



*Lifed*

WORSHIP

HONORING GOD DAILY

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## **Guide**

Dear Worshipers,

This book is full of lesson for believers who wish to live a life of worship. It will help you understand the importance of

### **The Purpose and Benefit Book**

The purpose of this book is to teach fundamentals of worship are more than singing or play instruments. But it's a life style which we are to live out as a follower of Christ.

This book is only a guide to cover some major principles that a believer should be grounded in.

You get as much as you put into it. The more you are open to God and questions being asked the more you will get out. Be sure to use this work book for yourself or to teach other who are in Christ.

### **Timeframe**

The sixteen lessons in this booklet can be completed within 6 months. Given that you or the believer is committed to a local church, attend and understand the meaning of importance of spiritual growth.

# LESSON 1: WORSHIP IN THE END TIME PART 1

## GOAL

God's people will understand how they should worship the Almighty God.

## INTRODUCTION

**Revelation 4:1-11** *"After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. <sup>5</sup>And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."*

Revelation 4:1-6, 8-11, describes an awesome picture of true worship. What an awesome description of bowing and falling down before the throne of God, rendering pure and holy worship. If we could imitate this kind of worship in our churches and personal lives, we would see a fresh movement of God's Spirit among us.

Our worship experience has been lacking in this kind of reverence, prostration and focus depicted in this Revelation account. But we are being summoned by God to a higher degree of worship, intimacy and witness of Him. God is looking for those who will seek His face, those whose hearts will pant after Him, please Him and obey His command. God is seeking true worshipers.

If we as music directors, choir members and leaders of God's people are to impact the world for Christ in this millennium through our music, preaching, witness and lifestyle, our walk with God must deepen and our worship of God must be raised to a new level. The following are suggestions to raising our worship in this new millennium:

## QUESTION

What attitudes should we have in our lifestyle of worship?

## CONTENT

- 1. Worship in the end time calls for restoration of reverence and awe when we come before God.** We need a fresh revelation of God. Too often we forget Whom we are

worshipping. We forget that we are before the Creator of the universe. We seem to find it so difficult to kneel, bow or prostrate ourselves before Him in rendering worship to Him. We need to let God take His rightful place as King in our worship as we take ours as humble servants.

**Revelation 4:10** *the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever*

- 2. Worship in the new millennium calls for pure hearts and clean hands.** Not only are we to recognize the sovereignty of the object of our worship, but we must, like the Levitical priests of old, make thorough preparation for cleansing ourselves by acknowledging and repenting of our sins. In Psalm 24, David asked, "*Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place?*" (Psalm 24:3)" The response: "*He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.*" (verse 4)" If we are to truly experience a fresh movement of God's presence in our midst, we must come into his presence with clean hands, with a pure heart, not lifted up in vanity and not having sworn deceitfully.
- 3. Worship in the end time must proceed from the heart and not just the lips.** God does not want lip service or a heart that is far from Him. Let us take heed to the Lord and come into His presence with a heart that is totally focused on Him and not our problems or something else. Too many times I am guilty of having wandering thoughts during worship. My mind will sometimes escape the words of the songs I'm singing or the Scripture passage being read, and I find myself thinking about what I'll eat for dinner. There are many things to distract us if we let them. When we come to worship, we must have our minds focused on Jesus and Him alone.

**Matthew 15:8** *These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.*

- 4. Worship in the new millennium calls for a celebration of Jesus Christ and Him only.** The death, burial, resurrection and return of Christ must be central in our personal and corporate worship. Anything short of recounting these events and His promises would be apostasy before God.

**Romans 5:8-14** *Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down **before the Lamb**, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup>And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, <sup>10</sup>And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." <sup>11</sup>Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" <sup>13</sup>And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "**Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!**" <sup>14</sup>Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. How do you worship the Lord with your heart and your actions?
2. What does it mean when God calls you to have a pure heart and clean hands?

## **MEMORIZED SCRIPTURES**

**Psalm 24:3-4** *“Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.”*

## LESSON 2: WORSHIP IN THE END TIME PART 2

### GOAL

God's people will understand how they should worship the Almighty God.

### INTRODUCTION

**John 4:23-24** *"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

God does not want lip service or a heart that is far from Him. Let us take heed to the Lord and come into His presence with a heart that is totally focused on Him and not our problems or something else. He is seeking true worshippers who worship Him in spirit and truth as a lifestyle. We have learned that Christ must be central in our personal and corporate worship. We don't worship our vision or organization. God is calling His people into intimate relationship with Him. Let us learn more about worship in the end time church.

### QUESTIONS

Have you practiced what you learned in the previous lesson? If yes, what blessings have you received from being a true worshiper?

### CONTENT

- 1. Worship in the end time calls for a greater degree of relational intimacy with Christ.** Our lives must take on a new level of spiritual intimacy with God. We cannot afford to remain at the same level in our relationship with God, in our study of the Word of God and even in our worship of God. God wants **our hearts to pant after Him (Psalm 42:1)**, to **thirst for Him** (verse 2), to love Him wholeheartedly and to obey Him. There is sweetness in close intimacy with Christ. He becomes our Savior, our Lover, our Lord and King. He is no longer an abstract personality about Whom we sing. He is an absolute reality to Whom we should draw near to experience His intimacy, love and life-changing power.

**Psalm 42:1-2** *"As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?"*

- 2. Worship in the new millennium calls for an expression of our love for Christ both privately and publicly.** When our love for God is no secret, it becomes an outward demonstration of our inward affection. Think about when you first fell in love--you expressed your love for each other privately and publicly. You didn't care who saw you enjoying each other's company. What if our worship experiences, both personal and corporate, were like this, where it is only Jesus and me in sweet communion? What a difference it would make in our lives, in our witness and in our evangelistic efforts.

