As Believers Who Have Been Saved by Grace

We Are to Grow in Grace and Bear Much Fruit

Ephesians 2:8-10, Colossians 1:3-12, 2 Peter 3:18, Titus 3:11-14

*12 Growth and Fruitfulness Lessons*

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**LESSONS FOR EVERYDAY DISCIPLES**

1. The Life Message – It’s Not Complicated: Simply Believe It Today

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**1. The Life Message – It’s Not Complicated: Simply Believe It Today**

**The Life Message – It’s Not Complicated:** Jesus, the Son of God who died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead, promises eternal life to everyone who simply believes in Him for it.

**The Person – Jesus is God in the flesh.**

**John 1:1, 14** - **1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **14** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Who is the Word?

What did the Word become?

**The Provision – Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead.**

**John 1:29** - **29** The next day he saw\* Jesus coming to him and said\*, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

**1 Corinthians 15:3-5** - 3For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

What did Jesus do?

**John 11:25** - **25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,

What must we do to live?

**The Promise – Jesus promises eternal life to everyone who simply believes in Him for it.**

Some of the explanations for the following verses are adapted from the *Living Water* booklet (The Gospel of John – Logos 21 Version).

**John 3:16** - **16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

Who did God love?

Who did God give?

Why did God give His Son?

**Explanation:** This verse gives the life message in a nutshell. God loved us so much He sent His Son to die on the Cross for our sins. When we accept this truth and believe in His Son, we will never perish in hell but will possess eternal life forever.

**John 5:24** - **24** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

**Explanation:** This is Jesus’ way of proclaiming to His hearers, ―You can be confident of this! Eternal life and escape from judgment are the promise to all who believe God’s word about Him.

The proclamation continues in Verses 20 and 21 to make it clear:

**20** "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and *the Father* will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. **21** "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. God the Father sent Jesus the Son to give eternal life to all who believe.

**John 6:47** - **47** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

**Explanation:** Jesus makes it clear in this simplest of expressions of the saving message. Faith in Jesus brings eternal life to the believer. There is nothing here to complicate simple faith. There is no mention of good works, church membership. If we believe in Jesus, we have eternal life.

**John 11:25-27** - **25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" **27** She said\* to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, *even* He who comes into the world."

**Explanation:** This is one of the most comforting passages in the Bible in which Christ speaks of Himself in the present tense as the guarantor of eternal life even if you die. Jesus asks in verse 26, ―Do you believe this? Do you believe that Christ is the resurrection and the life, the Christ, the Son of God? He promises you shall never die.

**John 20:30-31** – **30** Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; **31** but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Why did John write these words?

**Explanation:** John has written these words because he wants you to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior who gives eternal life to all who believe in Him. Having eternal life depends on believing in Christ. Do you believe? If not, there is no better time than the present to believe in the Savior of whom John speaks.

Do you personally believe the promise of Jesus for eternal life?

State the life message in one sentence.

**2. You Can Be Sure – Knowing You Have Eternal Life Today and Forever**

**Introduction:** Jesus paid the price for our redemption with His shed blood. By dying on the cross, He paid a debt we could not pay. None of us are good enough to gain eternal life by our own merits. We receive eternal life simply by believing the promise of Jesus for it. Once we believe in Christ, our eternal life is guaranteed.

Faith in Christ is the persuasion that He is the Guarantor of eternal life for every believer. Jesus’ guarantee of eternal life begins in the present, in the moment of faith; therefore everyone who has believed can be fully assured they have eternal life.

**Everlasting life is “E V E R L A S T I N G L I F E . . .”**

John 3:16 - **16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

**Explanation:** It is not at the moment of our death that we have eternal life; rather, it is at the moment of our belief.

John 5:24 - **24** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

What is in the present tense?

What is in the future tense?

**Explanation:** Jesus guarantees the eternal security of the believer forever from the moment of belief.

**The eternal security of the believer rests with Jesus.**

John 6:39 - **39** "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

Who sent Jesus?

Who is keeping everything secure?

**Explanation:** Jesus was sent by God the Father with instructions to keep safe all those given to Him. Therefore, if you believe in Jesus for eternal life, your security does not depend on you, but instead it all depends on the obedience of Jesus to the Father. Jesus always obeys the Father and will not let one be lost.

**You are in good hands.**

John 10: 27-29 - **7** "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; **28** and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. **29** "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand.

