Lesson 1------------------------Page 3
Lesson 2------------------------Page 6
Lesson 3------------------------Page 9
Lesson 4------------------------Page 12
Lesson 5------------------------Page 16
Lesson 6------------------------Page 20
Lesson 7------------------------Page 24
Lesson 8------------------------Page 27
Lesson 9------------------------Page 32
Lesson 10------------------------Page 35
Lesson 11------------------------Page 36
Lesson 12------------------------Page 40
Lesson 13------------------------Page 43
Lesson 14------------------------Page 47
Lesson 15------------------------Page 53
Lesson 1

THE INSPIRED SCRIPTURES

We believe the Bible, consisting of 66 books, to be the inspired Word of God, without error, the revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.

#1 The basis for our study is the Bible, which men of faith believe to be The Word of God; inspired by Him and given to mankind. Christians believe that God spoke both in times past by the Prophets and now in these last days, has spoken unto us by His Son, Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets. Heb. 1:2…. has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds. Jesus Christ then is “The Way” God spoke and is speaking to people now. Hopefully, our ears will be open to hear this ‘Word’ from God and let Him speak to our heart!

#2 These lessons will present for the inquirer an understanding of the nature, privileges, and responsibilities of the Christian life. Casual Bible reading uncovers valuable spiritual facts that lie near the surface, but the wisdom of how to apply those facts requires a heart that is receptive to the Lord’s guidance and study of His Word. Do you have a personal relationship with the Author of this divine Book, and if so, how intimate is it?
#3 We may think that we are quite familiar with the Bible, however upon closer examination; we may find that we don’t know as much as we thought we did. The ability to quote a few well-known Bible verses or relate some Bible stories is certainly not an understanding of this wonderful Book.

# 4 The Bible contains sixty-six books, thirty-nine of which make up the Old Testament (written before the days of Christ on the earth) and the remaining twenty-seven books are the New Testament. The Old Testament books can be separated into these sections. There are seventeen historical books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther. There are five poetry books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. The sixteen books of prophecy are: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel (usually called the Major Prophets), Lamentations, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi (called the Minor Prophets.) In the New Testament, the books can be divided as (1) Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John; (2) History: Acts; (3) the Epistles or books written by Paul: Romans, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I, II Thessalonians., I, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews; (4) the General Epistles: James, I & II Peter, I, II, III John, Jude; (5) Prophecy: Revelation.

#5 Many centuries have elapsed since the older books of the Bible were written; therefore, it is difficult to get an absolute date of their origin. The oldest books were written about 1300 B.C. and the New Testament was written over a period of about 100 years. Approximately 30 men were instrumental in writing this Book of Books and were fourteen centuries in doing so. It has survived over the many centuries since the last book was written, leaving us with the unchanging Word that the unchanging God gave.

#6 The authority of the Bible is implied in its title, ‘The Word of God.’ It is the written record of the Word of God which came to Prophets, Apostles, and other spokesmen, and which ‘became flesh’ in Jesus Christ. Christians believe Jesus Christ was, and is, the Word of God, and through Him, God communicated the perfect revelation of himself to mankind. The Old Testament was the Bible that Jesus used-the authority to which He made a constant appeal and whose teachings
He accepted and followed. When Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, He submitted with these words ‘the Scriptures must be fulfilled.’ He saw His mission in the world as a fulfillment of the predictions of the Old Testament.

#7 This lesson hasn’t necessarily been a study in how we got the Bible, but it is a declaration that from the Bible are the teachings that are as essential to living as a Christian should. Many books have been written concerning the history of the publishing of the Bible, but let us be careful to not become so preoccupied with all the details of where and when concerning the history of the Bible that we forget to spend time learning Who the Bible is about.
Who is God?

(All verses are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted. Exhaustive Strong’s concordance and Webster's dictionary definitions are in italics.)

This question may seem ridiculous to some, yet it isn’t an unfamiliar question. It has been asked, again and again, generation after generation. We are considering this today because we must produce the answer to a world that is living in perilous times that does not really know who God is. This lesson is to learn about God, not in the sense of our personal savior, but in the sense that He is the Creator of all things and there is no one else beside Him. He is the one and only God. To have a good foundation for Bible Doctrine study, we need to know the true story of the origin of the world and mankind. This study is more easily understood when we believe that God is the Creator of all things.

Although we may not understand everything (in our finite way) about the creation of the world, man, etc., we must have faith that whatever is recorded in the Word of God is true. The Bible says in Hebrews 11:6 But without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is,
(consists, remains) and that He is a rewarmer of those who diligently seek Him. So as we examine the Bible, let us believe.

1. **HE IS THE GOD OF ETERNITY.** --Psalm 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. There never was a time that God did not exist and there never will be a time when God does not exist. God always has been and will always be.

2. **GOD IS SELF-EXISTENT.** --Isaiah 44:6 “Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me, there is no God.

3. **GOD IS EVERYWHERE (omnipresent: all or universally in attendance)**
   a. Jeremiah 23:24 Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?” says the Lord; “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the Lord.
   b. Acts 17:27 So that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope (to search for) for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.

4. **GOD IS ALL POWERFUL. (omnipotent).**
   a. Genesis 18:14 ‘Is anything too hard for the LORD?’
   b. Job 42:2 "I know that You can do everything and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld (to restrain, to be made inaccessible) from You.
   c. Luke 18:27 “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

5. **GOD IS ALL UNDERSTANDING (omniscient meaning having infinite awareness, understanding, and insight, possessed of universal or complete knowledge).**
   a. Psalm 147:4 He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. 5. Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.
   b. Isaiah 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. There is no searching of His understanding.
6. **GOD IS THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS.**
   a. Genesis 1:1 ‘In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.’
   b. Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed (*made complete*) by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

7. **GOD IS IMMUTABLE.** (*unchangeable*)
   a. Malachi 3:6
   b. James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

8. **HE ALONE IS GOD.**
   a. Deuteronomy 4:39 “Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.
   b. Deuteronomy 4:35 ‘…the LORD he is God; there is none other besides Him.”
Lesson 3

THE FALL OF MAN

Assignment: Read and study Genesis 3 & 4

We believe that when Adam and his helpmeet (the woman) disobeyed God in doing what He said not to do, that was the entrance of sin into the world. God told Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17) that was in the garden. Notice Adams’ help meet was named woman until after the consequence of her sin was placed upon her and Adam changed her name from “woman” to “Eve” because she would now become a mother. Adam and the woman were not told to replenish the earth and subdue it as God had told the created males and females in Chapter 1, until after their fall.

Let’s consider for a moment some topics of sin: what it is, and what it does. The ‘father of lies’ (John 8:44) came and planted seeds of doubt by contradicting what God said (vs. 4). The woman, the Bible says in vs. 6, saw, took, ate and gave what was forbidden to her husband. Although it was the woman that initially took what was not right to take, it was Adam, which, when he willingly took what his wife offered him, was in the transgression.
1 Timothy 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. That is what sin is – disobedience of the Word of God. When God said, ‘Thou shalt not,’ then it became a sin to take part in whatever was condemned.