**Matthew 10:32-33** *"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. <sup>33</sup>But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."*

**Psalm 40:3** *"He has put a new song in my mouth--Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the LORD."*

3. **Worship in the end time church calls for an increase in our prayer life.** Lovers talk, share, commune together, listen to each other and carry out each other's requests. It is no different when we pray. We communicate with a loving Father who cares about our hopes and dreams, our trials and tribulations. He wants us to verbalize what's on our hearts so He can give us directions as to what to do, where to go and how to accomplish certain goals or tasks. He brings us into a right relationship with Himself. The psalmist said in

**Psalm 5:3**, *“My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up.”*

4. **Worship in the new millennium calls for a fresh in-depth study of the Word of God.** The Bible is God's love letter to us. He wants us to know Him, His personhood, His promises, His purpose and His plans for our lives. He desires for us to truly seek to know Him intimately. It is not enough to just know God in our head. We must have a knowledge of Him in our heart.

**Psalm 119:7-8** *“I will praise You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments. I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly!”*

Accepting the challenge to change by implementing these spiritual truths for the new millennium will not only change our lives, but will also impact those who come into contact with our ministries. I encourage you to press on to love and good works. Let us heed the Psalmist's call:

*“O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. Today if [you] will hear His voice, harden not your heart (Psalm 95:6-8a).”*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What do you think causes you not to express your love and appreciation to the Lord during corporate worship? What will you do in order to be bold in expressing your worship?
2. Why is it important to know and practice the Word if you want to have a lifestyle of worship?

### **MEMORIZED SCRIPTURE**

**Psalm 40:3** *“He has put a new song in my mouth--Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the LORD.”*

# LESSON 3: CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS MUSIC

## GOAL

Members will have a clear understanding of Christian attitudes relating to worldly music.

## CONTENT

## INTRODUCTION

Music greatly influences people today. Some say that music is a universal language for every nation. Some say, "If a person does not like music, he is not normal." However, everyone accepts that man is affected by music to a greater or lesser degree. Christians have used music as a means of worship. We should know the differences between worldly and Christian music. What attitudes should Christians have towards music? Should we listen to worldly music? These are two questions to which we should know the answers, and those answers come from God's Word.

## QUESTION

How many types of music can you identify?

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

## What does the Bible say about music?

1. **James 5:13** *"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.*

When we are happy, we should sing songs of praise, not worldly songs.

2. **Mark 14:26** *"When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."*

As Christians we can show boldness in the Lord by singing hymns when we face difficulties and problems.

3. **Exodus 15:20-21** *"Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing. Miriam sang to them: 'Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea.'"*

We can give thanks to the Lord by singing songs of praise.

4. **Acts 16:25** *"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them."*

We should sing hymns even in times of hardship.

5. **Psalms 150**

The Bible teaches us to worship God by singing praises, playing musical instruments, and dancing.

### **Christians should not play or listen to worldly songs and music**

1. **1 Corinthians 6:19** *"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;"*

Because your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, you should use His temple to sing, and listen to songs of praise.

2. **James 3:6** *"The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell."*

We must be careful not to use our tongues for evil.

3. **James 3:10-12** *"Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water."*

As children of the holy God, we should not relate to both godly and worldly music at the same time.

4. **1 Corinthians 8:9** *"Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak "*

New converts may stumble and fall away from God when they hear Christians listening to worldly music.

5. **Romans 12:2** *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is --his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

God does not desire for Christians to conform any longer to the pattern of this world.

6. **1 Corinthians 10:23** *"Everything is permissible'--but not everything is beneficial. 'Everything is permissible'--but not everything is constructive."*

Worldly songs can be detrimental to our lives. Lucifer was once a worship leader in heaven before he sinned. After he was chased out of heaven, he inspired songs and music that would influence people to reject God, either directly or indirectly.

## **DISCUSSIONS QUESTIONS**

1. How would you help a spiritually young believer to be free from the bondage of worldly music?
2. What do you think when a Christian says that he/she listens only to the melody of worldly songs, not to the lyrics?
3. If a professional singer accepts the Lord Jesus Christ and repents, what will you advise him/her to do?

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

**1 Corinthians 10:23** *"Everything is permissible"-but not everything is beneficial.*

## LESSON 4: A RIGHTEOUS LIFE PART 1

### GOAL

God's people will understand foundations of righteousness. They will desire to live a righteous life.

### INTRODUCTION

Every born again Christian is righteous at the moment he repents and puts his trust in the Lord Jesus. However, many Christians may not understand the importance of living a righteous life. They do not change their lifestyle, attitudes, and behaviors. They are preoccupied with their daily needs and different problems in life. They may try to live righteously by depending on their own strength and following the law. This causes them to lack peace and joy in their hearts.

### QUESTION

Christians view "righteousness" in a different way than the world does. Please describe the difference.

### CONTENT

The Bible tells us foundations of righteousness.

**Romans 4:3, 5** *"For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." <sup>5</sup>But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,"*

**Philippians 3:9** *"and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;"*

We become righteous by putting our faith in Christ. This is the righteousness that comes from God by faith.

**Romans 6:13** *"And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."*

**Romans 6:19** *"I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness."*

We should rid of wickedness and sin from our hearts and our lives. In a practical sense, we make a decision to live righteously and allow God to change us.

**Galatians 5:4** *You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.*

**Romans 5:21** *so that as sin reigned in death, even so **grace** might reign through **righteousness** to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Galatians 2:21** *"I do not set aside the **grace** of God; for if **righteousness** comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."*

Righteousness does not come through observing the law, but by the grace of God and through Christ who died for us.

**Romans 4:18** *“who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.”*

**Romans 4:20-22** *“He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,<sup>21</sup> and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.<sup>22</sup> And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.”*

Abraham believed God and His promise, and it was credited to him as righteousness. We put our trust in God’s promise, not in our feelings. He promises that we are saved and justified by faith.