Whose hands are you in?

Whose other hands are you in?

**Explanation:** Jesus gives eternal life to those who hear his voice and follow Him (believe in him). So secure are we that Jesus makes the point that not only are we in His good and capable hands, but that we are also in God the Father’s hands. Be assured, you are in good hands.

**The Clear Testimony of Scripture**

1 John 5:11-13 - **11** And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **12** He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. **13** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

**Explanation:** Simply trust the promise of Christ and the testimony of the written Word of God for your assurance of eternal life.

Can eternal life be lost?

Can a believer lose his assurance of eternal life?

**Explanation:** Yes, assurance can be lost. Anytime a believer ceases to rely on the promise of Christ and the testimony of the written Word of God he could lose his sense of assurance. Yet he still would have eternal life.

**3. Baptism – The Day of Our Public Identification with Christ and the Church**

**Introduction:** The simple meaning of baptism is to immerse or to identify with. Baptism is our proclamation to the world and to the church that we identify with Christ and the Christian faith. By obeying our Lord’s command to be baptized we stand identified with fellow believers. It is important to understand that baptism does not bring eternal life; instead, as we learned in the first two lessons, believing in Christ does.

**The Command for Water Baptism**

**Matthew 28:18-20** - **18** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

How are disciples made according to these verses?

**The Symbolic Nature of Water Baptism**

**Romans 6:3-8** - **3** Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, **6** knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him,* in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; **7** for he who has died is freed from sin. **8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

What are the spiritual realities reflected in baptism?

**Explanation:** When we believed in Christ for eternal life, we were baptized by the Holy Spirit and identified (united) with Christ. Water baptism symbolizes that spiritual union with Christ.

**Biblical Examples**

**Baptism of the Samaritans**

**Acts 8:12** - **12** But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

**Baptism of the Ethiopian Eunuch**

**Acts 8:36-38** - **36** As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said\*, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" **37** [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] **38** And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

**Baptism of the Gentiles**

**Acts 10:47-48** - **47** "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did,* can he?" **48** And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

**Baptism of the Philippian Jailer and His Household**

**Acts 16 31-33** - **31** They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." **32** And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. **33** And he took them that *very* hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his *household.*

**Baptism of the Disciples of John at Ephesus**

**Acts 19:3-5** - **3** And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." **4** Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." **5** When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

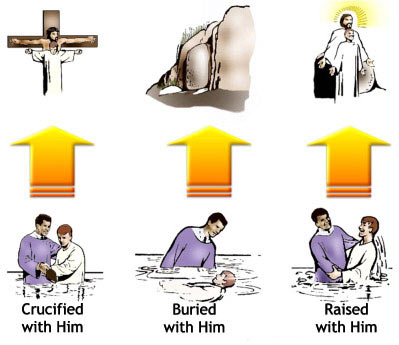
**Explanation:** Through baptism a believer identifies publicly with Christ and the community of believers.

**Symbolism of Baptism**

1. Laying back in the water signifies our death and burial in Christ.

2. Rising out of the water signifies our new life in Christ.

3. Proclamation: by being baptized we announce publicly through an external sign that we align with Christ and the community of believers.



**4. God’s Word – Everyday Wisdom from God**

**Introduction:** This lesson covers the importance of reading, studying and applying God’s inspired Word, the Bible.

**The Inspiration of the Bible**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** - **14** You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them,* **15** and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

How does the Word of God profit us?

**Jesus and the Bible**

**Matthew 5:17-18** - **17** "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. **18** "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

**Matthew 24:35** - **35** "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

**Explanation:** Jesus puts His teaching on the same level as the Law and the Prophets.

**Hebrews 1:1-2** - **1** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, **2** in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

**Explanation:** God spoke through Jesus.

**Hebrews 2:1-4** - **1** For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away *from it.* **2** For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, **3** how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, **4** God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

Why must we pay much closer attention to what we have heard?

What did God use to testify the truth of His word?

**The Dual Authorship of the Bible (Divine and Human)**

**2 Peter 1:19-21** - **19** *So* we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. **20** But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, **21** for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

**Explanation:** God guarantees the accuracy of the inspired Word while using the personality of the writer.

**Milk and Solid Food**

**1 Peter 2:2** - **2** like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

What does milk produce?

