

Footprints



CHRISTIAN RESOURCES



LIVING & LEARNING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

JOHN BLANCHARD

Footprints into Africa

LEARNING AND LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

STUDY 1 WHY DO I NEED GOD

INTRODUCTION

This particular course is going to give you a wonderful overview of the Christian life. There are **8 steps** to learning and living the Christian life.

There are two reasons why I need God

Because of sin

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”.

This is the reason why Jesus Christ came.

1. SIN

A. MISSING THE MARK

Exodus 34:6-7

“And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming: ‘The Lord, the Lord, He is compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love to thousands and forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; He punishes the children and their children for the sin of their fathers to the third and fourth generation.”

Psalms 32:1-3

“Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sins the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones washed away through my groaning all day long.

The Bible tells us that we are born sinners and as we grow older, we miss the mark, which God has set for us.

God’s plan for us is to be perfect and holy , but we are not.

B. TO OVER-STEP THE LINE

Romans 4:15

“But the gift is not like the trespass. For if many died for the trespass of one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!”

The Bible tells us what we must not do, if we do it, we over-step the line.

C. THE FATAL BIAS.

Psalms 51:5

“Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”

By nature, we automatically do wrong. That is the way we are.

Our nature teaches us to sin.

Teach your children, therefore to love Jesus and to obey Him.

D. ILLUSTRATIONS FROM JESUS

In Luke 15 Jesus gives us three illustrations:

- a) The lost silver is a picture of sin
- b) The lost son is a picture of transgression
- c) The lost sheep is a picture of iniquity

We need God because we are sinners and we fall short, we cross the line and our nature chooses evil

2. GUILT (I am guilty)

A. HOW DO I FIT INTO GENESIS?

Romans 5:12

“Therefore, just as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.”

When Adam sinned, I sinned, Adam was my representative, when he sinned I was in him.

We were in Adam when he sinned; so the question is - who can save me? Only Jesus can, because he has never sinned.

1 Tim. 2:5

“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

Acts 4:12

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

John 14:6

“Jesus answered ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.’”

a) The incarnation

This means that Jesus left heaven and came to earth for me.

John 1:14

“The word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen the glory of the One and only, who came from the Father full of grace and truth.”

b) Then Jesus died on the cross for me

2 Cor. 5:21

“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God

c) The Resurrection

Phil. 4:13

“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.”

- Jesus came. Jesus died, Jesus rose again. My only hope of finding God is Jesus.
- I need a new heart because my nature chooses wrong, and I need to choose God.

STUDIES IN LEARNING AND LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
STUDY 2

HOW CAN I FIND GOD?

1. NEW BIRTH

John 3:3

“In reply Jesus declared ‘I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.’ ”

Matthew 18:3

“And He said: ‘I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.’”

A. WHY?

Why must I be born again?

a) Spiritual death:

The Bible teaches that we are by nature spiritually dead

Ephesians 2:1

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the Kingdom of the air, the Spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.”

Colossians 2:13

“When you were dead in your sins and in the un-circumcision of your sinful nature (your flesh), God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.”

John 5:24

“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my Word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”

i) Blind

I am spiritually blind

2 Corinthians 4:4

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

This means that when I read the Bible, I cannot understand it.

ii) Deaf

Ears are closed, they cannot hear (understand)

Jeremiah 6:10

“To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed (uncircumcised) so they cannot

hear. The Word of the Lord is offensive to them: they find no pleasure in it.”

iii) Decayed

Proverbs 20:9

“Who can say ‘I have kept my heart pure; I am clean without sin’?”

Revelation 21:27

“Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those names which are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.”

2 REPENTANCE

- In the Bible, repentance is one of the most important words.

Ez.14:6. - “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says’ Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices!’”

Matt.3:2. - “Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is near”.

Mark 6:12. - “They went out and preached that people should repent”.

A. WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

It means to turn around, to stop your old life, and to follow Christ.

- a) Repentance involves knowledge
Our knowledge of God and of ourselves changes
- b) Repentance involves feelings

Matt.26:74-75 - “Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them. “I don’t know this man!.” Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the words Jesus had spoken: ‘Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times’. And he went outside and wept bitterly.”

We have great sadness because of our sin.

