi paid tithes through Abraham while still in his loins. Hebrews 7:9-10.  
When Adam acted, he did so not as a private person but for the race that was to come from him, to share his blessings if he obeyed God or his curses if he sinned. Genesis 2:17, 3:1-24; Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22, 45-48.
3. Scripture recognises the woman as the means of reproduction of man without sinful responsibility as far as passing sin from parent to offspring is concerned.

#### **Christ had sinless flesh:**

1. Christ had no fall and was therefore sinless.
2. Christ did not submit to Satan. John 8:46; Ephesians 2:2; 1 John 3:8; 1 Peter 2:21-23.
3. He came from woman but was not the seed of man. Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:32-35; Romans 8:3; Galatians 4:4; Philippians 2:5-11; John 1:14; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:9-18.  
Mary was the means God used to bring His own Son into a human body. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost. Not by man, who could not produce sinless offspring. This is according to the law of reproduction. Genesis 1:22-28.

# Confession and Forgiveness

## Lesson 3

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### A. Confession

**Question:** What does the Bible mean by confession?

- Answer:**
1. To say the same thing as another.
  2. To agree with God.

Thus when God brings sin to our attention, we must agree with and confess the same thing God says about it.

**Read Jeremiah 3:13; Psalm 32:5**

Sometimes sin is so deep we are not fully aware of it – we must therefore ask God to reveal it to us. Psalm 19:12.

### B. We cannot hide sin from God

**Question:** Can we hide sin from God?

**Answer:** We can sometimes hide it from one another, but never from God.

**Read Isaiah 29:15; Jeremiah 16:17; Psalm 90:8; Luke 12:2-3**

### C. What happens when we do not confess our sins?

Unconfessed sin is an awful thing, which causes us to lose our fellowship with God.

**Illustration:** If a man wore a pair of spectacles and he never cleaned them, of course we know what would happen. Every day more and more dirt would accumulate on his glasses and so day by day he would see less and less through those glasses.

So it is with sin. When we do not constantly confess it, we allow a great barrier of sin to build up between God and us. If we allow this barrier of sin to build up, our hearts harden, sin increases and soon we are under its control again.

**Read Psalm 32:3-4** and see how David experienced just that.

### D. God wants to forgive us and restore our fellowship when we confess our sins

1. Confessing our sins makes our experience of what God has done for us through the death of His Son real to us.
2. Confession allows God's love and forgiveness to flow into our lives.
3. God cannot fill a dirty vessel with His love and power.

**Demonstration:**

1. Take a glass half filled with dirty water.
2. Add clean water to it and see how the water remains dirty even though clean water has been added. God says that He will not hear us if we cherish sin in our heart. Psalm 66:18.
3. By confessing our sin the dirty water is thrown out of the glass and God can pour in His beautiful clear water of life.

**Read Psalm 86:5; 1 John 1:7-9.** By confession and walking in the light with God and one another we will have true fellowship.

**E. We must "breathe in" this forgiveness**

**Read Philippians 3:13**

**Illustration:** Just as our bodies require us to breathe in and out in order to live, so we need to "breathe out" confession and "breathe in" forgiveness in order to live spiritually.

Many Christians struggle to believe that God can forgive them of terrible sin and so feel depressed and do not lead an abundant life.

We must not reduce the power of Christ's blood, to cover all sin. We must believe God when He tells us repeatedly in His Word that He wants to forgive us – that is why He sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to die for us.

By faith we must simply accept His forgiveness and have fellowship with Him moment by moment. We must also forgive ourselves of the sin we have committed; otherwise we will live under our own bondage of unforgiveness.

**F. We must forgive others**

**Read Matthew 6:14-15; Mark 11:25-26**

Since God has forgiven us of so much we must forgive one another – constantly.

**Read Matthew 18:21-22.**

**G. Confession is always joined with repentance**

**Question:** What does repentance mean?

**Answer:** Repentance means "a change of mind" and "to turn in the opposite direction". Confession by itself is not enough; we must repent and stop committing that particular sin.

**Read Proverbs 28:13,** if we **confess** and **forsake** our sin we shall receive mercy.

**Read Psalm 51:1-17** and see how David prayed after being confronted by the prophet Nathaniel about his sin with Bathsheba.