**Romans 4:5** *“However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.”*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. How does the Biblical truth regarding foundations of righteousness change your attitude and your life?
2. Please share with one another how God helps you with His power to walk righteously.
3. Please share the blessings of last Sunday’s sermon?

### **MEMORY TEXT**

**Philippians 3:9** *“and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;”*

## LESSON 5: A RIGHTEOUS LIFE PART 2

### GOAL

God's people will always live a righteous life before God and before man.

### INTRODUCTION

**Romans 5:1** *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"*

Every Christian is righteous in the eyes of God by faith. This is our legal position in Christ. Even though we realize this truth, we may not live a righteous life all the time. We want to live righteously all the days of our lives.

**Luke 16:15** *"And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God."*

Jesus warned the Pharisees not to be hypocrites. We should pay attention to how we live our lives both before God and before men.

### QUESTION

How do you keep your life pure and righteous before God and before men all the days of your life?

### CONTENT

1. The Word teaches us how we can live a righteous life.

**Romans 12:1** *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."*

2. We make the choice to offer our lives to God as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God.

**Romans 12:2** *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

3. We have the responsibility to hear and read the Word and to allow it to transform our heart. The Word can renew our mind.

**Colossians 3:5** *"Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."*

4. We make a decision to put to death our sinful nature and surrender to the Spirit of God.

**Colossians 3:16** *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."*

5. We should diligently receive the Word and allow it to dwell in our hearts.

**Romans 1:17** *"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

We make a decision to live by faith, not by sight. When we have to choose between God's way and the way of the world, we choose God's way even though it is not reasonable in our natural eyes. We will always be blessed and victorious when we put our faith and trust in the Word of God.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Share how the Word of the living God transforms your mind and your heart.
2. After you studied the Scriptures mentioned, what areas do you think you need to improve in order to live a righteous life?
3. Please share the blessings of last Sunday's sermon?

### **MEMORY TEXT**

**Luke 16:15** *And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.*

## LESSON 6: DEVELOP A CLOSE COMMUNION WITH GOD

### GOAL

The saints in the church will develop their close fellowship with the Lord.

### INTRODUCTION

Many people think that they can know God by head knowledge. God wants His people to know Him in their hearts and in their experiences. It takes time to develop our relationship with God. We walk with Him day by day and learn more about Him. He will reveal His ways and His truths to us more and more each day.

The Word of God teaches us principles of how to be close to the Lord. The fifteenth chapter of Psalm talks about characteristics of those who may dwell in your sanctuary.

**Hebrews 11:6** *“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”*

**Hebrews 4:15-16** *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are --yet was without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

We should approach God with faith and confidence. We should fellowship with Him in prayer and reading His Word. We should memorize the Word and commit ourselves to Him in His ways. He should be the center of every aspect of our lives.

### QUESTION

How do you develop a close friendship with a person?

### CONTENT

The Word of God teaches us how to develop a close fellowship with Him.

A. **Psalm 1:1-2** *“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.”*

Our delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law we meditate day and night. The more we read and meditate on the Word, the more we know Him. The more we practice the Word, the more experiences we have with Him.

B. **Psalm 4:4-5** *“In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. Selah Offer right sacrifices and trust in the LORD.”*

**Proverbs 3:5-6** *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”*

We should trust the Lord in all circumstances. We realize that everything is under His control.

C. **Psalm 5:1-3** “Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my sighing. Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.”

**Philippians 4:6-7** “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

We fellowship with God in prayer, petition, with thanksgiving, and in worship.

D. **Philippians 4:8** “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable --if anything is excellent or praiseworthy --think about such things.”

Our mind or our thoughts should focus on whatever is true, whatever is noble, pure, lovely, admirable and excellent, so that the Holy Spirit can easily minister to us. The Holy Spirit is a gentle Person. We will grieve Him and quench Him if we sin against Him.

E. **1 Peter 4:1-2** “Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.”

**Romans 6:12-13** “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness”

We submit ourselves to God and offer our lives to Him. We are willing to die to our evil human desires.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How will your relationship with God affect your life?
2. Have you ever been touched by the Lord? How has the touch of God upon your life affected your attitude, goal of life, decision, and your lifestyle?
3. Share how the Scriptures help you to be close to God and to overcome temptations.
4. Please share the blessings of last Sunday’s sermon.

## MEMORY VERSE

**Psalm 34:10** *The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.*

# LESSON 7: MAINTAIN OUR CLOSE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

## GOAL

The saints in the church will continue to be close to God daily. Their love for God will not become cold.

## INTRODUCTION

Christians may fall away from the way of the Lord because they open a door for their flesh or for the devil to work in their lives. The Bible teaches us to pray and meditate on the Word of God day and night.

The Word of God teaches us principles of how to be close to the Lord. The fifteenth chapter of Psalms talks about characteristics of those who may dwell in your sanctuary. Whatever is true, we should think about it (Philippians 4:8). God graciously helps us to commune with Him. He works in us to will and to act according to his good purpose (**Philippians 2:13**). However, we have the responsibility not to ignore His grace.

**Hebrews 3:12-13** *“See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. <sup>13</sup>But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.”*

## QUESTION

How do you spend time each day? Do you see the importance of spending time with God in prayer and reading His Word?

## CONTENT

How can we maintain and grow our close relationship with God?