**Explanation:** We need continuous intake of the Word of God in order to grow spiritually.

**1 Corinthians 3:1-2 - 1** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. **2** I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it.* Indeed, even now you are not yet able,

Why were these people not able to receive solid food?

**Hebrews 5:11-14** - **11** Concerning him we have much to say, and *it is* hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. **12** For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. **13** For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. **14** But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

What does “milk” represent?

What does “solid food” represent?

How is the mature Christian’s senses trained?

**Applications**

* Individually read and reflect on the Word of God.
* Listen to the teaching and preaching of the Word of God.
* Interact with others concerning the Word of God.
* Practice what you learn.

A 52 week Bible reading plan can be found at <http://www.Bible-Reading.com>

**5. Prayer – The Everyday Way to Pray**

**Introduction:** Prayer is communication with God. The Lord speaks to us through His Word and we speak to Him in prayer.

**Confidence in Prayer**

**Hebrews 4:16** - **16** Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**1 John 5:14-15** - 14This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

**Explanation:** Through Christ we draw near to God with confidence knowing that He will hear us when we pray according to His will and grant us what we request.

**Hindrance to Prayer**

**Psalms 66:18** - **18** If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;

**Help in Prayer**

**Romans 8:26-27** - **26** In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words; **27** and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of* God.

**Contentment with God’s Answers to Prayer**

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10** - **7** Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! **8** Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. **9** And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. **10** Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Did Paul receive an answer?

Was Paul satisfied on the first try?

What did Paul display after hearing the answer?

**The Everyday Way to Pray**

**Matthew 6:6-15** - 6But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you. 7“And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. 8So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

9“Pray, then, in this way:

* It is not a prayer to be repeated, but an outline to be personally expanded when we pray.
* The expansion can change from day to day.

‘Our Father who is in heaven,

* Speak to God as Father every day.
* The plural reminds us to pray for our needs and the needs of others.

Hallowed be Your name. 10‘Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

* Long for the coming of the kingdom when God’s name will be hallowed on earth.
* Align your life now with the priorities and character of the coming kingdom.

11‘Give us this day our daily bread.

* Pray for whatever needs you and others you pray for may have.
* Thank God for all you’ve been given.

12‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

* In the process of prayer God can bring things to mind that we need to confess.
* The forgiven are to forgive others.

13‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

* Expression of humility – Please allow less of places of temptation.
* If you lead me into such places, deliver me from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

* Not a request but a statement of recognition.
* My life is about Your agenda, not mine. May my life reflect that today.

Amen.

* I’ve covered it all since I went through this perfect model.
* Let it be.

What is the everyday place to pray?

What is the everyday reason to pray?

What is the everyday way not to pray?

What is the everyday way to pray?



**6. Fellowship of Grace – Everyday Relationships in the Family of God**

**Introduction:** Fellowship is sharing our life in Christ with other believers.

**John 13:34-35 - 34** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." How is this commandment a new commandment?

**Explanation:** So important is this commandment that it is repeated in John 15:12, John 15:17, Romans 12:10, Romans 13:8, Galatians 5:13, Ephesians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 3:12, 1 Thessalonians 4:9, Hebrews 10:24, 1 Peter 1:22, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 John 3:11, 1 John 3:23, 1 John 4:7 & 11-12, 2 John 1:5. “Love one another” is widely advocated. Jesus did not stop there. He added “as I have loved you.” That is what is new. The essence of fellowship is love; the example of love is Jesus. Jesus models love so that it is no longer a vague concept. By loving each other as He loved us we show ourselves to be His followers. We love not in theory but in practice.

**Acts 2:42 -** 42They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

**1 Corintians 12:14-18 - 14** For the body is not one member, but many. **15** If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body. **16** And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? **18** But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

**1 John 1:3 - 3** what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

**One Anothering Sampler – Underline the *one another* statements in the following verses.**

**Romans 12:10 -**. **10** *Be* devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

**Philippians 2:3 - 3** Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; **4** do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

**Hebrews 10:24&25 - 24** and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **25** not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another;* and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

**1 Thessalonians 5:1 - 11** Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

Well over one hundred such “one another” imperatives are found in the New Testament.

*Let us love one another as Christ has loved us.*

**7. Confession and Forgiveness – The Everyday Walk in the Light**

**Introduction:** After becoming a believer, we still have a sin nature and sin. Sin breaks our fellowship with God. God has made provision for our cleansing and restoration to fellowship through confession.