**Illustration: The tadpole and the bullfrog**

There is a story of a little town that received its water through a pipe from a nearby dam.

This pipe had a sieve at its entrance in the dam to stop leaves and dirt going through and also a sieve at its exit at the town. Then a strange thing happened. As the weeks went by the amount of water coming out of the pipe became less and less until it finally stopped. The townspeople were very surprised and on investigating found that a huge bullfrog was stuck in the pipe, which prevented the water passing through. Of course no one could understand how this huge bullfrog got through the sieve into the pipe, until they realized that it must have gone in as a small tadpole and had grown into a big bullfrog.

Sin that is not confessed and repented of is just like that bullfrog – it starts small but grows and grows until it dominates our lives and stops the Holy Spirit's living water flowing through us.

Be quick to confess and receive God's forgiveness whenever the Holy Spirit reveals a sin to you. Remember God has chosen you as His child, John 1:12-13, and wants to do mighty things through you – so always confess and receive the forgiveness from your Father who sent His Son to die for your sins.

### Memory Verse

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

### Teacher's Notes

#### What happens when sin is confessed?

- |     |   |                                    |
|-----|---|------------------------------------|
| 1.  | The sins are blotted out.                             | Acts 3:19.                         |
| 2.  | They are forgiven.                                    | Exodus 34:7; 1 John 1:9, 2:12.     |
| 3.  | They are made white as snow and as wool.              | Isaiah 1:18.                       |
| 4.  | They are cast behind God's back.                      | Isaiah 38:17.                      |
| 5.  | They are forgotten.                                   | Isaiah 43:25; Hebrews 8:12, 10:17. |
| 6.  | They are purged away.                                 | Psalms 79:9; Hebrews 1:3.          |
| 7.  | They are covered.                                     | Psalms 32:1; Romans 4:7.           |
| 8.  | They are removed as far as the east is from the west. | Psalms 103:12.                     |
| 9.  | They are cast into the depths of the sea.             | Micah 7:19.                        |
| 10. | They are washed away.                                 | Revelation 1:5.                    |
| 11. | We are freed from them.                               | Romans 6:7, 16-23, 8:2.            |

#### What happens when sin is not confessed?

- |     |                                |                                  |
|-----|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1.  | It causes death.               | Ezekiel 33:8-13; Romans 8:12-13. |
| 2.  | It hinders prayers.            | Psalms 66:18.                    |
| 3.  | It provokes God to anger.      | 1 Kings 16:2.                    |
| 4.  | It makes God weary.            | Isaiah 43:24.                    |
| 5.  | It separates us from God.      | Isaiah 59:2.                     |
| 6.  | They testify against us.       | Isaiah 59:12; Jeremiah 14:7.     |
| 7.  | They are remembered by God.    | Psalms 25:7.                     |
| 8.  | They bring punishment.         | Amos 3:2.                        |
| 9.  | They damn the soul.            | 2 Thessalonians 2:12.            |
| 10. | They cause one to be of Satan. | 1 John 3:8.                      |
| 11. | They cause hardening of heart. | Hebrews 3:13.                    |

# Consecration

## Lesson 4

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Unless we are prepared to consecrate ourselves totally to God we will never experience a holy life or the fullness of the abundant Christ-life in us.

### A. A living sacrifice

**Read Romans 12:1**

**Question:** What is a sacrifice?

**Answer:** It is something or someone offered wholly to God – something given up to God – laid on His altar.

### B. The sacrifice consecrated to God

In Old Testament times an Israelite would bring an animal to the temple, which the priest would sacrifice and burn on the altar. The dead animal symbolized two things:

1. It was a picture pointing to the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.
2. It was also an outward symbol of the presentation of one's heart and soul in consecration.

Now God wants us to present ourselves as a sacrifice to Him. Read Psalm 51:17.

### C. Jesus our perfect example

Jesus who is the King of kings and Lord of lords consecrated Himself totally to His Father even unto death on the cross. Read Hebrews 10:5, 7, 10.

**Read John 4:34.** Jesus was totally consecrated to doing the will of His Father.

**Read John 19:30.** Jesus' last words on the cross were "It is finished". He had completed fully the work God had given Him to do. Only total consecration can achieve this goal.