1. We must hold firmly to the faith we profess to the end.

**Hebrews 4:14** *“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.”*

**Hebrews 10:39** *“But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.”*

2. We must set our minds on spiritual things of the Spirit, not on earthly perishable things.

**Romans 8:5-6** *“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;”*

**Colossians 3:2** *“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”*

3. We should live by the Spirit. We sow to please the Holy Spirit, not to please our sinful nature.

**Galatians 5:25** *“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

**Galatians 6:7-8** *“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”*

4. We should regularly pray in the Holy Spirit.

**Jude 20** *“But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.”*

**1 Corinthians 14:4** *“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.”*

5. We should keep offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices.

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

6. We must keep ourselves in God's love. We remind ourselves of His love and respond to His mercy.

**Jude 21** *“Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.”*

7. We should encourage one another daily so that none of us may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

**Hebrews 3:12-13** *“See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.”*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Share with one another about ways or things that help you to focus and stand firm on spiritual things.
2. What will you do this year in order to encourage yourself to seek things above, not earthly things.
3. Prayerfully ask the Lord to help you discipline your time to pray in the Spirit every day.
4. Please share the blessings of last Sunday's sermon.

## **MEMORY VERSE**

**Philippians 1:6** *being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

## LESSON 8: LIFE STARTS WITH GOD



### GOAL

You will learn that life is not about you. It all starts with God.

### INTRODUCTION

**Colossians 1:16** *“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”*

The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness. It’s far greater than your family, your career, or even your wildest dreams and ambitions. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born *by* His purpose and *for* His purpose.

The search for the purpose of life has puzzled people for thousands of years. That’s because we typically begin at the wrong starting point – ourselves. We ask self-centered questions like, “What do I want to be? What should I do with my life? What are my goals, my ambitions, my dreams for my future?” But focusing on ourselves will never realize our life’s purpose. The Bible says, *“In whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?”* (**Job 12:10**)

Contrary to what many popular books, movies, and seminars tell you, you won’t discover your life’s meaning by looking within yourself. You’ve probably tried that already. You didn’t create yourself, so there is no way you can tell yourself what you were created for! For example, If I handed you an invention you had never seen before, you wouldn’t know its purpose, and the invention itself wouldn’t be able to tell you either. Only the creator or the owner’s manual could reveal its purpose.

You cannot arrive at your life’s purpose by starting with a focus on yourself. You must begin with God, your Creator. You exist only because it is God’s will that you exist. You were made by God and for God – and until you understand that, life will never make sense. It is only in God that we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance, and our destiny. Every other path leads to a dead end. Many people try to use God for their own self-actualization, but that is a reversal of nature and it’s doomed to fail. You were made for God, not vice versa, and life is about letting God use you for His purposes, not your using Him for your own purpose. The Bible says, *“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”* (**Romans 8:6**)

### QUESTIONS

What are your goals, your ambitions, and your dreams for your future? How, then, do you discover the purpose you were created for?

### CONTENT

#### A. Give up your personal goal and become what God created you to be

**Matthew 16:25** *“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”*

Many books suggest ways to discover the purpose of your life. All of them could be classified as “self-help” books because they approach the subject from a self-centered viewpoint. Self-help books, even Christian ones, usually offer the same predictable steps to finding your life’s purpose: Consider your dreams. Clarify your values. Set some goals. Figure out what you are good at. Aim high. Go for it! Be disciplined. Believe you can achieve your goals. Involve others. Never give up.

Of course, these recommendations often lead to great success. You can usually succeed in reaching a goal if you put your mind to it. But being successful and fulfilling your life’s purpose are not at all the same issue! You can reach all your personal goals, become a raving success by the world’s standard, and still miss the purposes for which God created you. You need more than self-help advice.

God tells you to focus on what matters most. It is about becoming what God created you to be.

## **B. You find your life’s purpose by asking God**

**1 Corinthians 2:7** *“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory.”*

**Proverbs 4:20-22** *My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. <sup>21</sup>Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; <sup>22</sup>for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body.*

How, then, do you discover the purpose you were created for? You have only two options. Your first option is *speculation*. This is what most people choose. They conjecture, they guess, they theorize. When peoples say, “I’ve always thought life is ...,” they mean, “This is the best guess I can come up with.”

Fortunately, there is an alternative to speculation about the meaning and purpose of life. *It’s revelation*. We can turn to what God has revealed about life in His Word. The easiest way to discover the purpose of an invention is to ask the creator of it. The same is true for discovering your life’s purpose: Ask God.

God has not left us in the dark to wonder and guess. He has clearly revealed His purposes for our lives through the Bible. It is our Owner’s Manual, explaining why we are alive, how life works, what to avoid, and what to expect in the future. It explains what no self-help or philosophy book could know.

## **C. Without Christ life makes no sense**

**Ephesians 1:11** *“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.”*

God is not just the starting point of your life; He is the source of it. To discover your purpose in life you must turn to God’s Word, not the world’s wisdom. You must build your life on eternal truths, not pop psychology, success-motivation, or inspirational stories.

Ephesians 1:11 gives us three insights into your purpose.

1. You discover your identity and purpose through a relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. God was thinking of you long before you ever thought about Him. His purpose for your life predates your conception. He planned it before you existed, without your input! You may

choose your career, your spouse, your hobbies, and many other parts of your life, but you don't get to choose your purpose.

3. The purpose of your life fits into a much larger, cosmic purpose that God has designed for eternity.

**Point to ponder:** It's not about me.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTION**

In spite of all the advertising around me, how can I remind myself that life is really about living for God, not myself?

### **MEMORIZED SCRIPTURE**

**Colossians 1:16** *“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”*

## LESSON 9: KNOWING WHERE YOU STAND WITH GOD



### GOAL

In a time when much of the world is up in arms, we must recognize that we are in a fight of faith. The greatest enemy to faith is a lack of understanding of God's Word. A lack of understanding regarding righteousness and its privileges holds more Christians in bondage than any other thing. We will learn where we stand with God from Scriptures.