First, what is it? Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness (defiance of the law). It is defined in the Bible as ‘transgression of the law of God, (1 John 3:4). A transgression is an illegality, i.e. violation of law or lawless; wickedness. So then everyone who sins breaks the law (and keeps on breaking it), it is because they have no sense of lawfulness in them.

In the Old Testament, the word ‘transgression’ also means a rebellion, a revolt, trespass or sin. We know what it is to trespass. It is to go beyond a set boundary that has been placed to show people how far they can go. We see ‘No Trespassing signs,’ and know that sign is there to let us know that we should stay off that property, either because it is dangerous or the owner doesn’t want us there. Of course, spiritually speaking, the devil does want us ‘there,’ beyond where God said. Satan wants us to break the law, commit an illegality and be convicted for it. God, however, has stated that as Christians, there are places (not just physically, but spiritually as well) that we need to stay away from.

Think about the word REVOLT. What does this bring to mind? A rebellion is an uprising of persons that want to refuse to accept and overthrow the authority of an established government. Remember that those who participate in rebellions are “rebels”.

What are the consequences of sin? For one thing, Adam was afraid of God’s presence (as he had been enlightened and convicted) when he disobeyed God’s command! It ‘dawned’ upon him and he was ashamed. They then both tried to make a covering for themselves, which they could not do (any more than we can.) Communion with God is strained and can be broken with the continuance of sin. The man was also given now the task of working the ground, as he would now have to contend with thorns and thistles.

To the woman, God said that she would now have sorrow in childbearing or it would be hard for her when having children. The people in the Old Testament had what we call the Ten Commandments were given to them (listed in Exodus 20.) This was the law of God to them and for them to live out in their lives. The first four of the ‘Ten Commandments’ deal with man’s relationship with God while the
remaining six deal with man’s relationship with a man. But can following the Ten Commandments be done? Can we ever hope to be able to fully do what ‘the law’ says to do? There is an interesting account of a man who thought perhaps keeping the commandments, somewhat like marking items off a checklist, would do. In Matthew 22:35-40 we read the following:

" Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying 36. ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?’ 37. Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38. This is the first and great commandment. 39. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

The greatest commandment in the law-to Love God with all of our heart, soul, and mind is the summary of the first four of the ‘Ten Commandments’ listed in Exodus. The second greatest commandment is the summary of the remaining six-to love our neighbor as ourselves (the account goes on to explain the ‘good neighbor’ policy.) This is not just a New Testament admonition.

The phrase to ‘love the Lord’ is in the book of Deuteronomy nine times, the first one is in the sixth chapter, vs. 5. If we consider the subject of sin a little further, not only is it sin to do something we shouldn’t do, it’s sin if we neglect to do something we should do! James 4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. This would go for Bible reading, prayer, going to church, etc.

One is a sin of COMMISSION; the other is a sin of OMISSION. We are not converted or justified by ‘doing’ or ‘not doing.’ We are saved by the grace of God in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are saved to serve; not saved by serving!
ENLIGHTENMENT

This is a great subject, for, without it, we wouldn’t be able to progress in the things of the Lord! There are many verses in the Bible concerning the necessity of ‘seeing’ what needs to be seen in the Word of God and who provides the ability to do so. Let’s look at some Scripture and discover the reality of this wonderful truth.

The writer has penned the words in Psalm 18:28 For You will light (illuminate, cause to shine) my lamp; the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness. He is saying that the Lord has made his way to be brilliant and clear before him.

Isaiah records these words in 42:16 I will bring the blind (figuratively, to have a film over the eyes) by a way they did not know;... I will make darkness light (clear, bright, illuminated) before them,...

When an individual becomes aware of a truth in God’s Word; when it ‘dawns’ upon us after we have walked in spiritual darkness concerning what God has been trying to show us, this is enlightenment. We may come to realize what we haven’t
seen before suddenly through praying or it may come to us gradually as we study the Bible. God wants to give us spiritual insight into the many truths there are in the Bible and doesn’t intend for our understanding to be minimal. He wants for us to gain all the knowledge and wisdom concerning Him and His ways that we can. Why?

The Bible records a very important verse in Psalms 119:11 - ‘Your word I have hidden (reserve protect, to esteem) in my heart, that I might not sin against You.’ In the same Chapter, verse 105 it states “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Again, the idea is presented that the Words and Truths of God give the wisdom and spiritual insight that will guide the Christian in a darkened world.

In reading the entire account in Acts 8: 26-35, it will be seen there is an example of enlightenment, involving a man named Philip (under the direction of the Holy Spirit,) who was instructed to go to a man from Ethiopia who was reading from the prophet Esaias (that is, Isaiah). When Philip got to the man’s chariot, he asked him if he understood what he was reading. The man replied that he couldn’t unless some man helped him. Philip was then able to preach unto him, Jesus! God could have revealed His Word to the Ethiopian directly, but He sent Philip to teach Him.

At times, God used no human individual but rather divine revelation to enlighten people. Recorded in Acts 9 is the story of Saul (later called Paul) concerning his having been stopped on his journey to Damascus by a light shining from Heaven and the voice of the Lord speaking to him. Verse 3 states, ‘And as he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.’ and in verse 8 it is recorded that Saul lost his physical eyesight for three days.

The Bible then tells in verse 18 ‘Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once, and he arose…’ Not only was Saul’s physical eyesight restored to him but spiritual sight as well! Then in Acts 26:16-18, the Word of the Lord is revealed and Paul is told why the Lord did appear unto him.

Acts 26:16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen any of the things which I will yet reveal to you. 17. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18. to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’
Paul had lost his eyesight and then had it restored so that he was able to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others that they might also ‘see.’ When the Light of the Gospel is received, it can turn people from the power of Satan to the power of God. A verse in connection with this is I Peter 2:9. It states that believers in Christ are people that ‘you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.’

Consider the following:

1. Psalm 19:8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

2. Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation…’

3. Speaking of the ministry of John the Baptist, it was said that part of what he was called to do was “To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.’ Luke 1:79

4. Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

5. Second Corinthians 4:3-6

1 Corinthians 4:3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4. whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. 5. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. 6. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Paul wrote in Colossians 1:9-12
Colossians 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10. that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11. strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and long suffering with joy; 12. giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

God wants to deliver each of us from the spiritual darkness that so many people seem to be in. Let us be receptive to what the Lord is trying to show us. If we have ‘listening ears,’ let us hear.
CONVICTION

(All verses are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted. Exhaustive Strong’s concordance and Webster’s dictionary definitions are in italics.)