### D. Paul learnt the great truth of consecration

**Read Philippians 1:21.** Paul knew that everything in life that really mattered started and ended with Christ.

**Read Philippians 3:8.** Nothing can take the place of Christ and all else is mere refuse.

### E. How do we consecrate ourselves?

**Read John 12:24.** Jesus is very clear – unless we die to ourselves we cannot bring forth fruit.

As we present our bodies as a living sacrifice, God fashions our lives and transforms us.

Once instruments of sin we now become instruments of righteousness and holiness.

## **F. A bond slave for Christ**

**Read Exodus 21:1-6**

**Read Romans 1:1.** The word "servant" in Greek means bond slave. Paul rejoiced in that he was a consecrated bond slave of Jesus Christ.

A bond slave was a person who loved his master so much that he wilfully remained his slave. To prove this he had his ear pierced by a nail on the doorpost.

We should all be consecrated bond slaves to Christ.

## **G. The consecrated sacrifice must be holy and complete**

1. In the Old Testament, an animal that was presented as a sacrifice was required to be without blemish. It was to be the best of the flock or herd.
2. What are we offering God as a sacrifice?
  - a) Are we only half-hearted in our consecration?
  - b) **Read Malachi 1:7-8.** Does this represent us?

Because we love God let us offer the best of ourselves – everything we are and have.

## **H. How big is the fire on the altar?**

The greater the fire of consecration on the altar the greater will be the anointing of the Holy Spirit in our lives. So a small fire equals small anointing; a big fire equals big anointing.

Often we lay ourselves on the altar of sacrifice, but then quickly crawl off when the fire of consecration gets too hot.

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:13** and note that Jesus will never test us beyond our ability to withstand the fire.

## **I. Consecration is not a light matter**

After giving our lives to Jesus Christ, the decision of true consecration is the most important concern of our lives.

Do not be afraid of consecration, but be serious. The decision must be with your whole heart.

**Read Hebrews 12:2.** He will finish the work of consecration just as He started it, if we allow Him to.

## J. A prayer of consecration

**Read Revelation 3:20.** Jesus is speaking to the church – He wants us to open our hearts to Him for Him to come in and work in our lives.

Do you seriously wish to consecrate your life? Then pray to God telling Him to take over completely. Come to God just as you are and He will do the work of sanctification in your life by His Spirit.

### Memory Verse

Romans 12:1, *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – which is your spiritual worship".*

### Teacher's Notes

1. As a teacher or leader in the flock of Jesus Christ you should always be an example of consecration.
2. We should be able to say as Paul did in Philippians 4:9 and follow his advice to Timothy. 1 Timothy 4:12 & Titus 2:7-8.
3. Consecration is a daily matter – take one day at a time. Do not worry about yesterday or tomorrow. Concern yourself only with today as far as consecration is concerned.
4. In Romans 12:1 God tells us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. Read the following scriptures, which are all commands regarding the body:
  - a) Yield it to God. Romans 12:1; Romans 6:13-20.
  - b) Make it holy. 1 Corinthians 3:17; Romans 12:1.
  - c) Make it full of light. Matthew 6:22.
  - d) Reckon it dead to sin. Romans 6:11.
  - e) Reckon it alive to God. Romans 6:11.
  - f) Refuse its slavery to sin. Romans 6:12.
  - g) Mortify its deeds. Romans 8:13.
  - h) Make it a fit temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.
  - i) Make it free from fornication and only for the Lord. 1 Corinthians 6:13-20.
  - j) Glorify God with it. 1 Corinthians 6:20.
  - k) Keep it in control. 1 Corinthians 9:27.
  - l) Put off its sins. Colossians 2:11.

# Walking in the Spirit

## Lesson 5

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### A. Four great reasons why Jesus came to earth as a man

1. His blood was shed as atonement for our sins.
2. He broke the power of sin over mankind as He hung on the cross of Calvary.
3. He came to break the power of the devil and release men from his clutches.
4. He came to release the Holy Spirit to empower men to live a holy life.