### INTRODUCTION

Each Christian has been called upon to fight the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12 *"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good Confession in the presence of many witnesses."*) There would not be such a fight if there were not enemies, or hindrances to faith. We need to understand the enemies and avoid them so that our faith can grow.

The greatest enemy or hindrance to faith is a lack of understanding of God's Word. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). When people pray for faith, it is really the knowledge of God's Word that they need. We cannot have faith beyond our actual knowledge of God's Word. As soon as the light of God's Word shines in the heart of man, faith comes. That is why the Psalmist said, *"The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple (Psalm 119:130)."*

When you have knowledge of God's Word – you have faith. One of the problem is the lack of understanding of righteousness – our right standing with God.

### QUESTION

What does "being a righteous person" mean?

### CONTENT

#### Misunderstanding about righteousness

**James 5:16** *"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."*

The prayer of a "righteous" man avails much. A lack of understanding of true righteousness and its privileges hold Christians in bondage more than any other thing.

**Romans 10:10** *"For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

**Romans 5:17** *"For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ."*

Paul makes two significant statements in these two verses about righteousness:

- 1) With the heart man believes unto righteousness,
- 2) When we receive Jesus and are born again, we receive the "gift of righteousness."

Righteousness is a gift. Many Christians have associated righteousness with good works. The Bible teaches good works and right conduct, of course, but all of our good works and right conduct will never make us righteous. If good works could make us righteous, we would not have needed Jesus.

Another misconception is the thought that we have to grow into some “high” spiritual state in order to be righteous. We thought, “My prayers would work if I could just become righteous. If I could just develop to some high state of spiritual maturity, then I would be righteous.” Well, thank God, we can grow in the Lord and we can develop spiritually, but we cannot grow in righteousness? There are some areas in which you can grow. You can grow spiritually and possess more of the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, gentleness, meekness, long-suffering, and so forth. But righteousness is a gift. You will never be any more righteous than you are right now! Not even when you get to heaven compare to where you are at this very moment!

Lack of understanding of righteousness was one thing that hindered our faith. The devil will take advantage of our ignorance of the Word. He may be able to defeat us because we don’t know what righteousness is and what privileges it gives the believer. The devil may speak to your mind, saying, “Yes, you could pray the prayer of faith, if you were righteous and receive God’s miracles and answers, but you are not righteous!” Satan knows that many of us do not understand the meaning of righteousness. When you don’t know the privileges you have, you are robbed of the blessings that God intends for you.

### **Who is righteous?**

In the Old Testament, God set up a system whereby the blood of innocent animals was shed to cover the sins of the Old Testament saints. Thus, God did not hold sin against them instead He counted or considered them as righteous.

**Psalm 32:1-2** *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. <sup>2</sup>Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

In the New Testament, the Word says that we have a better Covenant established on better promises (**Hebrews 8:6**). In the Old Covenant, sins were covered, but the New Testament declares we are cleansed from sin by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ!

**2 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.*

**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.*

In Christ, we become new creatures. In Him we become the righteousness of God when we are born again. Hallelujah! When you are born again – when you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior – you become a new creature in Him! God does not make any unrighteous new creatures. That would be an insult to the work of God! No, we have been made righteousness of God only through Jesus Christ.

**Romans 10:10** *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

**Romans 5:17** *For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)*

How does a person become righteous? He believes in Jesus who is our righteousness. We receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness. Righteousness is a gift. We were born righteous when we were born again. You are made righteousness of God in the new birth. The Bible compares being a new creature to the innocence of a new born babe.

**1 Peter 2:2** *“as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby...,”*

The Bible teaches that there is a similarity between spiritual growth and physical growth. Christians are born babies, and they grow up. And those who are newly born into the kingdom of God are just as righteous in the sight of God as older saints who have been born again and living for God fifty or sixty years.

We must realize that we have right standing with God not because of what we did, but because of what Jesus did! Right standing with God is a gift.

### **What should we do if we sin?**

Satan may try to find another tactic to attack us. He will condemn you by the fact that since becoming a Christian, we have sinned.

**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”.*

John was not writing to sinners in this passage. He was writing to Christians! When we sin, we fall under condemnation and lose our sense of righteousness. But when we confess, “I have sinned, God. Please forgive me in Jesus’ Name,” God does two things. According to First John 1:9, God not only forgives our sins; He also cleanses us from all unrighteousness. We are no longer under condemnation because of what Jesus has done.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. If you feel guilty of some sins, what should you do?
2. After you study this lesson, do you believe that you are righteous in God’s sight? Do you believe that when you pray by faith, you will receive the answer?

### **MEMORIZED SCRIPTURE**

**Romans 5:17** *“For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”*

# LESSON 10: SEEKING WISDOM VS. ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE

## GOAL

Church members will understand that knowledge and wisdom are not the same. To have knowledge without wisdom is dangerous and may not benefit others.

## INTRODUCTION

Most people think that if anyone has had a good education, he will have a lot of knowledge. More so, they think that to have a lot of knowledge and to have an academic degree is a guarantee for a person to understand things well and correctly. Today, even though education is more advanced and more and more people have academic degrees, people's behaviors and attitudes are not improving either in a personal level or at the social level. Furthermore, with time people's morals have had a tendency to deteriorate. To have knowledge but not being able to differentiate good knowledge from just worldly knowledge, nor being able to apply it at the appropriate time or place may end up in bad results. Wisdom is not only knowledge but also the capacity of separating the truth from what is false and applying it appropriately. Those who have knowledge without wisdom may not become successful.

## QUESTION

How can you have wisdom?

**The Bible teaches us what true wisdom is and where it comes from.**

- A. 1 Corinthians 3:18-20** *“Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a “fool” so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”; and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.”*

A person who thinks that he is wise by the standards of the world without knowing God becomes a fool in God's sight. The thoughts of the wise are futile when they do not trust God.