Conviction and enlightenment are so closely related it is difficult to draw a line between them. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to enlighten as well as to convict the souls of men. From the Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (c) 1986. Conviction is ‘The process of being condemned by one’s own conscience as a sinner because of God's demands. The idea of conviction is a major theme of Scripture, although the word is rarely used (Psalm 32; 51; Acts 2:37; Romans 7:7-25). The agent of conviction is the Holy Spirit (John 16:7-11); and the means of conviction is either the Word of God (Acts 2:37) or God's general revelation of His demands through nature and man's inborn consciousness of a sense of right and wrong (Romans 1:18-20; 2:15). The purpose of conviction is to lead a person to repent of his sins (Acts 2:37-38; Romans 2:1-4) and to turn to God for salvation and eternal life.’
Examples of conviction abound in the Bible. Take, for instance, the account in Acts, Chapter 2 as Peter preached in verses 14-36. The people were enlightened, convicted and responded for having ignorantly crucified the Lord. Acts 2:37 ‘Now when they heard this, they were pricked (to pierce thoroughly, to agitate violently) in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the Apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Peter told them what to do and the record says that 3,000 souls were saved that day Verse 41!

We must not confine the work and value of conviction with forgiveness of sins only. Any Gospel truth can be included. For instance, suppose that a Christian has heard about the need for a yielded life. The Holy Spirit then reveals that this is indeed a truth and a necessity (enlightenment) and that the person should press his way into the reality of this experience. This is conviction. The same may be true of healing or the call to preach or to work in some other capacity.

When people are enlightened with any phase of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it will smite their hearts, bringing a heavy ‘awareness’ that there is something amiss. It makes them realize they need the help of God when they realize that Christ died for their sins. When they begin to realize the need of their own souls, this is conviction. The Spirit reveals the truth of Christ and people begin to see their own souls as they really are: sinful, unclean and foul.

Then the next ‘thing’ to come is an awareness of their guilt; a loathing and despising of their sinful condition. This, of course, calls for a response. God has enlightened, convicted, and now what man must do is respond. The question is what will be that response? For those individuals who have never known God, but seeing their sinfulness as revealed by the Spirit, the response will hopefully be repentance. To some though, they will harden their heart, and reject the invitation to do something about what they’ve been made aware of.

Once the people brought an adulterous woman to Jesus and according to the law, she should have been stoned. They wanted to know what Jesus thought about the matter. But as they were really trying to snare him in his words, Jesus knew, not only about the situation, but also the deceitful intent in their hearts. He knew they were as sinful as the woman. This is what the people did when the words of Jesus ‘reached’ their hearts. John 8:9-12
John 8:9-12 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

10. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”

11. She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

12. Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

What was it that had brought such conviction upon the accusers of the woman? The words of Jesus! With the individual that is already a Christian, there is also a call to respond to enlightenment and conviction. Perhaps the Spirit of God reveals to the Christian that they have not been Christ-like in their manner of conduct toward another person. They soon begin to abhor their unfaithfulness and long for the victory and seek to be more like Him.

Conviction also deepens our appreciation for the teaching of God’s Word. The more we know of the Word of God, the more we will try to abide by it and draw near to Him. It is not tradition alone that draws men to conscientious, devout and consistent religious practices. If they are God’s sons and daughters, then they have deep-rooted convictions.

Whether the progressive Christian matures swiftly or slowly, he will climb the step of conviction again and again as he rises in his experience with God. Without this step, he would only be a spectator and not an active participant in the great vineyard of God.

Consider a few scriptures concerning enlightenment and conviction:

1. Psalm 51:3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

2. John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.
3. John 16:8-11 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9. of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10. of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11. because the ruler of this world is judged.

4. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17. That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

5. Acts 24:25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”
Lesson 6

Repentance

Repentance is defined as “A turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God (Matthew 9:13; Luke 5:32). In a more general sense, repentance means a change of mind (Genesis 6:6-7) or a feeling of remorse or regret for past conduct (Matthew 27:3). True repentance is a” godly sorrow” for sin, an act of turning around and going in the opposite direction. This type of repentance leads to a fundamental change in a person's relationship to God.” (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (c) 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

In the New Testament, the word repent (repentance, etc.,) means ‘to think differently or afterwards, i.e. reconsider (morally, feel compunction [anxiety arising from an awareness of guilt] including reformation); reversal (of decision) (New Exhaustive Strong’s Numbers Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994)

Following the topic of conviction is the question of response. What’s going to be my response to what I know God has made me aware of? This is one of the ‘steps’ in the plan of Salvation. The subject of repentance is very wide and can be studied from other aspects. One can consider (1) repentance of sins committed after we are Christians, and (2) repentance of Christians to others when misunderstandings or quarrels have arisen between them.
Forgiveness is the main factor in reconciliation (to restore to friendship or harmony- Webster’s) of any kind. When men have wronged each other, they must forgive each other in order to be reconciled. When we have wronged God, we must gain forgiveness to be reconciled to Him. The step that brings us to forgiveness is repentance.

When the Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed as God directs, it brings enlightenment and conviction to the hearers. Upon conviction, the hearer must react. What will he do? What is the response? God has made two steps available: He has done the enlightening and convicting, but what is man’s step? It should be repentance. When God’s Spirit moves upon the heart of man to make him aware of his need for forgiveness and reconciliation, it is then man’s turn to move!

John the Baptist’ message, when he came preaching the kingdom, was one of repentance. This was also Jesus’ first message. The Apostles carried this message when they were sent out two by two. Repentance is the door to salvation from our sins. We must repent in order to be saved.

When a sinner repents of their sins he must

1. turn to God,
2. change his mind concerning his attitude toward sin,
3. express sorrow for past sin, confessing them before God,
4. ask for forgiveness and
5. with a firm resolve, turn from that sin.

Now, as always, there are some who attempt to enter into the forgiveness, blessing, and Heaven of God without obedience to His commands. This certainly cannot be done. When the Pharisees and Sadducees came to John in Luke 3 he called them a generation of vipers (serpents) and demanded that they bring forth fruit worthy of repentance. He was telling them they had to show evidence of true repentance. The word ‘fruit’ means ‘effect, result’ and ‘worthy’ means ‘acceptable.’ He was telling them that the effects or results or outcome of acts of repentance had to be acceptable and suitable to what repentance really was. It’s more than just lip service and saying ‘I’m sorry.’ In verses 10-14, the people, the publicans, and the soldiers all asked Him one question, ‘What shall we do?’ In order to prove that our repentance is genuine, we must obey and serve God in our lives, not just in our speech.
There is a logical reason for repentance. God is Holy and we are not. Man in his sin is wretched and totally unclean. This puts man completely out of harmony with God. Thus in order to find a way into God’s acceptance, man must depend upon the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse him from his sin and unrighteousness.

Study these Scriptures concerning repentance

**Matthew 3:1** In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2. and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

**Matthew 4:17** From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

**Ezekiel 18:23** “Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord God, “and not that he should turn from his ways and live? 30.” Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord God. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. 31. “Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? 32. “For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord God. “Therefore turn and live!”

**Proverbs 28:13** He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

**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.

**Psalm 32:1** Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Psalm 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your loving kindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. 2. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight — that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.
Lesson 7

CONVERSION

Having passed the ‘steps’ of enlightenment and conviction (God’s ‘part’), and response and repentance (man’s part), we will see what God does for us as a result. It is called Conversion. Webster’s dictionary says to convert is ‘to bring over from one belief, view, or party to another. b: to bring about a religious conversion (an experience associated with the definite and decisive adoption of a religion).’