### B. Be filled with the Spirit

**Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.** We must be baptised in the Holy Spirit, continue to be filled with the Spirit and be a temple of the Holy Spirit. Only the Spirit of God can lead the life of God – we cannot lead the Christ life in our own power.

**Illustration:** If you wanted to play a musical instrument like a particular great musician that you admire does, then the simplest way would be for his spirit to dwell in you. Then he would play great music through your mind and hands.

So it is with the Christ life. The Spirit of God dwells in us to help us live the perfect life of Christ.

### C. Do not quench the Spirit

To quench means to suppress or subdue. For example: when we put water on a fire, we put the fire out or quench it.

We must not put out the fire of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

### D. How do we quench the Holy Spirit?

**Read Galatians 6:7**

One of the great spiritual truths is that “what we sow we shall reap”. If we sow pumpkin seeds we will reap pumpkins, but if we sow weeds we will reap weeds.

If we sow to the flesh we will reap corruption, but if we sow to the Spirit we reap life everlasting.

To quench the Spirit is to do our own will and not the will of God.

### E. The throne of our heart

**Read Luke 6:46**

You have a throne in your heart, which only Jesus should sit on. From that throne He can direct your life and this brings peace and order and great glory to God. Only one person can sit on the throne. It is either Jesus or you. Sometimes we ask Jesus to sit on our throne, but then we go and push Him off and sit on it ourselves to direct our lives

according to our own desires. When this happens our lives become chaotic and confused and the glory of God fades away from us.

## **F. The Holy Spirit is a gentle leader**

### **Read Psalm 23:3**

Often we fall into the trap of struggling for holiness, purity of life and guidance to know God's will for our lives.

**However, it does not come by struggle but by surrender.** The Holy Spirit never forces us to follow His guidance, He just prompts us in our spirit and shows us the way.

When you feel a strong desire to do your own will which you sense is not of God, then forcibly stop yourself. Ask God to show you His way for that situation and He will guide you.

## **G. A wonderful guide for the Christian**

### **Read Colossians 3:15-17**

- 1. Read verse 15 again.** The word "rule" comes from the Greek word to umpire or referee.

Therefore the peace of God acts like a football referee. When you do something wrong in a football match the referee blows his whistle. When you are failing God, the peace of God leaves your heart and you know something is wrong which you must correct.

- 2. Read verse 16 again.** It is very important for the Word of God to dwell richly in your heart.

Learn to hide the Word in your heart because it will build up your faith and will give you wisdom and a deep knowledge of God.

- 3. Read verse 17 again.** Whatever we do in word or deed, we must do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.

If you are not able to say or do something in the name of Jesus then do not do it. It means that the Holy Spirit is warning you not to do or say something.

If you remember to apply these simple guidelines in your daily walk with God you will not easily fail.

## **H. Practise walking in His presence**

### **Read Psalm 143:10 and Psalm 30:1-12**

To consistently experience the presence of God needs a definite act of our will, by faith. It must become our lifestyle.

- 1.** Look for God in all situations whether good or difficult.
- 2.** Learn to talk to God about everything that arises in your life.

3. See Him in nature around you.
4. See Him in people about you.
5. Learn to praise God in all circumstances and a great joy will fill your heart.

## I. A great comfort for the Christian

Holiness is not something to be learned but something to be desired.

**Illustration:** A pig and a sheep react differently when falling into a mud puddle. The pig (represents unsaved sinner) loves to wallow in the mud just as sinners love to continue sinning. But when a sheep (represents a saved child of God) falls in the mud it quickly gets out and shakes the mud off.

A Christian who falls into sin must quickly get out of the sin and repent. When we do not wish to sin – it is proof that we desire to follow the will of God and to glorify Him.

### Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 3:16, *“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”*

### Teacher’s Notes

#### How do we get, and keep, a sense of God's presence?

1. Live and walk in the Spirit purposefully and do not quench Him. 1 Thessalonians 5:19.
2. Do not be so busy with life around you. Be still and know that the Holy Spirit is within and around you. 1 John 4:13.
3. Continue in a spirit of prayer. Ephesians 6:18.
4. Cultivate the habit of speaking to God regarding your plans, hopes and needs and for guidance.
5. Meditate upon His Word. Psalm 119:97.
6. Be diligent in Christian work. James 2:14-26.
7. Learn to look through God's eyes at situations, people and things around you. Try to see them from His perspective otherwise you will limit God to human limitations. As you look through His eyes you will also experience the power of His love for all that is around you.
8. Be pure in heart. Matthew 5:8. Sin will cause you to lose the sense of God's presence. If that happens you must immediately confess and repent of your sin. 1 John 1:9. If you do not you will find that you cannot sense God's presence and the longer you wait to confess and repent the harder it becomes to regain your blessed walk with God.