- B. Psalm 119:98-99** *“Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes.”*

The Word of God makes people wise and have more insight.

- C. Psalm 111:10** *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.”*

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. When we follow His ways we will have good understanding.

- D. Deuteronomy 4:6** *“Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”*

To obey and observe God's laws carefully makes us wise and to have understanding.

- E. Exodus 35:31, 35** *“and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and*

*knowledge in all kinds of crafts--He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers --all of them master craftsmen and designers.”*

God can fill His people with skill, ability and knowledge through the work of the Holy Spirit so that they can effectively expand His kingdom and build His church.

**F. Ephesians 1:7-9** *“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ.”*

**Ephesians 3:9-10** *“and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,”*

Through God's grace and His redemption, He gives us wisdom and understanding. Through the church, God reveals His wisdom to the world.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Share with one another how you become wiser after becoming a Christian.
2. Share with one another about those who do not have a high education but have God's wisdom.
3. If for example you were choosing between two Bible Schools, what would be your criteria in choosing the best one for you?

# LESSON 11: HONOR PEOPLE ACCORDING TO GOD'S ANOINTING

## GOAL

Church members will understand that age alone is not the only reason to be respected and honored. There are many other characteristics which the Lord considers more important than age.

## CONTENT

### Introduction

In some cultures, people hold on to a seniority system. They have the custom of respecting their elders without considering any other facts or qualities. For example, when a position of leadership or high responsibility is being considered to be given to someone, an older person will be chosen or considered, rather than the younger one, even if the older one has less knowledge or less quality for the task. Sometimes the younger one is not accepted as the leader just because he or she is younger. At the same time, God sees the value of the older person because those who are older usually have more experiences in life than the younger ones. However, age should not be considered of merit by itself, but together with other valuable qualities.

## QUESTION

What qualities should you consider when you want to show respect to others?

**The Bible shows us that age alone does not qualify us to be a leader as there are many godly leaders in the Scriptures whom the Lord used even though they were young.**

- A. Genesis 37:5-11** *Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.*

Joseph was hated by his older brothers because God appointed him to be a leader.

- B. 1 Samuel 13:13-14** *"You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command."*

God removed Saul from being the king of Israel because his heart's attitudes were not right in God's sight. God chose David to be the king because he loved God.

- C. **1 Kings 3:7-9** *"Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"*

God called Solomon to be a king even though he was a young man.

- D. **1 Timothy 4:12** *"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."*

Paul reminded Timothy that he should not let anyone look down on him because he was young, but he should set an example for other believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. We can notice that when Paul wrote about qualifications of church leaders he did not mention about age at all (**1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9**).

### **DISCUSSION QUESTION**

Since you realize that age alone does not qualify a person to be honored or to be a leader, how will you react when the pastor appoints a young man who has the spiritual qualification to be a leader in the church.

## LESSON 12: SERVING WITH RIGHT SPIRIT

### GOAL

Church members will understand Biblical characteristics of church leaders who are willing to serve others.

### CONTENT

### INTRODUCTION

In some cultures, parents teach their children that they should strive to be the master or the boss when they grow up, so that they do not have to work hard and also have a lot of servants around them. This value of life has been embedded in the minds of many people today even though it is not spoken out verbally. This causes many people to not want to work in jobs that do not seem to be honorable. Therefore, many jobs are ignored and no one wants to do them. Besides, most people understand that the leader or the boss is the one who uses his or her authority to command others to do whatever he/she wants.

### QUESTION

What do people in the world think respectable jobs are?

**The Bible teaches us the characteristics of respectable leaders in God's sight.**

- A. Mark 10:42-44** *“Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials 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 slave of all.”*

Good leaders must have a serving spirit. They are willing to joyfully serve others and do even the lowly work.

- B. Mark 10:45** *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Jesus is a good example of a sacrificial leader who is willing to serve His people.

- C. Matthew 23:11-12** *“The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”*

God wants church leaders to humble themselves before Him and before others.

- D. Proverbs 15:33** *“The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.”*

God will exalt and honor us when we humble ourselves.

- E. Matthew 23:1-7** *“Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up*

*heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them "Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi.'"*

Leaders should not use their authority to lord it over others. They must not be hypocrites nor seek honor from men. Good leaders will honor others as much as they can.

- F. 2 Corinthians 4:5** *For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.*

Leaders should not do anything for their own benefit, but for the kingdom of God. They are willing to serve His people.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- A. Give an example of a godly leader who has honor in God's sight.
- B. What should you do in order to put the Biblical values that you learn today into the hearts of your brothers and sisters?

### **MEMORY VERSES**

**Mark 10:43-44** *Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup>and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.*

# LESSON 13: TO BE ON TIME

## GOAL

So that the members are aware of the importance of being on time, and trying to make it second nature.

## CONTENT

## INTRODUCTION

Time is very valuable because once it is gone one is not able to take it back again - no, not with money nor with any valuable goods. But most of us are unaware of the value of time yet we still let it run by. The people who are successful are the ones who appreciate the value of time, and use it in the best possible way.

These people usually are diligent because they have little time. Others are very careful and plan ahead. Then there is one more thing which shows us that time is highly esteemed, that is when one arrives on time.

Time is very valuable because we cannot bring it back. We all have an end time for our lives, therefore our time is limited. We should recognize the value of time. We should use our time wisely and correctly. God is transforming us to be perfect like Jesus in every area of our lives. We are not perfect yet. But as we learn more about God's principles and we repent of our sins, we will gradually grow in our spirits. To be on time or to use our time correctly is one of the areas of our lives that God wants us to practice. To be late is not God's will. Please figure how many minutes God loses if twenty people are waiting for you who come to the meeting late? (20 minutes).

## QUESTION

What benefits do you think one gets from being on time?