**Principle of Sin**

**Romans 7:21-23 - 21** I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. **22** For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, **23** but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

Why do we still struggle with sin after becoming a believer?

**Confession and Forgiveness**

**1 John 1:5-10 -** 5This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 6If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

How does sin affect our fellowship with God?

**Proverbs 28:13 - 13** He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes *them* will find compassion.

What is the opposite of confession?

What is the result of confession?

**Explanation:** Sin breaks our fellowship with God. Restoration of fellowship requires confession. Confession results in forgiveness and cleansing.

**Forgiveness of Others**

**Matthew 6:14-15 - 14** "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **15** "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

How does our lack of forgiveness toward others affect God’s forgiveness of us?

**Explanation:** When we are being unforgiving, fellowship with God remains broken. The forgiven are to forgive those who sin against them.

**Matthew 18:21-22 - 21** Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" **22** Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

**Explanation:** We are members of God’s family. We have learned that being unforgiving has a direct effect on our fellowship with each other and our fellowship with God.

**Exercise:** Pray **Psalm 139:23-24**, **23** Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; **24** And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

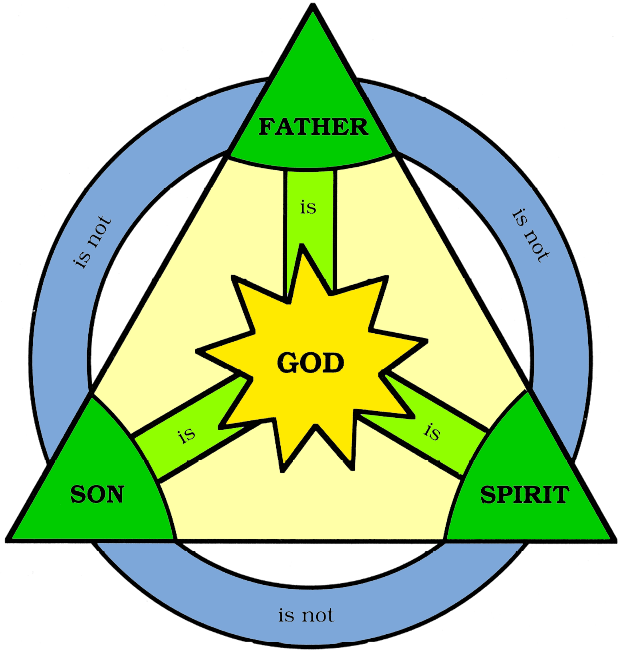
On a 3x5 cards list the sins that come to mind and confess them to God.

**8. The Spirit Filled Life – The Everyday Walk in the Spirit**

**Introduction:** We can overcome our sinful nature and bear spiritual fruit by coming under the control and empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

**John 14:16-17 - 16** "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; **17** *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

What does Jesus promise? Who is the Spirit?



**Ephesians 1:13-14 -** 13In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God’s own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

What does the Spirit guarantee?

**1 Corinthians 6:19 - 19** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

Where does the Holy Spirit reside?

**Ephesians 5:18 - 18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?

**Explanation:** You submit control to alcohol when you get drunk with wine. To be filled with the Spirit is to submit control to the Holy Spirit.

How can a believer be filled with the Holy Spirit?

**Romans 8:6 -** 5For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

To what must we set our minds?

**Galatians 5:16 -** 16But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. 18But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.25If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

What are in opposition to each other?

**Ephesians 4:30-32 -** 30Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

How do we grieve the Spirit?

**Ephesians 3:16 - 16** that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

What does God grant us through the Spirit?

**1 John 5:14-15 -** 14This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

Of what are we able to be confident?

**Be filled with the Spirit.**

* Confess your sins as God brings them to mind.
* Ask God to fill you with the Spirit.
* Set you mind on the Spirit and walk by the Spirit.

**9. Sharing Your Faith – Everyday Witnesses**

**2 Corinthians 5:18-21 -** 18Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.20Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**Romans 10:15 - 14** How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? **15** How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"

**Matthew 5:14-16 - 14** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; **15** nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **16** "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

What is our responsibility?

**John 3:16 - 16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

**John 5:24 - 24** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

**John 11:25-27 - 25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" **27** She said\* to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, *even* He who comes into the world."

What is our message?

**Remember and share this simple life message:** Jesus, the Son of God who died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead, promises eternal life to everyone who simply believes in Him for it. Do you believe in Him for eternal life?