**God’s presence:**

He is above you – to watch over you.	Deuteronomy 4:39.
He is underneath you – to support you.	Deuteronomy 33:27.
He is behind you – to protect you.	Isaiah 52:12.
He is before you – to lead you.	Isaiah 45:2.
He is at your right hand – to assist you.	Psalm 16:8, 110:5.
He is around you – to assure you.	Psalm 125:2.
He is within you – to keep you.	1 Peter 1:5.

# Christ's character in us

## Lesson 6

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### A. What does character mean?

The dictionary says that “character” means:

1. The special qualities that distinguish a person.
2. His moral strength and reputation.
3. The different aspects of his nature.

### B. What the Bible says about Christ's character

One of the main purposes of the Bible is to reveal the character of God through Jesus Christ.

Let us look at some of the wonderful aspects of Jesus' character:

1. Great compassion. Read Matthew 9:36.
2. Holiness. Read 1 Peter 1:19, 2:22.
3. Humility. Read Philippians 2:7.
4. Love. Read 1 John 3:16.
5. Forgiveness. Read Luke 23:33-34.

Galatians 5:22-23 tells us of the fruit of the Spirit. This of course is the character of the Holy Spirit, Jesus and the Father.

### C. The greatest of all mysteries

**Read Colossians 1:27**

This is the greatest hope and glory of the Christian – that Jesus actually lives in every saint by the power of His Holy Spirit.

**Illustration:** A poor man invited his rich millionaire friend to come and spend the rest of his life in his house. Suddenly all the needs of the poor man were being met.

Christ is the honoured guest in our inner man. He is not just on a short visit, but He lives in us forever. Read Hebrews 13:5.

### D. Why has Jesus come to live in our hearts?

**Read Romans 8:29**

God has planned for us to be like His Son Jesus. He works in our lives in many different ways for us to be conformed to the exact image of His Son.

**Read 2 Peter 1:4**

God does not expect us to try and form Christ's character in ourselves but has actually put His divine nature in us.

## E. What happens when we have Christ's character?

### Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

When we receive Jesus into our heart, a miracle happens – we become new creatures.

1. The world sees us differently. **Read Isaiah 62:12.**
2. We become the salt and light of the earth. **Read Matthew 5:13-14.**
3. Because we have Jesus in our hearts, which is the good treasure Jesus speaks of in Luke 6:45, good things come forth from our mouths.
4. People will know that we are Jesus' disciples because we love one another. **Read John 13:35.**
5. Proverbs 16:7 says, "When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes his enemies to be at peace with him".

All the wonderful qualities of Jesus' character will shine out through our lives.

## F. Jesus transfigured in our lives

### Read Matthew 17:1-2

1. Here we see Jesus transfigured before Peter, James and John.
2. Jesus now lives in me and as I die to myself He will be transfigured in my life. Others will not see me, but will see Jesus:
  - a) In my face.
  - b) In my actions.
  - c) In my attitude towards God.
  - d) They will know that the kingdom of God is among them.

**Illustration:** The donkey that carried Jesus – what do we know about it? What colour was it? Was it male or female? How old was it? How big was it? Was it fat or thin? What was its name? Yet this donkey actually carried Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords. This donkey carried the living Word of God on its back. The donkey wasn't important – but Jesus was.

We carry the living Word of God, Jesus Himself, in our hearts. Just as we do not know what the donkey was like, let us not exalt ourselves. Only exalt Jesus.

### Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 5:17, *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come".*

## **Teacher's Notes**

### **A Christian is meant to be Christ-like.**

We must not be content with low standards. It is useless saying, "I am much better than I used to be" or "I am better than the average churchgoer". Those are not the standards Jesus has set for His disciples.