- A) \_\_\_\_\_
- B) \_\_\_\_\_
- C) \_\_\_\_\_

## BIBLE VERSES

The Bible tells us of many happenings which make us understand the value of being on time.

### A. Genesis 7:4-10

God always has His time table. When He promises to do something, He always does it on time.

### B. Ephesians 1:10 *"To be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment-to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ."*

The Bible says that when the right time comes, God will bring all things in heaven and on earth together under Christ. God always has a specific time in doing everything. He is always on time. He keeps His schedule.

- C. Daniel 9:2** *"In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years."*

God prophesied through His servant, Daniel, about the time that God would release the Jews from the Babylonian captivity and they would rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

- D. John 17:1** *"After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: 'Father, the time has come, Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.'"*

God had a specific time for Jesus to glorify the Father by dying on the cross.

- E. Romans 5:6** *"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly."*

Jesus died on the cross at the appointed time. God has His specific time table in His work.

- F. Ephesians 5:15-16** *"Be very careful, then, how you live - not as an unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."*

We can evaluate how wise a person is by looking at how he spends his time. The wise man knows how to utilize his time in the right way. He will be on time and never waste his time no-nonsensical or worthless things.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

A. How do you think being late all the time affects others?

B. What do you think are the negative results in the work you do, or for others involved, if someone arrives late all the time?

C. How do you think we can get into the habit of always being punctual?

## **MEMORY VERSES**

**Ephesians 5:15** *"Look carefully then how you work, not as unwise then but wise; making the most of time because the days are evil."*

# LESSON 14: THE INTEGRITY OF GOD'S WORD

## GOAL

We will learn the Word of God is alive and powerful.

## INTRODUCTION

**Hebrews 4:12-13** *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”*

The Word of God is not just dead words in an old dusty book. It is not man's ideas or man's philosophy. It is alive and it is powerful. It is precise and discerning, cutting to the heart of the matter and bringing forth the truth.

Nothing is hidden from God's sight. Everything is like an open book to Him. He sees and knows everything – all the way into our hearts and our thoughts. We have no way to lie or cover up because there is nothing to hide behind and no excuses we can make – because we know that He knows and sees all. When we read and hear God's Word, it will discern our thoughts and the intents of our hearts. It cleanses us and reveals God's truth to us. That is why we need to feed upon the Word daily. We should teach God's people the Word faithfully.

## QUESTION

Do you believe that Scriptures are the infallible Word of God?

## CONTENT

### A. Jesus is the Word made flesh

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

Jesus is the Word that became flesh. He dwelt among man as one of us. He came from the Father's presence to bring us grace and truth. In Him is life and this life is the light of men. His light shines the truth into the heart of every man. His light shines in the darkness, but the darkness does not comprehend it. He created the world, but the world did not know Him. He came to His own, but they did not receive Him. Those who did recognize Him and receive Him saw His glory.

In order to know the truth, we need to come to Jesus and have a personal relationship with Him.

### B. God created the universe with His Word

**Hebrews 11:3** *“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”*

God created the universe with His words and with the “Word” – Jesus. The universe we see was created from a world we cannot see. The spirit realm is real. God created the natural realm with His words.

### **C. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit always agree with one another**

**1 John 5:7** *“For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. (NKJV)”*

**John 5:19** *“Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.”*

**John 14:10** *“Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.”*

**John 16:13** *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”*

The Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are One. They always agree with one another. They always say the same thing. God’s will is His Word and God’s Word is His will. The Holy Spirit will never say anything contradictory to Jesus – the Word.

### **D. The Word works effectively in those who believe in its power**

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** *“For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”*

The Word of God is just that – the Word of God. It is not the word of man. The Word works effectively in those who believe in the power and integrity of the Word of God. We must put our faith in God’s Word.

### **E. God magnifies His Word above His Name**

**Psalms 138:2** *“I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.”*

God’s name is awesome, but His Word is magnified above His name. That is because your name is only as good as your word. You only have a good name when you are a keeper of your word – when you do what you say you will do. That is having integrity – people know that they can trust you because you always do what you say you will do. Your name carries weight.

Both sinners and saints will respect you when you keep your word. God always keeps His Word. We can trust His Word because He always keeps His Word. He says what He means and He means what He says.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

A. Do you believe in the integrity of God’s Word? When a believer believes in God’s Word, what kind of actions and lifestyle will he have?

B. What are benefits of knowing, practicing, memorizing and meditating on the Word of God?

## MEMORIZED VERSE

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** *“For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”*

# LESSON 15: THE PROBLEM OF SELF-CENTEREDNESS

## GOAL

God wants us to seek things which are of Christ Jesus, not of our own. Therefore, we will learn about self-centeredness, which is a mark of immaturity.

## INTRODUCTION

**Philippians 2:21** “*For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.*”

Have you experienced disappointment when you went to a dinner meeting because everyone else talked about their own lives, but never asked you even one question about your life? People tend to think about themselves. Their hearts are cold and they are often unwilling to take an interest in anyone but themselves.

Can it be that people who know the Lord are still so bound to self-love that they don't have the maturity to be mindful of the needs of others? If we are so self-oriented when we are among Christians, how can we even think that we can be an influence on our world? If we are so mindful of ourselves, how can we be mindful that we need to increase the kingdom of God?

God has called us to maturity. Maturity is choosing Him. Paul expressed his own progression beyond self-centered living in the famous chapter on love.

**1 Corinthians 13:11** “*When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*”

## QUESTIONS

Please describe characteristics of self-centered people?

## CONTENT

### A. God is dethroning us

**Acts 20:28** “*Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to **shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood***”

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** “*Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?<sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's*”

As Christians, we can rejoice over our deliverance from sin. God has delivered each of us from particular sins, bondages, and sicknesses as well, but now God wants to deliver us from ourselves.