- c) Repentance involves determination
Luke 15:18 - “I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: ‘Father I have sinned against heaven and against you’”.

We now are determined to follow Christ

- d) Repentance involves action
Luke 15:20 - “So he got up and went to his father”

Before someone comes to Christ, there must be repentance

B. GOD HAS WAYS AND MEANS

In order to bring people to repentance there are different ways that God uses.

- a) Sometimes through the preaching of the gospel.
Matt.12.41 - “The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here.’

When the gospel is preached people repent.

- b) Through sorrow
Psalm 78:34 - “Whenever God slew them, they would seek Him; they eagerly turned to Him again”.
In times of great stress, people sometimes turn to Christ.

- c) Through joy.
Romans 2:4 - “Or do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you towards repentance”.

- d) Sometimes through emptiness
Ecccl. 2:11 - “Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had achieved, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.”

Sometimes when people have everything, they say that there is something missing in their lives

- So there are different ways of coming to Christ, but what is very important is that there must be repentance.

3. FAITH

Repentance means I turn away from my sin and faith means I look to Christ, and I put all my trust in Him.

A. IT INCLUDES KNOWLEDGE

Mark 5:27-34 - “When she heard about Jesus. She came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His cloak..... He said to her. ‘Daughter your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering’”.

B. IT INCLUDES BELIEF

C. TRUST

Proverbs 3:5 - “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”

- Saving faith therefore is committing your life to Christ

CONCLUSION

The greatest question in any person’s life is: How do I find God?

- The three steps are:
 1. I need to be born again
 2. I need to repent
 3. I need to put my trust in the Lord Jesus

STUDIES IN LEARNING AND LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
STUDY 3

WHAT DOES GOD OFFER ME?

INTRODUCTION

When a sinner repents and turns to Christ. God offers the sinner three wonderful blessings.

1. JUSTIFICATION

Memorize!

“Justification may be defined as that legal act of God by which He declares the sinner to be righteous, on the basis of the perfect righteousness of Christ.”

A. MEANING

- a) It is connected with our true relationship to God.
 - We by nature are guilty, but when we turn to Christ we are given Jesus’ Righteousness, and now God declares us to be not guilty
- b) This was lost by sin
 - Our sin has brought us guilt - condemnation and separation
- c) Restoration of this true relationship to God
 - God restores us by giving us righteousness - forgiveness - and fellowship
- d) Much more than Pardon
 - When I came to Christ, Justification offered me much more than just pardon

It offered me:

Instead of guilt	-	Righteousness
Instead of condemnation	-	Forgiveness
Instead of separation	-	Fellowship
- e) It is different from making righteous
 - I was Imputed with the righteousness of Christ

B. FOUNDATION

- a) Because of the Person and Work of Christ; - We are saved by trusting in Christ.
- b) **NOT BY GOOD WORKS**
Eph. 2:8-9
“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast”.

C. MEANS

- a) By Grace
- b) Through Faith
Romans 5:12 **“Therefore since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,, through whom we have access by faith into His grace in which we now stand”.**

2. **ADOPTION**

When by the grace of God we are saved, we are then adopted into the family of God.
Romans 8:14-17

“Because those who are led by the spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of Sonship. And by Him we cry Abba, Father”.

Galatians 4:4-7.

“But when the time had fully come, God sent His son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out “Abba, Father” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and since you are son, God has made you an heir.”

This will now mean seven things for us.

A. **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Romans 8:9 - “You however are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of God, he does not belong to Christ.

- The Holy Spirit comes to take up residence in our lives

B. **NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

See Galatians 4:4-7 on previous page

C. **WE HAVE A NEW NAME**

Ephesians 3:14-15. - “For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom this whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.”

A. **WE HAVE A GROWING LIKENESS**

Philippians 2:13. - “For it is God who works in you, to will and to act according to His good purpose.”

B. **WE HAVE AN ALL-ROUND PROTECTION**

Psalms 125:2 - “As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people, both now and forever more.”

C. **WE HAVE NECESSARY DISCIPLINE**

See Hebrews 12:5-10. - “....My Son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone he accepts as a son....”

D. **WE HAVE THE RICHES OF HEAVEN.**

Hebrews 1:2 - “But in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe.