Not till we reach heaven will the full glory of Christ be ours. 1 John 3:2. But Christ-likeness is God's goal for us and must be our total aim. Do not let such a high standard frighten you or fill you with doubts.

**Read Romans 8:28-39** and see how confident God's Word is:

Verse 28 God is working everything together for our good.

Verse 31 God is sufficient and no opposition, even from within, is too strong if we are joined to Him.

Verse 32 God will supply our every need. He has gone to the utmost limit for us already – Calvary.

Verses 33-34 God Himself has forgiven us. Who can possibly accuse us now? Jesus is interceding on our behalf.

Verse 35-39 We are more than conquerors and nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Remember it is Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith – not us. Hebrews 12:2.

### **How can we maintain Christ's character in us?**

We must believe that Jesus never leaves nor forsakes us. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit working within us, we can and should constantly experience the growing of the fruit of the Spirit within and through us.

1. We must walk by faith. Paul prays for us in Ephesians 3:17-18 that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith: "That you, being rooted and grounded in love .... you might be filled with all the fullness of God".
2. We must constantly walk in the light. Ephesians 5:8, "For you were sometimes darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, walk as children of light".
3. Shine as lights in the world in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation holding forth the Word of life. Philippians 2:13-16.
4. Think only on good things. Philippians 4:8.
5. Walk in the Spirit, allow Him to guide and control your life.

### **God has done it all for us through Jesus.**

The great secret of letting Christ's character shine through our lives is not to struggle but rather to die to ourselves because God sees us as dead and our life is hid with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3.

# Working for God

## Lesson 7

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### A. God has a plan for our lives

God has a very specific plan for each of our lives. If we are doing something else then we have missed doing what we should be doing. "When we are in the wrong place, the right place is empty".

The Christian cannot have his God without being willing to work in His service. Even Adam was not allowed to be idle in the Garden of Eden, but he was given something to do by God. Genesis 2:15.

It is of eternal importance that we diligently seek God's will to find out what His plan for our lives is. Because God has a specific plan and we have been specially made to fulfil that plan, we will be happiest when carrying out that plan.

### B. The way of the world

It is the way of fallen, unsaved man to seek power and glory in his work situation. The world measures a person by his position in society and his wealth.

The world also puts this great pressure on the Christian to follow its way.

**Read Matthew 6:19-21** and see how Jesus warns us not to lay up treasure on earth which can be destroyed but rather to lay up treasures in heaven ... Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

### C. Jesus our great example

**Read John 4:34.** Jesus had one purpose in His life on earth and that was to fulfil the work that His Father had given Him to do.

**Read John 17:4.** Jesus glorified God on earth and finished the work given to Him to do.

**Read John 19:30.** As He hung dying on the cross Jesus cried out, "It is finished". Jesus had fulfilled perfectly the plan for His life as a man on earth – He never wavered from it.

**Read Philippians 2:5-8.** The King of glory came to serve.

**Read John 13:3-5.** Jesus humbled Himself to the lowest position in the room.

**Read John 13:12-17.** He tells His disciples to follow this example.

God has given us, through His Son Jesus, the most perfect example of how to work and serve Him and one another.

### D. How should we labour for God?

The Bible is full of encouragement and guidance of how we are to serve God.

1. **Do it with all your heart.** Read Deuteronomy 10:12.  
Do not labour because you feel you have to, but because you love God.
2. **Not to impress men.** Read Ephesians 6:7.  
Do not waste your time trying to impress men, do it as unto the Lord.
3. **We must not just listen to the Word but also act upon it, otherwise we deceive ourselves.** Read James 1:22.
4. **Do everything in love.** Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.  
Even if we give our bodies to be burned, if it is not done in love it is worthless.
5. **We must be fervent in spirit.** Read Romans 12:11.  
We must put our whole heart into God's work. No work is too trifling to be well done.
6. **Do everything in the name of Jesus.** Read Colossians 3:17.  
This is a wonderful guide for us. If you cannot do what you are doing in the name of Jesus because it is a bit wrong, then do not do it.
7. **God must initiate and guide the work.** Read Psalm 127:1.  
Many Christians are very busy doing good work "for God". If it is not God that has shown you to do the work then it is in vain.
8. **Work according to your talents and abilities.** Matthew 25:14-30.  
God will judge us according to how we have exercised our God given gifts and talents. You can do anything you ought to do.
9. **God given work is important.**  
No one can do his work well who does not think it of importance. Remember it is God who has given you the job.