While this is the basic meaning of the word, let’s examine what the Word of God says. Consider:

**John 1:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.

Here we are informed that as many people that received Him into their hearts, He gave them the privilege to become a Son of God and a part of His family! The great news is that He still gives people the privilege of becoming part of the Family of God, once they ‘receive’ Him into their hearts and lives! We are forgiven of our past sins and can now call God, ‘Father.’
Conversion is a passing from death to life, not literal life, but Spiritual life. We are told in Scripture that we were dead in trespasses and sins, but were made alive through Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

To be ‘in Christ’ is to be associated and have fellowship with Him. And when we are ‘in Christ,’ we are a new creation-a different individual with a different outlook on life with different thoughts and ways! This ought to be the case of all who profess the Christian faith, that they be a new individual; not only that they have a new name (that is, we no longer belong to the devil’s family, but to the Family of God, and so our ‘name change!’), but that they have a new heart and new nature. In short, we should be no longer as we once were when we were in sin. ‘And so great is the change the grace of God makes in the soul, that, as it follows, old things are passed away-old thoughts, old principles, and old practices, are passed away; and all these things must become new. (from Matthew Henry’s Commentary)

Conversion is regeneration or a re-making! We sometimes refer to conversion as justification. This word means ‘acquittal (for Christ’s sake): to render (i.e. show or regard as) just or innocent:’ An easy way to remember what justification means is to think of it as ‘just as if a person had not sinned.’ We know, according to Scripture, that God forgets all the sins of the past! Psalms 103:10-12. This doesn’t mean the individual was justified in committing those sins but God regards that individual as though he had never sinned! Can you imagine the Almighty God not taking into consideration your sins and not holding them against you? When we come to Him through Christ, we can be ‘cleansed from all unrighteousness.’-1 John 1:9

Conversion also brings us reconciliation or to be back into agreement with God. Because of sin, man’s fellowship and harmony with God was strained and broken, but after we repented, God looked upon us as we are ‘cleansed’ by the atoning blood of Jesus. Study these scriptures very carefully for in them is one of the greatest truths of the Bible!
2 Corinthians 5:18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19. that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing (not holding against) their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20. Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. 21. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Did you get that!? Jesus Christ, the sinless One, was made ‘sin’ for us, and we, through no merit of our own, were made the righteousness of God in Him (there’s that ‘in Him’ reference again!)

Conversion is redemption from sins according to I Peter 1:18, 19. To be redeemed from sin is to be bought again. Once by creatorship and the other by Lordship! Jesus said if men served sin they were the slaves of sin. But we KNOW that if the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed!

Study the following scriptures:

1. Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

2. Psalm 51:13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.

3. Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

4. Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.
Lesson 8

CONSECRATION

As we begin to study this very important subject, let us examine first of all what consecration is. In Exodus 30:30 (And thou shalt anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister unto Me in the priest’s office), the word consecrate means ‘to be or pronounce or observe as clean (ceremonially or morally): appoint, dedicate, keep, prepare, proclaim, purify, sanctify.’ Aaron and his sons were to be appointed to fulfill a particular office or responsibility. They were to be prepared for it; they were to be clean, both ceremonially and morally; they were to be dedicated for the purpose of being a ‘minister’ or to be a servant before God.

Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary states that consecration is ‘The act of setting apart, or dedicating, something or someone for God’s use.’

Webster: ‘dedicated to a sacred purpose; to induct (a person) into a permanent office with a religious rite; 2 a: to make or declare sacred; especially: to devote irrevocably to the worship of God by a solemn ceremony.’

Consecration is the last step upward in the experience of sanctification (which we will learn about in the next lesson.) These two subjects are so closely related that it’s hard to separate them. However, I believe it can be seen that they are two distinct topics.
We learned that the basic steps to conversion are (1) enlightenment, (2) conviction, and (3) repentance. Likewise, toward the experience of sanctification, there is (1) enlightenment, (2) conviction, and (3) consecration.

Because conversion couldn’t be attained without these initial steps, we must concede that it must be the same with respect to sanctification. For example, suppose a Christian has been enlightened and convicted about sanctification or the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. How shall he or she attain this experience? God has ‘shown’ them their need to progress in the things of Him. Now, what must a man do?

The answer is CONSECRATION!

We have some wonderful examples in the Bible of consecrated servants of God. These were men and women that thought more of God and His work than they did of their own needs and desires. In the Old Testament, we read of men like Moses and Aaron. They chose rather to share ill-treatment with God’s people than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of their time. We think of the prophets of God that endangered their own lives and in some cases died for the cause of God when they could have lived in ease and pleasure.

The eleventh chapter of Hebrews gives a list of men and women that were warriors of faith. Some are named and others we call the nameless ones of faith. In the New Testament, we read of many that gave themselves to the service of God. They dedicated themselves and surrendered themselves to whatever hardship or task was before them. As a result of this kind of surrender to God, God, in turn, gave grace beyond understanding and joy beyond imagination. These men of God were sanctified because they were dedicated.

Many times, after people are converted, they need something to hold on to keep from slipping back to where they came from. It’s not enough just to ‘flee’ the things that threaten to bring us to ruin; there must be something to run to and then be able to ‘stay there’ amidst the temptation and trials of Satan while trying to regain what was ‘lost.’ Some people may wish, ‘If only there was some way we could have a solid place to stand on instead of living on the slippery slope of non-committal. If only there was something to keep us from falling.’ But God hasn’t saved us with the intention of leaving us alone and without help!

Let us examine a verse in Romans 5:1-2
Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2. through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

This is a great verse, for in it we see that we that have been justified (or regarded as innocent; to be considered just as though we had not sinned; acquitted for Christ’s sake)!

Let’s ponder this word ‘grace’ for a moment. This is a great word! Strong’s has it to mean ‘graciousness, benefit, favor, gift.’ To ‘stand’ is to ‘abide, continue, be stanch,’ so this is saying that it is by Christ’s work on the Cross that enables us to have admission into God’s presence; that we can be firmly established in the gifts and benefits that He gives those that are His!

Jesus never asked His followers to go where He would not go. He never asks us to do things He would not do. He never asks us to refrain from practices that He would indulge in. He set the example for us in every way. We are told in Scripture that He was tried in all points as men are. We read that He was tempted but came through victorious and that He is our High Priest and is able to assist and nourish those that suffer and are tempted.

Hebrew 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

The life of consecration is not always easy. There are times when it is hard. But God has promised to give us the grace to stand each trial and will not allow us to be tempted beyond our endurance!

Consider these verses dealing with Consecration:

1. Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6. who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7. but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
2. Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, 25. choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26. esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

3. Luke 22:40 When He came to the place, He said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” 41. And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed, 42. saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.”