These seven blessings are ours because we are adopted’

3. **ASSURANCE**

The Bible teaches us that we can know that we are saved.

1 John 5:13 - “And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him.”

1 John 2:3 - “We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.

1 John 3:14 - “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers, anyone who does not love remains in death”.

But there are two factors that give us assurance.

A. **THE BIBLE**

- The Bible assures us that when we put all our trust onto the Lord Jesus Christ we are saved.

Hebrews 10:22 - “Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies , washed with pure water.”
See John 5:13

- Assurance comes through the Bible

B. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

Romans 5:5 - “And hope does not disappoint us. Because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.

The Holy Spirit assures us that we belong to God. He also helps us to discern the marks of grace.

Sadly, you can be a Christian and have no assurance, but God does not want that. God’s plan is for us to have assurance.

CONCLUSION

In His amazing grace, God therefore offers the new Christian, Justification, Adoption and Assurance

Next, we will learn about, how do you now please the Father.

STUDIES IN LEARNING AND LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
STUDY 4

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

In our previous studies we saw why we need God? Then how do I find God? And then what does God offer me? Finally step five is - How do I please God?

There are three ways in which we can please God:

1. SANCTIFICATION

A. DEFINITION

Sanctification may be defined as that gracious and continuous operation of the Holy Spirit by which He purifies the sinner - renews his whole nature in the image of God and enables him to perform good works.

We are justified, but we are being sanctified.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 - "It is God's will that you should be sanctified...."

1 Thessalonians 5:23 "May God Himself, the God of peace sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

B. THE MEANS

Slowly the Holy Spirit is making us holy people, more and more like Jesus, but there are seven means that He uses (Seven tools to make me more like Jesus).

a) Effort on my part.

We must work hard and co-operate with the Holy Spirit so that we put off the old and put on the new.

2 Peter 1:3-7 - "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to knowledge, self control; and to self control, perseverance, and to perseverance godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, love".

b) The Father's Will

1 Thes. 4:3 - says, "It is God's will that you should be sanctified."

c) The Saviour's death

Hebrews 10:10 - "We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all".

The Lord Jesus Christ paid the once and for all sacrifice for sin.

d) The Spirit's work

Galatians 5:5 - "But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope".

The Holy Spirit enters our life at our conversion , and then slowly works in us making us more and more like Jesus. (That is His work)

Philippians 3:2 - “For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose”.

e) The Word of Truth

The greatest instrument that the Holy Spirit uses in making us holy is the Bible.

Psalm 119:9 - “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your Word.”

John 17:17 - “Sanctify them by the truth, Your Word is Truth”.

f) Power of prayer

Isaiah 40:31 - “Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

James 5:16 - “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective”.

g) A living faith.

Hebrews 12:12 - “Therefore strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees.

Galatians 2:20 - “...The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

C. **THE FINISHED PRODUCT.**

As we grow as Christians, we are going to become more and more like Jesus.

Philippians 3:12 - “...I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”

But this work will only be complete when Jesus returns.

1 John 3:2 - “But we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is”.

2. **SERVICE**

A Christian is called not only to become holy, but to serve Christ.

1.Thessalonians 1:8-9 - “Your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore, we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God

A. **THE MASTER’S SERVICE**

The Lord Jesus is always our example.

a) The necessity of Christian service.

The Lord Jesus used the word “must” often.

Luke 2:49 - “Why were you searching for me? ...Did you not know I had to be in my Father’s house?”

John 3:14 - “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of man must be lifted up”.

John 10:16 - “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen, I must bring them also”.

b) The authority of Christian service.

Luke 22:42 - “Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done.”

We long to be in the centre of God’s will.

- c) The urgency of Christian Service
2 Peter 3:10. - “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.”
Our work is urgent - we must work while it is still day.

B. OUR SERVICE

The question always is, what should mark our service for Jesus?

- a) Enthusiasm.
2 Corinthians 9:12 - “The service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people, but is also over-flowing in many expressions of thanks to God.”
Every Christian should be enthusiastic about their service for Jesus.
- b) Dignity
Hebrews 3:5 - “Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s house.”
2 Corinthians 5:20 - “We were therefore Christ’s ambassadors ...be reconciled to God.”