## **E. What kind of work must we do?**

1. **Sharing the Gospel.** Read Mark 16:15.  
This is the great commission Jesus gave us. We can do this wherever we are – at home, in school, at work or in the market place.
2. **In the church.**  
Go to your pastor and ask him to pray with you to find out what God wants you to do in the church.  
  
**For example:** Teaching in Sunday School; running a home fellowship; looking after the sick; preaching on Sundays; running evangelistic campaigns; practical work around the church buildings and gardens.
3. **Work or school situation.**  
You can start fellowship groups for Bible study. Start prayer groups. Plan and work towards preaching to the lost.

Give God the little you have and He will do the rest.

## F. Rewards

There are many wonderful promises from God to His workers.

1. **Read 1 Corinthians 3:14.** This life on earth will have a radical effect on our eternity with God.
2. **Read Daniel 12:3.** We will shine as stars forever and ever.
3. When we go home to Jesus let us not go empty handed but rather hear from the Master Himself, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Read Matthew 25:23.
4. **Read Matthew 5:16.** This is the purpose of all good works – to glorify our heavenly Father.

### Memory Verse

Matthew 5:16, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven".*

## **Teacher's Notes**

### **Judgement of believers' works:**

Believers are to be judged for their works. Galatians 6:8; Ephesians 6:8; Colossians 3:24; Romans 14; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15.

**Time:** Between the rapture and the Second Advent. Luke 14:14.

**Place:** In heaven. Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10.

**Basis:** Works, both good and bad. 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14; Colossians 3; Matthew 16:27; Romans 2:6; 2 Timothy 4:14.

**Result:** Reward or loss of reward, but never the loss of one's soul for any wrongdoings properly confessed and forgiven. 1 Corinthians 3:11-15.

### **Believers will be judged concerning:**

1. Doctrines. Romans 2:14-16; Romans 14.
2. Conduct to others. Matthew 18; Romans 14.
3. Carnal traits. Colossians 3; Romans 1-2, 8:1-13, 14:1-23.
4. Words. Matthew 12:32-37, Romans 14:6.
5. Things that affect others; slander, quarrels, idle words, foolishness, dishonesty, broken promises, wrong dealings. Romans 1:29-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; Colossians 3; Ephesians 4:1-32, 5:1-33; Romans 12:1-21, 14:1-23.
6. Things that affect themselves; neglected opportunities, talents wasted, loose living, lack of spirituality. Romans 2:14-16; Hebrews 2:1-4; Galatians 5:1-26, 6:1-10; Colossians 3.
7. Things that affect God; refusal to walk in the light, disobedience, rejection, failure to yield to the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12; Ephesians 4:1-32, 5:1-33.

### **Work for Christ:**

The field is large.	Matthew 13:38.
The time is now.	Galatians 6:10.
The work is varied.	1 Corinthians 12:12.
The need is great.	John 4:35.
The call is urgent.	Matthew 20:6.
The partner is the Almighty.	2 Corinthians 6:1.
The means is provided.	Luke 19:15.

# Going on with Jesus always

## Lesson 8

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### A. The greatest race of our lives

#### Read Hebrews 12:1

- The Holy Spirit is challenging every child of God to run this great race.
- We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses – both spiritual and human.
- We must lay aside every hindrance, which will hinder us.
- We must persevere under all circumstances for the glory that awaits us when we finally complete the race.

### B. Arena of life

With your spiritual eye, see a great arena like a football stadium, and all the people sitting there are the saints who have gone on before. Among them will be the great men of faith: Noah, Enoch, Abraham, Moses, David, Peter and Paul as well as your friends and family.

Seated on a great throne is Jesus who is smiling as He looks out over all those in the arena who have run the race successfully.

Now that you have entered the arena of salvation, you are running on the track of life, and everyone's eyes, including Jesus', are on you.

### C. Our glorious examples

#### 1. Jesus has not asked us to run a race that He has not already run.

##### Read Hebrews 12:2

He is the great author and finisher of our faith.