**Explanation:** This message answers the following:

1. Who is Jesus?

2. What has He done?

3. What does He promise?

4. What must a person do to have eternal life?

**Colossians 4:2-4 - 2** Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of* thanksgiving; **3** praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; **4** that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.

What is the role of prayer?

**Explanation:** Pray for a door of opportunity to share Christ with others and that you will be clear when you speak.

**John 3:4-8 - 4** Nicodemus said\* to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" **5** Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. **6** "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' **8** "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

**John 16:7-8 - 7** "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. **8** "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

What is the role of the Holy Spirit?

**Explanation:** The pressure is not on us to convict people of their guilt. That is the job of the Holy Spirit. When we share the life message, the Holy Spirit is at work to draw a person to Christ and give life to those who believe. Success in witnessing is simply sharing Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.

**Acts 4:29, 31 - 29** "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, **31** And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness.

What are we to pray for?

**1 Corinthians 9:22 - 22** To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.

**Colossians 4:5-6 - 5** Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. **6** Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

**1 Peter 3:15 - 15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

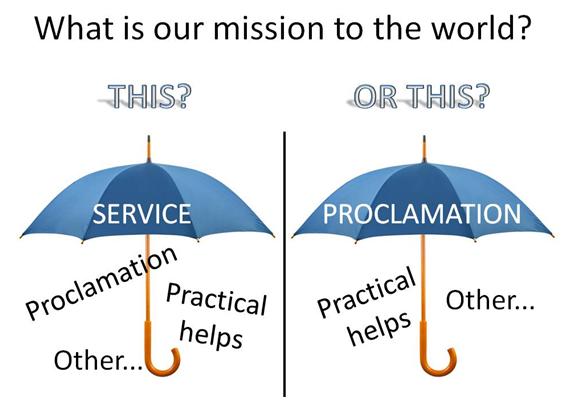
How are we to approach people?

**Explanation:** We need to be sensitive. This is in contrast to praying for boldness and confidence, we do not want to roll over people with the truth, but instead share with understanding and compassion. We are to be full of grace and truth.

**APPLICATIONS**

* Ask others to pray for your bold and sensitive witness.
* Look for an opportunity to share the life message. Be ready!
* Pray for those you would like to see come to believe in Jesus for eternal life. List three on a card and pray for them daily.

**Helpful Booklet to Give to People:** *Living Water* – The Gospel of John



**10. Stewardship and the Grace of Giving – Everyday Stewards**

**Definition:** A steward is a person who manages another person’s property or affairs.

**Two Biblical Stewardship Truths**

1. **God owns everything.**

We must begin with first acknowledging that we own nothing and God owns everything.

**Deuteronomy 10:14 - 14** Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it.

**1 Chronicles 29:11 - 11** Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.

**Psalm 24:1 - 1** The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.

**Psalm 50:10-12 - 10** "For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills. **11** "I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine. **12** "If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is Mine, and all it contains.

**Haggai 2:8 - 8** 'The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,' declares the LORD of hosts.

1. **We are God’s stewards.**

When we gain the perspective that God owns everything, we must next grasp the understanding that we are His stewards. Understanding that we are managing stewards of Gods gifts to us helps us to rely on His provision and utilize properly all that we have so that one day, when we give an account of ourselves, we will be found as good and faithful stewards.

**Deuteronomy 8:17-18a** - 17Otherwise, you may say in your heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.’ 18But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth,

**1 Corinthians 4:1-2 -** Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

**1 Peter 4:10** - 10As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Biblical stewardship recognizes that God’s provisions are given to God’s people to accomplish God’s purposes.

How do you view yourself – as an *owner* or a *steward*?

**Application:** Practice whole-life stewardship.

**Proverbs 3:9** - 9Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce;

**Matthew 6:19-21 - 19** "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; **21** for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Matthew 25:14-29** - 14“For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. 15To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. 16Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. 17In the same manner the one who *had received* the two *talents* gained two more. 18But he who received the one *talent* went away, and dug *a hole* in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19“Now after a long time the master of those slaves \*came and \*settled accounts with them. 20The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’ 21His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 22“Also the one who *had received* the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.’ 23His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 24“And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no *seed*. 25And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’ 26“But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no *seed*. 27Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my *money* back with interest. 28Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’ 29“For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.