We are ambassadors for Christ
- c) Humility
1 Corinthians 4:1 - “So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ.”

We are no more than servants of Christ and therefore we are to serve with humility.
- d) Perseverance
Revelation 7:15 - “They are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tent over them.”

We ought to be steady, reliable, and never give up.
- e) Obedience.
Mark 10:42=44 - “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles Lord it over them, and their high official exercise authority over them. Not so with you instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be a slave to all.”
- f) Devotion
2 Corinthians 5:20 - “Those who live, should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again”.

We serve because we love Jesus Christ.

3. WATCHFULNESS

A. SIGNS OF THE TIMES

In Matthew 24 we are told what will happen at the end times and Jesus gives us six signs.

- a) An increase of false teaching
Matthew 24:4,5,11 - “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming ‘I am the Christ,; and will deceive many,... And many like prophets will appear and deceive many people.”

EXPECT THIS!
- b) Violent international conflict.
Matthew 24:4,7. - “ You will hear wars and rumours of wars. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdoms against kingdoms”...
- c) Widespread national disasters.
Matthew 24:7 - “... There will be famines and earth quakes in various places.
v.8 - “All these are the beginning of birth pains”.
- d) Persecution of Christians
Matthew 24:9. - “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.”
- e) Increasing sin and apostasy
Matthew 24:12-13 - “Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved”.
- f) World-wide Evangelism
Matthew 24: 14 “And this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

These are the signs of the times, and every one of these is relevant for today.

B. ARE YOU READY?

- a) You are not ready if you are lost
See Matthew 24:38-41
If you are not converted you are not ready for the coming of Jesus Christ.
- b) You are not ready if you are lukewarm
2Peter 3:11-12 - “Since everything will be destroyed in this way. What kind of people ought you to be?”

You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.”

Revelation 3:16 - “So because you are lukewarm - neither hot nor cold - I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”

- c) You are not ready if you are lazy
Matthew 16:27 - “For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father's Glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what he has done.”

STUDIES IN LEARNING AND LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
STUDY 5

FIGHTING OUR ENEMY

INTRODUCTION

The world laughs at our teaching of the devil, they draw fun pictures, and think it strange that we should believe in the devil. But we do have an enemy . He never ever stops working, always wanting us to fall

1. THE DEVIL

A. HIS NAMES

As we read the Bible we find that a persons name gives us a clue s to their character. There are eleven names given to the devil.

- a) Devil **Matt.4:1**
This word means slanderer or accuser.
- b) Satan. **Job 1:6**
A word that means opponent.
- c) Beelzebub **Matt.12:24**
A name for the Prince of flies
- d) The prince of the world
- e) The wicked one.
- f) A murderer and a liar
- g) The god of this world
- h) Belial - Worthless
- i) Ruler of the kingdom of the air
- j) The angel from the bottomless pit
- k) Apollyon - A Greek word which means destruction

You cannot read this list of names without taking it seriously. Our enemy is real and dangerous

B. HIS RISE AND FALL

There are three important verses:

Isaiah 14 - **Exodus 28** - **Luke 10:18**

These verses tell us that Satan was an angel created by God, but he became proud, rebelled against God, and was thrown out of heaven.

Now he is the head of his own satanic kingdom, with the army of false angels under his power.

They work night and day against the church.

C. STRATEGY FOR WARFARE.

1 Peter 5:8. Says, “**He roams around like a roaring lion seeking those that he can destroy.**”

- a) Surprise attack
2 Samuel 11:2 - ...”

Instead of being on the battlefield David stayed at home - his guard was down and Satan attacked.

b) Siege attack
Dan. 7:25 ...”

c) Subtle attack
2 Cor. 11:14
He causes you to fall when you do not expect it.

D. DOOMSDAY

a). THE VERDICT
The Bible does not only speak of his past and present, but also of his future
1 John 3:8 - ...”
Heb.2:14-15. - ...”

On the cross Jesus declared his victory over Satan

b). THE EXECUTION
But only on the final day will he be destroyed
Rev.20:10”

The Bible wants us to know that we have a strong enemy and we must be careful.

2. TEMPTATION

A. TESTING AND TEMPTING

The verb “to tempt” is used for the time when the devil will do anything he can to cause us to fall.