It is wonderful to be saved from sin and know that our name is written in the Lamb's Book of life. But it is possible to be saved and still be sitting on the throne of our lives. When Jesus saved us He legally purchased us by His blood. We are under His

ownership now and have no rights to God's property. We are His. We have no legal right to sit on the throne of our lives. When we let God rule us, we taste a whole new realm of victory. This is the path of true freedom in the Lord.

Many times when we testify for God, self may yet be in the picture. We should allow the Holy Spirit to reveal selfishness to us as never before and take us from living in one realm of glory to an even higher realm of glory (2 Corinthians 3:18).

## **B. The Opposite of Love**

**2 Timothy 3:1-5** *"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will **be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power.** And from such people turn away!"*

A predictable response to the question "What is the opposite of love?" is "hate." But hate is only one symptom. The best answer is self-centeredness. Those who are self-centered know only how to receive. They are takers. Yet love is, by nature, giving; and it flows out of oneself toward others. Paul talked about some believers who are devoid of love.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 describes many who profess to be Christians, but deny God's power to deliver them and bring change in their lives. They claim to be godly, yet they do not change from their basic former self-life. They allow their flesh to be ruling and in control.

## **C. God's Perspective**

**Genesis 12:1-3** *"Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; **And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"*

**Genesis 26:4** *"And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; **and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;***

God desires the increase of His kingdom. When He blessed Abraham, it was not just for Abraham, but for all his descendants and all the nations of the earth. When God gifts a minister it is not to inflate his ego, but that souls might be saved and won, and people blessed and strengthened. When He baptizes someone in the Holy Spirit, He is not giving a stamp of approval on that person, but a gift that can flow out to others.

God has in minds countless people who will cross our paths during our lives. He wants to use us to bless them. He blesses us not because He wants us to be selfish and covetous, but so that we can give and bless others. As a result, many will repent and come to the knowledge of God.

When we are blessed with a nice car or house, it is not to reward our ego. God blesses us in different ways but His chief view is that we might touch many more lives

and that He may be glorified even more through our labors. It is for the increase of His kingdom, not ours.

**John 3:30** *"He must increase, but I must decrease"*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

A. Is Jesus the Lord and Master of your life? Does He sit on the throne of your life? If yes, how do you conduct your life daily?

B. Do you know anyone who walks in love and selfless sacrifice? Please share how he or she impresses you.

### **MEMORIZED SCRIPTURE**

**John 3:30** *"He must increase, but I must decrease."*

## LESSON 16: THE PROBLEM OF SELF-CENTEREDNESS – PART 2

### GOAL

God wants us to us to grow spiritually and attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Therefore, we will learn about self-centeredness, which is a mark of immaturity.

### INTRODUCTION

Self-centeredness is a sign of immaturity. God wants us to become mature and follow Christ's example. The Lord Jesus did not have self-love and self-centeredness. While He was walking on earth, He lived for the Father. He said that His food was to do the will of the Father and to finish it. He said, "...nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

*Luke 22:42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."*

The Lord Jesus purchased us with His own blood. We are blood-born properties of God. As we become more mature spiritually, we will allow Him to rule more of our lives. We will become God-conscious, not self-conscious. We will be lovers of God, not of ourselves. We will use what He has given and blessed us for His kingdom.

### QUESTION

Please describe characteristics of Christ-centered people?

### CONTENT

#### A. Feed My sheep

*John 21:15-17* So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." <sup>16</sup>He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

The question Jesus posed to Peter three consecutive times was, "Do you love Me?" Each time, no matter how Peter responded, Jesus answered, "Feed My sheep." If you really love God, be mindful of someone other than yourself. Feed someone! Take care of others! Let your life pour substance into the needs and growth of someone other than yourself.

It is noteworthy that Jesus did not respond to Peter's affirmation, "Since you love Me, I will meet all your needs." God is concerned with our needs, but He is even more concerned with what is **flowing out** of us. He desires a maturing process in our lives that results in comfort, edification, and strength to everyone we are in contact with. He

desires that our lives be a substantial influence to everyone we meet, not because of our doings, but by the presence of God and His ability within us.

### **Participate in a Local Church**

Our heavenly Father desires to bring His children to selflessness, wherein our lives become a blessing and strength for the benefit of many. We will not just stay home and attend the “electronic church.” We will not say, “I can be fed at home.” It is not what we can get, but rather for giving out what the Lord has given us. Every part of the Body of Christ is to do its own share.

**Proverbs 18:1** *“A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.”*

**Ephesians 4:16** *“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love”.*

Spiritual maturity means that we grow out of the selfish state into being mindful of the needs of others.

**Romans 15:1-3 (NIV)** *“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup>Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. <sup>3</sup>For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.”*

### **B. No More Agenda**

God is requiring that we live before Him without our own agenda. We determine to serve God His way and acknowledge His Lordship.

**John 15:5** *“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”*

We should maintain God’s agenda and stay off our own agenda.

**Isaiah 55:8-9** *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. <sup>9</sup>“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”*

Jesus, our perfect example, lived according to the Father’s agenda. His only purpose and desire was to say and do nothing except what He heard and saw the Father doing (John 5:19). He did not come to do His own will and neither can we. We must lay our agenda at His feet and live in His presence, posturing ourselves to hear what He is saying.

**Deuteronomy 8:3** *“So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but **man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.**”*

Don't enter heaven empty-handed. Don't plan to confess on Judgment Day that you chose to live for yourself rather than let the Lord birth His purpose in you. Time is short. Live for God's purpose and plan. Recognize that eternity and eternal judgment await all mankind.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Who is always in your mind – you yourself, others, or God?
2. What will you do in order to be a blessing to others when you go to church or to your care group?

### **MEMORIZED SCRIPTURE**

**Proverbs 18:1** “*A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.*”