**Romans 12:1** - Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** - 19Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

**Ephesians 5:15-17** - 15Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

**1 Timothy 6:6-10** - 6But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. 7For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. 8If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. 9But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

**1 Timothy 6:17-19 -** 17Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18*Instruct them* to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

God calls us to be good stewards of every area of our lives – our time, our treasures, our talents, our testimony.

**A faithful steward majors in the grace of cheerful giving.**

**Acts 20:35** - 35In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

**2 Corinthians 9:7 - 7** Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Cite some reasons why it is more blessed to give than to receive.

**11. Accountability and Eternal Rewards – Living Everyday in Light of the Day**

**Three Truths**

1. **We are accountable for how we live and serve.**

**Galatians 6:7-10 -** 7Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. 10So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

**Romans 14:10-12 -** 10But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11For it is written,“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God.” 12So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

**Revelation 22:12 -** 12“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

**Explanation:** After receiving eternal life, we are responsible for what we do for the rest of our lives. Jesus intends to reward us according to what we have done.

1. **Jesus will judge our lives and works at the *bema*.**

**1 Corinthians 3:10-15** - 10According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. 14If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

**2 Corinthians 5:10 - 10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

**Explanation:** Jesus will recompense us for what we do in this life.

1. **The outcome of judgment may be gain or loss of reward.**

**Luke 19:26 -** 26I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.

What is the positive outcome?

What is the negative outcome?

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27** - 24Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 25Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

**Explanation:** Eternal life cannot be lost; however, God’s approval and reward can. This is the prize for which we should live our lives!

**2 Timothy 2:11-13 - 11** It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; **12** If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; **13** If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

**Three Questions**

1. **Who receives rewards?**

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1. **What are the rewards?**

**Revelation 2:26 - 26** 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;

How long must we overcome and keep the Lord’s deeds?

What is our reward keeping His deeds till the end?

**Revelation 3:21 - 21** 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

What is our reward for overcoming? To sit with Christ on His throne

Note the crown passages:

* *The Incorruptible Crown* given to those who live a disciplined spiritual life (1 Cor 9:25).
* *The Crown of Rejoicing* given to those who joyously express their faith (1 Thess 2:19).
* *The Crown of Life* given to those who patiently endure the trials of life (James 1:12).
* *The Crown of Glory* given to those who faithfully serve and lead the flock of God (1 Pet 5:4).
* *The Crown of Righteousness* given to those who long for the appearing of Christ (2 Tim 4:8).

1. **How should this impact my life now?**

**Matthew 6:20 - 20** "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

**Explanation:** Store up treasures in heaven. Treasures stored in heaven are not subject to a bad economy or the IRS.

**Colossians 3:23-25 - 23** Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. **25** For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

Who are we working for?

What can be the positive or negative consequences?

**Explanation:** Our attitude should always be that we are working for the Lord in ALL that we do.

**Good Lessons from a Bad Example**

**Luke 16:1-13** - Now He was also saying to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and this *manager* was reported to him as squandering his possessions. 2And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an accounting of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ 3The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig; I am ashamed to beg. 4I know what I shall do, so that when I am removed from the management people will welcome me into their homes.’ 5And he summoned each one of his master’s debtors, and he *began* saying to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ 6And he said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ And he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ 7Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ And he said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He \*said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ 8And his master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light. 9And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings.10“He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. 11Therefore if you have not been faithful in the *use of* unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true *riches* to you? 12And if you have not been faithful in *the use of* that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? 13No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

1. Good stewards are resourceful
2. Good stewards use material resources to influence people in spiritual ways
3. Good stewards are faithful
4. Good stewards are wholly devoted to their master.

***Live everyday in light of “The Day.”***

**12. Spiritual Multiplication – Entrusting the Things of Christ to Faithful Believers**

**2 Timothy 2:2 - 2** The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

**Explanation:** There are four generations listed in our text: Paul, Timothy, faithful men, and the others that they teach also. If you teach someone and he bottles up the truth and doesn’t pass it on, the process stalls out there. You are involved in addition, not multiplication. But if those you teach will teach others who in turn teach others, you’re engaging in a ministry of multiplication. While it’s slow at the start, it can eventually reach millions.

**Matthew 28:18-20 - 18** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

**Conclusion:** The purpose of these lessons is to entrust the things of Christ to you. Now go and entrust these things to others who will then in turn entrust them to others. This is how we spiritually multiply.