God “tests” us in order to help us to stand, whereas the devil “tempts” us in order to make us fall.

B. THE SIMPLE TRUTH

1 Cor. 10:13 tells us that temptation is common to all, and it is a life long experience.

a) Temptation is not removed

From the time we become a Christian.

b) Temptation is not repelled - by trying to live a life of isolation, or through an act of dedication.

c) Temptation is not reduced - as we become spiritually mature.

d) Temptation is not sin. Or an act of failure
Heb. 4:15 -”

C. WAR ON ALL FRONTS

a) On the Moral front

i) Purity before marriage

Gen.2:24

Exodus 20:14

There is to be no sex before marriage

ii) Purity within the marriage - **1 Cor. 6:18-20**

iii) Purity outside the marriage
You only have sex with your husband or wife.

b) The Material front.
We live in a very materialistic world.
People want more money, clothing, better this and that etc.
1 Tim 6:9-10 -”

c) The mental front
Satan wants us to doubt, worry, to be anxious, to be afraid.
Psalm 55:22
1 Peter 5:7

b) The Personal front
By trying to make you proud
James 6:10
Therefore how can we be strong? And not fall into temptation?

D. THE WAY TO WIN

a) Vigilance.
1 Thes. 5:6
We must watch and be careful that we do not fall

b) Win through Prayer
Matt.26:41

c) Faith
1 John 5:4

d) Armour of God
Eph. 6:10-18

E. DETERMINED RESISTENCE.

James 4:10
We have a powerful enemy, but we do not need to fall

STUDIES IN LEARNING AND LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
STUDY 6

FOLLOWING MY SAVIOUR

INTRODUCTION

In this section, we will now describe the purpose for which you have been saved, and there are two purposes.

1. FRUIT BEARING.
John 15:1-8

A. WHAT IS THAT FRUIT?

Beyond any doubt, the obvious explanation is the **fruit of the Spirit**

Gal.5:22-23.

Romans 8:29

Put very simply the fruit is **becoming like Jesus by the Power of the Spirit**

B. THE DREADFUL DANGER

“Every branch of mine that bears no fruit - He takes it away.”

In other words a **fruitless Christian is not a failed Christian. But a false one.**

C. PRUNING IS NECESSARY

“Every branch that does bear fruit, He prunes so that it will bear more fruit”.

When a Christian bears fruit, Jesus prunes

a) **By His Sovereign Will**

Sometimes pruning is very difficult, it is very hard to go through, but God's Will, will be done

b) **His Sanctifying Word**

“John 17:17

When the Bible is read and studied, and obeyed it brings fruit

D) EXHORTATION TO ABIDE

a) **“I will dwell in you”**

Verse 4 says **“Abide is me and I will abide in Him.”**

When we abode in Christ - Christ will abide in us.

b) **“If you abide in Me.”**

The more you grow in grace, the more you will pray according to the will of God

c) **(v 8) “By this is my Father glorified”.**

2. WITNESSING

The second way that I follow Christ is by sharing my faith with others.

1 Peter 5:1 - “ ...

1 John 1:1-3. - “...

A. WHAT IS A WITNESS?

Someone who testifies about something that he has seen.

A. WHAT IS THE CONTENT OF OUR WITNESSING?

Romans 1:3

Romans 1:16

The Gospel !

We share with people what we have experienced.

B. THE COST INVOLVED

We give our all for Christ.

CONCLUSION

To follow Christ means to bear fruit and to witness.

LIVING AND LEARNING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

STUDY 7

DOING MY DUTY

INTRODUCTION.

As the course draws to a close, we need to be clear concerning the doing of my duty as a Christian and there are three important issues that will show us how to do our duty.

1. WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Lord Jesus said **“Without me you can do nothing.”**
Therefore I need the Holy Spirit

A. HE IS A PERSON NOT A THING.

John 16:30

The Holy Spirit is a living person, not just an influence or quality. He is a person.

B. HE IS DIVINE

Equal to the Father and the Son. He is the **Third Person of the Trinity**

- Omnipotent - Psalm 139:7
- Omniscient - 1 Cor. 2:10
- Omnipotent - Luke 1:35

A. WE CAN DO NOTHING WITHOUT THE SPIRIT

John 15:5

He **convicts** us of sin. He **gives us the faith to trust Christ**. He **helps us to grow** in our Christian life. He helps us **to fight** our enemy.