Because of the joy that was set before Him He endured the cross. He ran the race perfectly, never wavering, and so is now sitting down at the right hand of the throne of God.

If He had not run the race to the cross of Calvary you and I could not have been saved.

#### 2. Paul, too, never stopped running the race that His Master had given him.

##### Read Philippians 3:14

He did not run the race casually, but pressed on in all circumstances and looked forward to the prize, which was the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

### **Read 2 Timothy 4:7**

When Paul was about to die, he wrote this letter to Timothy from jail. He had fought the good fight. He had finished the course. He had kept the faith.

How heaven must have celebrated when he finally went home to Jesus.

## **D. Endurance under suffering**

**Illustration:** Return to the arena where all are waiting and we are running on the track of life. This great cloud of witnesses is cheering us on as Jesus smiles from His throne. Suddenly we trip and fall; a great silence falls upon the stadium. But Jesus stands up and with a voice full of love, compassion and encouragement He calls out, "Rise up My child, the race is still on".

### **Life as a Christian will not be without problems.**

1. **Read Matthew 16:24.** Jesus never promised that our life would be a bed of roses. We must take up our cross and follow Him.
2. **Read 2 Timothy 2:1, 3, 12.** Paul encourages Timothy to endure no matter what.
3. **Read 2 Timothy 3:12.** We must expect persecution.
4. **Read James 1:4, 12.** Patience in our trials and suffering will bring great reward.
5. Peter the great apostle who knew defeat, trials, temptations and finally martyrdom, encourages us in **1 Peter 1:5-7.**

Note it is not our power, but God's power. The trial of faith is much more precious than gold.

## **E. We must persevere no matter what**

### **Read 1 Corinthians 16:13 and Galatians 6:9**

The race we are running on the track of life requires great determination and willpower.

Any man who tries to run a long distance race, but gives up when he gets cramps or pain in his legs or lacks breath, will never finish the race.

## **F. We cannot do this in our own power**

### **Read John 15:4-5**

If we try to run the race without the help of Jesus through the Holy Spirit, we shall surely fail.

Always look to the Holy Spirit in all situations for only He has the power to help you win the race.

## **G. We can run only one race at a time**

### **1. Read 2 Timothy 2:4.**

Many Christians try to run both the race of life for Jesus, but also the race of death for Satan and the world.

We can only run one race at a time. If we try to run two simultaneously there will be confusion and we will lose both.

### **2. Read Galatians 5:1 and James 1:25.**

## **H. Keep your eyes on Jesus**

### **Read Hebrews 10:23**

As you run this glorious race of life do not take your eyes off Jesus.

When you are tired of running, or you have fallen and you feel you have no power to get up and go on, then call on Jesus.

You will sense some inner power that will raise you up, a source of life in you. This is of course the Holy Spirit whom Jesus sent to help us win the race, and He is always faithful.

## **I. Consider all the promises for those that overcome**

Let us finally listen with spiritual ears to the great words of encouragement being called out by Jesus to those of us who overcome.

**Read Revelation 2:7, 10-11, 17, 26 and 3:5, 12, 21**

### **Memory Verse**

Hebrews 12:1, *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us".*

## **Teacher's Notes**

As a pastor or leader, you will come under great pressure from your congregation, the world and the devil. Often your personal finances and those of the church will be poor and you may feel like giving up and returning to secular work to improve your income. It is then that you must turn to the promises of God in His Word. Rise up in faith and proclaim the goodness of your God. Pray for faith from God to endure and to glorify Him.

### **Read 1 Peter 4:12-16 and note these wonderful truths:**

1. Verse 12, suffering is not strange or unusual for Christians. 2 Timothy 3:12.
2. Verse 13, one should rejoice when one is a partaker of the sufferings of Christ. Matthew 5:10.
3. Verse 13, the greater the suffering the greater the joy and glory. Romans 8:17-18.
4. Verse 14, besides the greater glory to come the Christian has the Holy Spirit upon him now to enable him to endure. Romans 8:26-27.
5. Verse 16, it is an honour, not a shame to suffer as a Christian. Remember your calling is from God, not man. There can be no greater honour.