In our consecration, we become so resigned to God’s will that we lay everything upon the altar. We become willing to do what He would have us do; say what He would have us say; go where He would have us go, and be what He would have us be. We esteem the will and way of God so important, that we become willing to refrain from any actions or thoughts that would displease Him. We become willing to turn our backs upon all our plans and desires if they aren’t in accordance with His will. We turn away from all things that are immoral and unholy. We allow Him to cleanse all evil and appetites from our lives.

Often, Consecration is defined in two ways: (1) in sentiment, and (2) in reality. The first is promises to God that we intend to keep; a declaration that whatever the Lord wants we’ll do. This is promissory and in sentiment. Then as we live our Christian life, God gives us opportunities to carry out what we said we would do; to live out in our lives what we said with our lips that we would do. This is in reality. If our consecration is in sentiment only, as time goes on, we will lose that which the Lord has given us. When we speak with our lips, that we will obey but do not show it in how we live, we are indeed liars. What we pray at an altar, we had better be willing to perform in our service. The Bible says it’s better not to vow to God than to vow and break it.

Romans 12:1 – 2 are very important verses in relation to how we ought to live. Paul beseeches or calls for those that belong to God to present their bodies a living sacrifice. He urges them to stand by and be ready, with the totality of their being, to assist God in whatever He asks them to do. (We are urged to do the same thing!) We should be ready and willing, as Paul exorted them to be, to yield our lives freely to Him. That life, that is so offered, should be Holy, for that’s the only
way it will be acceptable unto the Lord. After all, He’s done for us, it is only reasonable (logical, rational) that we do this. The word ‘service’ means ‘minister to God, to render religious homage.’

Paul also says that we are not to be conformed or fashioned to the same pattern of the world. Of the term ‘world,’ Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary says, “World is also associated with mankind. Christ said of His disciples,” Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14 a). Often world is used to indicate "the men of this world" who are said to lie in wickedness (Ephesians 2:2; 1 John 5:19). The men are called "the world," not only because they compose the greater part of the world's population, but mainly because they pursue and cherish the things of this world.”

To be transformed (metamorphoo (met-am-or-fo'-o); means to be changed or transformed (literally or figuratively, “metamorphose”) and this comes by the renewing (renovation, to restore to a better former state, life, vigor, or activity) of our mind (understanding, thought, feeling, or will.) Paul was saying, as we would today, to get our minds out of the gutter and onto better things. Quit thinking and dwelling on the things that don’t lend themselves to Godliness, but to be completely changed by a renovating of how we think, how we feel, and how we perceive things. Are you willing to devote yourself unreservedly to God? Then consecrate yourself; yield to Him your all and He will sanctify you!

Think of your progression in the Lord like facing a stairway. Before we knew Christ as our Savior, we were standing at the very bottom of the steps where there was nothing as we were without Christ; lost and without hope. In the ‘steps’ we’ve already discussed, the Spirit of God enlightens and then convicts us of our sinful state. We then respond in repentance, moving ‘up’ to conversion. Once we begin our Christian life, God doesn’t want us to quit at being only forgiven of our sins.

When the Israelites were delivered from Egypt, only to be caught between the sea and Pharaoh and it looked as if there was no way out, ‘…the LORD said unto Moses…speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:’ (Exodus 14:15) Going forward, not backward is God’s plan for you! As we ‘grow up’ in God, He again enlightens and convicts us concerning other Biblical truths. Once we commit and consecrate ourselves, we are now ready to proceed with the truth of what God wants to further do for us (which will be covered in the next lesson.)
SANCTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION is the first, definite work of God in the Christian’s life after consecration. It is the effect or the result of consecration; it is what enables us to live holy or pure and what sets the Christian apart for a sacred purpose to be used by God. 1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality.

The Bible teaches Sanctification Christians should live a sanctified holy life.

1 Peter 1:15 But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16. because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

This may seem hard to understand how this is possible unless we understand the work of sanctification. Sanctification makes it possible for the Christian to live
the kind of life that he knows the Bible teaches. This experience can only be possible through the strength of the Lord.

Jesus prayed for our sanctification in John 17:15-21. In this prayer, we discover that He did not plan to isolate the Christian but rather that we would have the power and the grace to endure temptation and walk in victory in Jesus. He prayed not only for the ones that were there with Him but for all those that would believe. Thus we can see that the promise of sanctification is available to any Christian that is willing to consecrate himself to the service of God.

Sanctification sets us apart from others not in the sense that we are spiritually superior, but rather we have to make the resolve to ‘abstain from all appearance of evil.’ To ‘abstain’ is to ‘hold oneself off of, refrain.’ Christians are not to follow the questionable ways of those that know not God. Sanctification gives us overcoming grace—the ability to, “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage,” Galatians 5:1.

If we understand the difference in sins committed and the inherited tendency to sin (or sin nature), we can easily understand the difference between conversion and sanctification.

When an individual is converted, he is forgiven of those sins he has actually committed- God has forgiven him of his sins of the past! In sanctification, God deals with the inherited or tendency to sin and gives him the ability to gain the victory over the present and future temptations. Now, this by no means that the Christian cannot sin, but only that he NEED NOT SIN! We still have a choice to obey God and will still be tempted, but sanctification makes it possible for us to be an overcomer! We can still decide to listen to what God says and adhere to the Word of God or to forsake the guidance and the strength of the Lord.

People are born with a sinful nature which compels them to sin, because of Adam’s sin. The tendency to sin was ‘handed down’ to mankind. No one taught you how to steal, cheat, lie, etc. It just came ‘naturally.’

Paul the Apostle, wrote in Romans 7 of the will he had to do good, but there was a ‘law of sin’ present that prevented him from doing the good he desired to do. Sanctification is the ‘something’ that deals with the ‘law of sin! Sanctification subdues this inbred tendency to sin and brings the Christian life into subjection to the law of God. The Christian obtains a place in Christ in which he is able to stand.
Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2. Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

God forbids the continuance in sin. Christians may testify that the things that were once their master are no longer a deterrent to the Christian experience because the grace of sanctification has set him free!

Sanctification makes a person into a new creature. The old man of sin or the carnal nature is now in submission to the will of God. The carnal (fleshly) mind has been supplanted by the spiritual mind. Whereas the carnal mind is in enmity with God, and he is now on friendly terms with God because the carnal mind no longer has control.

Studying the plan of salvation in this manner will help us to see that the experience of sanctification is halfway between the experiences of conversion and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is of great significance. The Bible teaches that we are to be the temples of the Holy Spirit. It would be absurd to ask the Holy Spirit to inhabit a temple that is unclean.

Sanctification is the experience that readies and cleanses the Christian and makes him ready for the indwelling experience of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, sanctification is a prerequisite to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
Lesson
10

The following questions are a review of the previous lessons
Lesson 11
BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has dealt with mankind from the very beginning. We know that the Holy Spirit moved on people of old times to write the Holy Scripture. The Prophet Joel spoke of this.