We are nothing without the Spirit

B. HIS GIFTS

The Holy Spirit gives His **gifts to the Church**.

1 Cor. 12:4-11 - “....

- a) Not all the gifts are sensational
Acts.6:3
E.g. the gift of helps is not as sensational as the gift of tongues.
- b) Not every Christian is expected to have all the gifts
- c) Gifts are not ours for the asking
God gives as He wills
- d) No gift is a mark of spirituality or superiority
No one gift makes you more spiritual than the other.
- e) No gift is for your own personal enjoyment.
The gifts are given for the common good.

C. **CONSTANTLY THIRSTY, CONSTANTLY FILLED**

Eph. 5:18

1 Thes. 5:19

“Be filled with the Spirit.”

a) **IT IS PLURAL**

This means that it is for everybody, not just for some spiritual few.

b) **IT IS PASSIVE.**

I must let the Holy Spirit come into me. (I must allow it in)

c) **IT IS PRESENT**

must keep on being filled - all the time - always keep on being filled.

I

2. **THE WILL OF GOD** (I must do the will of God, I do my duty by the Spirit.)

A. **BIBLE**

Psalm 119:105. “.....

B. **PRAYER**

Matt.7:7. “.....

C. **MATURE CHRISTIAN’S ADVICE**

You do not know as much as you would like to know.

D. **CIRCUMSTANCES**

God opens doors and closes doors

E. **PEACE OF GOD RULES**

“If you are in doubt don’t.”

Col.3:15. ‘.....

D. **BASIC COMMON SENSE**

If you do not produce results in a certain area it could be a sign that it is not your gifted area

LEARNING AND LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

STUDY 8

ENJOYING MY FELLOWSHIP

INTRODUCTION

In this final lecture, we will emphasize the three most important things in my Christian life. If ever somebody backslides this is always because one of these three has been neglected.

1. MY BIBLE

A. IT LEADS ME TO NEW LIFE

1 Peter 1:23 “.....

James 1:18 “.....

Eph.1:13 “.....

B. IT LEADS IS TO A CLEAN LIFE

As we learn to live according to the Bible we will live a life pleasing to God.

Psalms 119:11 “.....

C. IT LEADS TO A STRONG LIFE.

The man who is governed by the Word of God is going to be strong when the trials come. **Psalms 19:7-9** “.....

D. IT LEADS US TO A CONFIDENT LIFE - Psalms 15:4 “.....

C. IT IS MY FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Therefore

a) **We must read it REGULARLY**

b) **It must be BELIEVED**

That means that we read the Old and the New Testament

c) **It must be DIGESTED**

Psalms 1

d) **It must bring us to JESUS**

Ez.3:1 “.....

Matt. 4:4

2. PRAYER

Luke 11:1 - “Lord teach us how to pray.”

A. IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH GOD.

Heb.10:19-22

B. HOW TO PRAY?.

a) **Praise**

Psalms 145:3”

b) **Thanksgiving**

Col. 4:2”

- c) Confession
1. John 1:8
- d) Supplication
Matt. 7:7

Every prayer will include these four essentials

C. THE PERFECT PRAYER

In Luke 11, Jesus teaches us all the perfect prayer which we call the **Lords Prayer**.

- a) We pray God's glory may be seen
"Hallowed be thy name, Your Kingdom come. Your will be done."
- b) That God's Goodness may be shown.
"Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us."
- c) For God's Grace to be sent
"and deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory

2. CHURCH

A. DEFINED

The Church is a fellowship of saved sinners.

B. IT HAS SEVEN CHARACTERISTICS:

- a) Worship
Eph. 3:21 ".....
- b) Sound Doctrine
Act. 18:24 ".....
- c) United Prayer
Acts 12:12 ".....
- d) Sacraments
Baptism and Holy Communion
1 Cor.1:24 ".....
- e) Fellowship
Romans 12:4-5 ".....
- f) Care for each other
Gal. 6:2 ".....
- g) Evangelism
Acts 18 ".....