**Joel 2:28** And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; 29. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Joel like the other Prophets knew the blessedness of the moving of the Holy Spirit. In these verses, he says that the Holy Spirit will be poured out, not only upon a Prophet but upon all flesh. This means that all people could receive the Holy Spirit.

The Prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and of the speaking in other tongues.

**Isaiah 28:9-12** “Whom will he teach knowledge? and whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? (shall understand). 10. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.” 11. For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, 12. to whom He said, “This is the rest with which you may cause the weary to rest,” and, “This is the refreshing”, yet they would not hear.

The people in the days of the apostles were the first to enjoy this wonderful promise. The Disciples did not know in detail what would happen to them when they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This experience gave the early Church the momentum that it must have to forge forward against the tide of the unbelief of that day. This also is what the Church needs today. It is available to all through the promise of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Toward the close of the ministry of Jesus on earth, He began to tell his Disciples that he was going away, but he would send a comforter.
Acts 2:1-11 Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and was confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8. ”And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9. “Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10. “Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11. “Cretans and Arabs; we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”

When this promise was given, it was not confined to the disciples of that day, but Peter explained in his sermon that the experience is to all.

Acts 2:37-39 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” 38. Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39.” For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

As a result of this message, 3000 people were saved. This was the fulfillment of the promise that Jesus had made concerning the Comforter. The Holy Spirit was also poured out on the Gentiles, as it had been on the day of Pentecost at Jerusalem.

Acts 10:44-48 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46. For they heard them speak with
tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 47. “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48. And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

The message of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit gradually died away as the Church became cold and formal. During the early 1900's, The Holy Spirit was poured out on different church groups that sought the Lord for this experience. Today, many believers throughout the world accept this teaching and pray in tongues as a result.

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would be a Comforter.

John 14:16; 26 “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever 26.” But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

The Holy Spirit is the seal unto the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

How then do we receive the Holy Spirit?

When we are saved or sanctified, it is a work of the Holy Spirit. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an evidence of having received. The evidence of having received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. We must pray and ask God to fill us, and yield ourselves, and our tongues to the Holy Spirit, and accept this provision.
Lesson 12

Understanding the Spiritual Gifts

Every believer is and should function as, a vital part of the body of Christ. God has bestowed many gifts upon His church. He has endowed the members with special abilities and ministries for the benefit of the body as a whole, both locally and worldwide.

Three passages in the New Testament—Romans 12, Ephesians 4, and I Corinthians 12—list some gifts that God has granted the Church. Romans 12 discusses the abilities, talents, or functions that God gives to all believers. Ephesians 4 identifies special offices of leadership and ministry that God has given to the Church.

In 1 Corinthians 12, we find supernatural signs, wonders, and miracles that occur by the direct operation and power of the Holy Spirit. For the sake of clarity, we will label these three lists respectively as the Service Gifts, the Ministerial Office Gifts, and the Supernatural Gifts. In this chapter we will discuss the Service Gifts and Ministerial Office Gifts; the remainder of the book will be devoted to the Supernatural Spiritual Gifts of I Corinthians 12-14.

The lists of Gifts can be identified in the following way:

The Service Gifts (Romans 12:6-8)
1. Prophecy
2. Ministry  
3. Teaching  
4. Exhortation  
5. Giving  
6. Leading (ruling in KJV)  
7. Showing mercy  

**Romans 12:3** For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5. so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7. or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8. he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with simplicity; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

The Ministerial Office Gifts (Ephesians 4:11)  
1. Apostles  
2. Prophets  
3. Evangelists  
4. Pastors  
5. Teachers  

**Ephesians 4:11** And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

The Supernatural Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)  
1. Word of wisdom  
2. Word of knowledge  
3. Faith  
4. Gift of healings
5. Working of miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of spirits
8. Different kinds of tongues
9. Interpretation of tongues

1 Corinthians 12:7-10 KJV But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. (8) For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; (9) To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; (10) To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

In 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 a list that combines elements from each of the preceding categories:

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Teachers
4. Miracles (also “workers of miracles,” verse 29)
5. Gift of healings
6. Helps (similar to “ministry”)
7. Administrations (“governments” in KJV, similar to leading or ruling)
8. Varieties of tongues
9. Interpretation of tongues (verse 30).

Ministry means service to others, particularly service in the Church. Some people are especially gifted with an attitude and ability of service in certain capacities. The Greek word is diakonia, which is a broad word that covers a variety of service, work, or assistance. It can also refer specifically to the work of a deacon, who helps with the business and organizational matters in a local church. (Acts 6:1-6; I Timothy 3:8-13.)
Lesson 13

Water Baptism

In this lesson, we propose to present the means, nature, and importance of Water Baptism. Since Christ began His ministry by submitting to Water Baptism and closed it by commanding His Disciples to “Teach and Baptize all nations”, one cannot but see the priority the Bible places on this ordinance.

Why Baptism?

Jesus said, Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came 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 of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20. teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

What is the significance of Water Baptism?
Paul explains, Romans 6:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4. Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so, we also should walk in newness of life. 5. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Baptism, the act of immersing in water, is a symbolic burial and resurrection by which a believer publicly identifies with the crucified, resurrected Lord Jesus, in whom he has placed personal faith for salvation. In other words, Baptism is the outward testimony to the inward reality of faith in Christ’s saving grace.

Who May Be Baptized?

(1) Those who have placed personal faith in Jesus Christ for salvation may and should be baptized in His name. Baptism is not the means of salvation. It rightly follows saving faith.
(2) Peter asked the Jewish Christians who witnessed the salvation of Cornelius and his kinsmen and friends, “Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have” (Acts 10:47). Clearly, they were already saved.

WHEN SHOULD A CHRISTIAN BE BAPTIZED?

Baptism should follow closely one’s conversion. Note the following Biblical evidence: Acts 2:41 “They were baptized the same day.”
(3) The Ethiopian was baptized immediately.
Acts 8:37 Then 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.”
(4) Cornelius and friends were baptized the same day.
Acts 10:47 “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”
(5) Acts 16:33 The Philippian jailer was immediately baptized.
Acts 16:33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

**WHY SHOULD A CHRISTIAN BE BAPTIZED?**

1. For OBEDIENCE (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38). Christ commanded us to baptize our converts, and Peter is seen urging this very thing. Submitting to baptism gives us an early opportunity to demonstrate obedience to the Savior and Lord to Whom we have given our hearts and lives by faith.

2. For SUBMISSION (Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47). By humbly submitting to water baptism, a Christian is submitting to the authority of Christ. In addition to this, he is submitting to the authority of Christ’s body, the Church (1 Peter 5:1-4; Philippians 2:1-4; Hebrews 13:17).

3. For LEARNING (Romans 6:1-23). Paul uses the object lesson of water baptism to teach a deep spiritual truth which is applicable to our daily walk with Christ. Compare Colossians 3:1-4; Galatians 2:20.

4. For TESTIMONY (Romans 10:9-10). You as a Christian need to take a stand publicly, declaring your faith in Christ. Just as the Jews were “baptized unto Moses,” and therefore were identified with him (1 Corinthians 10:2), so also Christians are baptized into Jesus Christ, and therefore are identified with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. There should be no secret Christians.

**WATER BAPTISM** is a key element in a successful walk with God and victory over sin. It is a legal separation from Satan and Adam’s kingdom, setting you legally free from the voice and dominion of Satan.

In WATER BAPTISM you are breaking all covenants with Satan and his kingdom. With this in mind, it is important to see that you are not just getting free from Sin and the Law of Sin and death. You are also getting free from the limitations on the natural man. In the beginning, the life of Adam would have been a likeness to Christ and in fact, Christ is called the last Adam. Adam became a limited person through sin and the law of sin and death.

Adam became a person with only natural power and a person who would learn to rely only on natural power. The life of the believer is destined to look like the life of Christ.
Supernatural power and reliance are meant to be normal. This is why Christ said, “the works that I do you will do and even greater works will you do.”

We believe that baptism is for all who have repented and have believed in Christ as Savior and Lord and that it is symbolic of our identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Please study the following scriptures on baptism to increase your understanding:

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20. teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Acts 10:47 “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”

Romans 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so, we also should walk in newness of life. 5. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.

Colossians 2:12 Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Mark 16:16 “He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned.
Lesson 14

The Lord’s Supper or Communion

THE LORD’S SUPPER

1 Corinthians 11:20 Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord’s Supper.

On the night before He was crucified, Jesus shared in a supper meal with His Disciples. After this supper, Jesus instituted the bread and the cup (Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25).

DIFFERENT NAMES FOR THE Lord’s SUPPER:

The Communion Service is called by different names. Here are the different names and what they mean:

1. COMMUNION (see 1 Corinthians 10:16)

This word means "fellowship, participation, the sharing of a common life." Communion is not something that just the Pastor and Elders and Deacons share in, but it is something that all the believers share in and participate in. The Bible says, "for we are all partakers of that one bread
THE LORD’S TABLE

This name is found in 1 Corinthians 10:21 “you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and of the table of demons.”

It was at a table that the Lord Jesus first instituted Communion. It was at a table that the Lord first broke the bread and passed the cup. A “table” reminds us of FELLOWSHIP (compare Revelation 3:20--"I will sup with him and He with me...") Those who sit at the same table partake together of the same food. All believers partake of the same Savior. All believers are trusting His shed blood. All believers are sharing His life.

GIVE THANKS

This is a Greek word which means “giving of thanks.” Before breaking the bread and passing the cup Jesus gave thanks to God (Matthew 26:27; Luke 22:19 and 1 Corinthians 11:24). The Communion service ought to be a special time when believers thank God for what Christ has done for them.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

This is what Jesus did (Matthew 26:26) and this is what the followers of Jesus continued to do (Acts 2:42).

INSTITUTED BY JESUS CHRIST

The Communion service was instituted on the same night the Lord Jesus was betrayed. On the very next day, Jesus would go to the cross, suffer and shed His blood for us. We read about what Jesus did on this night in the Gospels (Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:19-20)

1 Corinthians 11:24 And when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

25. In the same manner, He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

The reason we observe Communion is because Jesus Christ has told us to! Jesus said it and the Church must obey it!

WHAT DOES COMMUNION PICTURE?
Matthew 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” 27. Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you." 28. "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." 29. "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." 30. And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Communion is A TIME TO REMEMBER

His
1 Peter 2:24 Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed.
2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

His Blood Was Shed So That Our Sins Could Be Forgiven:

Matthew 26:28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.
Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.
The communion service is a time when we think back to the cross and remember what Jesus did for us when He died in our place.

WHO SHOULD PARTAKE OF COMMUNION?

Make sure you know that you are Saved. Many people do not have the assurance of Salvation.
1 John 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

Make sure you examine yourself and are ready to eat and drink in a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27-31). Parents sometimes have a rule for their children that goes something like this: “You can’t eat supper without washing your hands!” So also the believer must not eat at the Lord’s Table without clean hands. Sin and the Savior cannot come together. A Holy God cannot have fellowship with an unclean believer (compare John 13:8; 1 John 1:5-9). Before partaking of Communion the Believer needs to realize this: "Apart from Christ I am dirty and I have no access to God. I cannot come to God as I am. Sin and the Savior cannot come together. I thank God that I have a Savior who makes me clean.

I thank God that the blood of Jesus Christ keeps on cleansing me from all sin (1 John 1:7). The only way that I can approach God is through Christ and through His cross. I need to come to God this way (through the cross) and this is the only way that I can come. Thank you, Lord, for making me clean. Thank you that I am able to have fellowship with a Holy God. “Thank you, Jesus, for what You did for me on the Cross to make this possible.”

Make sure that you are ready to take Communion in the right way. Communion is a serious time. It is a time to think about our Savior and what He has done for us. It is a thoughtful and a thankful time. It is not a play time. It is not a time to “have a snack.” It is not a time to play with the bread with your fingers. It is not a time to lick the bottom of the cup with your tongue to get every last drop. Those who do such things are showing that they are definitely not ready to take Communion.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD COMMUNION BE OBSERVED?

The Lord Jesus did not say how often believers should observe Communion. He said it should be done “OFTEN” (1 Corinthians 11:25-26) but He did not say how often. Some Churches have Communion every week. Some have it every month. Some have it every other month. There are two dangers that Churches need to avoid: the neglect of understanding the purpose of communion and practicing regularly the action of communion in remembrance of Jesus Christ.
THE FOUR “LOOKS” OF COMMUNION

A BACKWARD LOOK—looking back to the Cross to see and to remember what the Lord Jesus has done for me by the offering up of His body and the shedding of His precious blood (1 Peter 1:18-19; 2:24; 3:18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7; Matthew 26:28).

AN UPWARD LOOK—looking unto Jesus who is presently doing a work for me as my Intercessor (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34) and Advocate (1 John 2:1-2), having sat down at the right hand of the Father (Hebrews 1:3; 8:1).

A FORWARD LOOK—looking for Jesus (Titus 2:13) and expecting and waiting (1 Corinthians 1:7-8) for what He will do as He comes again to complete the great work of Salvation which He began in me (Philippians 1:6; 3:20-21). Paul said that when believers partake of Communion they are showing (proclaiming) the Lord’s death till He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26). Thus Communion looks back to the Cross and looks ahead to His coming again.

AN INWARD LOOK—looking at what Jesus is doing in me (1 Corinthians. 11:27-32; Philippians 2:13).

The believer must “examine himself” (1 Corinthians 11:28). This means that I must put myself to the test. I must put myself on trial. I must examine myself to make sure my heart is right with the Lord. I must recognize that “in me dwells no good thing” (Romans 7:18) but I also must recognize that I have a great Savior who makes me clean (1 John 1:7,9)! The believer must also judge himself” (1 Corinthians 11:31).

This means that I must judge myself thoroughly. I must confess any known sins and also acknowledge that I am GUILTY before a holy God. I must also confess that my Savior died for me and paid the penalty for ALL my sin. I cannot shake hands with God (as it were) apart from Christ, but through Christ (and because of His Cross) I can have access to God and I can enjoy fellowship with God.

If a person fails to “examine himself” and if a person fails to “judge himself” and if a person fails to come to God through the cross, then this person is partaking of the Lord’s table in an unworthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27). He is missing out
on the blessing and the meaning and the fellowship of the Communion service and God may need to chasten him ("spank him", a reference to the Father's loving discipline)—see 1 Corinthians 11:30-32. The next time you take Communion you can think about these four "looks":

**A BACKWARD LOOK**

**AN UPWARD LOOK**

**A FORWARD LOOK**

**AN INWARD LOOK**
We should not expect the world to finance the Lord’s work, whether through chili suppers, snack bars at the fair, car washes, cake walks, raffles, paper drives, funds drives, cookie sales, or any other means.

I. THE ONE WHO GAVE—ABRAM THE BELIEVER.

A. Abram was the typical Old Testament believer.

1. He was the father of all believers, the pattern. Romans 4:1-12

2. We are to walk in the steps of Abraham. Romans 4:12

3. Abraham believed God and so should we. Genesis. 15:6;
Romans 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

4. This was before circumcision.
Romans 4:12 And the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.

5. We are saved as he was saved, we are to walk as he walked.

B. We Should Remember the Law of First Mention.

1. When a doctrine is first mentioned in the Bible, particularly in Genesis, a pattern is set that will carry all the way through the Bible.
2. For instance, SIN is first mentioned in Genesis 3. That sin required a sacrifice, to satisfy the holiness of God. That sacrifice had to be a blood sacrifice. That truth prevails throughout the Bible.
3. Tithing is first mentioned in Genesis 14, and the pattern set there prevails through all the Bible.

II. ABRAHAM GAVE TITHES—HE DID NOT PAY TITHES!

A. There Is a Difference in Paying and Giving.

1. Abraham GAVE tithes. Hebrews 7:2, To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace.
2. Levi PAID tithes.
Hebrews 7:9 Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak,
10. for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.
3. This was 430 years before the law.
Galatians 3:17 And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.
B. The Law Does Not Change the Pattern for Us.

1. The Law—Our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ.
   Galatians 3:24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
2. We are the children of Abraham and heirs of God.
   Galatians 3:7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 29. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.
3. We do not pay the tithe but we give it.

III. TO WHOM DID HE GIVE THE TITHE? To Melchizedek a type of Christ. Read Hebrews 7:1-21 carefully.

IV. THE REWARD FOR GIVING THE TITHE. Genesis 15:1

A. God Made Certain Promises to Abraham.

1. God promised to be his shield of protection. v. l(a). This was much better than the protection of the King of Sodom.
2. God was Himself Abraham’s reward. v. l(b). This was much better than the reward offered by the King of Sodom. See Genesis. 14:21-24

B. God Has Made Certain Promises to Us.

1. According to Philippians. 4:14-18, the Church that has given rightly, may claim the promise of Philippians. 4:19.

Philippians 4:14 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. 15. Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. 16. For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. 17. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your
account. 18. Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. 19. And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

2. Notice these other Bible promises:

2 Corinthians 9:6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Malachi 3:10 “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

Proverbs 3:9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; 10. so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

According to a Gallup Poll, almost half of the charitable contributions given in the United States, come from households with an income of less than $30,000 per year.

TITHES & OFFERINGS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT—Lesson: Leviticus 27:26-34; Deuteronomy 12:1-18; Malachi 3:7-12

I. THE TITHE WAS MADE A PART OF THE LAW.

1. Tithing was practiced BEFORE the Law, then UNDER the Law, and then AFTER the Law.

2. All the tithe of the land to be given. Leviticus 27:30 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s. It is holy to the Lord. 31. If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it. 32. And concerning the tithe of the herd or
the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the Lord.
3. If a man wanted to keep a part of the tithe for himself, he had to give equal value, plus 20% to the Lord.
4. The Lord was not to be cheated. Leviticus 27:33 He shall not inquire whether it is good or bad, nor shall he exchange it; and if he exchanges it at all, then both it and the one exchanged for it shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.

II. THE APPOINTED PLACE FOR THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS.
   1. God chose the "place.
   2. New Testament believers surely have a “place.” That “place” is the Church. Just as God said that Israel was to bring their offerings to the appointed place, even so, we are to obey the Lord in bringing our tithes and offerings to the "place."

III. THERE WAS A PENALTY FOR DISOBEDIENCE. Malachi 3:7-12
   1. They had robbed God of “tithes and offerings.”
   2. They were cursed with a curse.
   3. They found out the windows of heaven closed.
   Malachi 3:10 “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.
   4. Their crops became unfruitful. Malachi 3:11 “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” says the Lord of hosts.

IV. THE SEVEN-FOLD BLESSING OF THE TITHE
   1. It blesses the heart by making it receptive to God’s will.
   2. It blesses the life by lifting it to a higher plane of grace.
   3. It blesses the hands by making them willing to do God’s work.
   4. It blesses the mind by giving it the satisfaction of doing the right thing.
   5. It blesses the nine-tenths that remains because God has been honored.
6. It blesses the individual by giving him a part in God’s worldwide program of work.
7. It blesses the Church by enabling it to carry out a greater ministry.

TITHES & OFFERINGS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT  Memory Verse: I Corinthians 16:2 (II Corinthians 9:6)

I. THE DOCTRINE OF GIVING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

A. Jesus Commended the Tithe.
   Matthew 23:23 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

II. THE EXAMPLES OF GIVING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

A. The Lord Observes Our Giving. Mark 12:41-44
   Mark 12:41 Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. 42. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. 43. So He called His disciples to Him and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; 44. "for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

   1. The Lord knows how much we give.
   2. In the eyes of the Lord, the size of our gift is not determined by the amount we give, but how much we have left when we have given. The widow gave all.
   3. The “mite” was about 1/5 of a cent.
   4. This shows us that the poor should give also.
B. Some New Testament Saints Gave Sacrifically. -- The Macedonian saints lived in deep poverty, yet they gave liberally. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: 2. that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. 3. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5. And this they did, not as we had hoped, but first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.


1. This couple joined with others in a freewill offering.
2. This couple vowed one thing, and then lied and cheated.
3. They had lied to the Holy Ghost and not to men.
4. They judged them for their sin.


Also study: Luke 16:1-17; 19:11-27. The true test of giving will be made at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Then all of our works shall be tried by fire, as is described in 1 Corinthians 3:8-15. Certainly, no one can deny that giving is not a part of the works of the believer.

Many people and some of these are Church members, believe that money should seldom be mentioned at Church. They feel that the Bible does not say much about giving. From the above references, and many others could have been given, we find that our Savior taught a great deal on money and our stewardship of it. He makes it clear that we shall give an account of what we did with the money that was placed in our hands.

In the lesson today, the “man traveling into a far country,” is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the servants are professing Christians.