

SEVENTY-SEVEN DAYS
TOWARD
DISCIPLESHIP

INTRODUCTION

The day you were baptized into Christ is the most important day in your life. This is the day you were born for. The decision you have made to die with Christ in your baptism and put on His **New Life** will affect every area of your life. As God's Word says in Colossians 3:3; *"...you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God."*

The study you are about to begin will give you direction for the next eleven weeks. You will certainly find that this study is by no means complete in the sense that it causes you to "arrive." No one "arrives" in the Christian life in this world. All of us need to say with Paul in Philippians 3:12; *"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."* So, as you begin this study to learn God's Word, please realize that it is only a beginning, but an important beginning. If you build strong foundations now, future growth will be much easier.

This is a study to get you to continue your obedience to God's Word. In fact, your first week will be a study of the authority of God's Word. Knowing the Scripture is vital. Jesus' knowledge of the Old Testament allowed Him to fight off every temptation of Satan (Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13). Since Jesus used the Scriptures so much, we too need to come to love them. Make up your mind right now that you are going to open wide your heart to everything God has for you. The Scriptures that are in this study were chosen because of the vital teachings that they will impart to your life. Do not let anything get in the way of your study of God's Word. It will be the very substance of your spiritual existence.

You are strongly encouraged to buy some kind of notebook and keep the notes that you will make as you go through this material. Writing down your answers will be very helpful to you. The things you learn here will make excellent studies for your non-Christian friends. The better you learn these things now, the more effective you will be in sharing what you know. Please read and underline, mark, or somehow identify every Scripture reference in your study. This will help you in remembering where passages are located and will give you one more way of being effective as Jesus' disciple.

The greatest benefit from this study will be obtained by those of you who are involved with a more mature Christian who can check your progress as you move through the study. Best results come from at least a weekly meeting with an "older" Christian who can help you with your questions and show you mistakes you may have made. As you work on each lesson, write the current date in the space provided. Make sure to talk with God in prayer before you begin and after you finish each day. The author/authors of nearly all of the materials in this study is/are unknown. Our deepest appreciation to their diligent work in helping to prepare God's people for works of service. May God richly bless them and you for faithfulness to His Word.

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WEEK ONE

The Authority of the Bible

This week you will be studying passages that show the importance of living by God's Word and no other authority.

Day 1 _____

1. Before you actually begin your Bible study program, please take a few minutes and write down in your own words what your baptism into Jesus Christ meant to you. Why did you do it? What is it going to mean? If you will keep this paper in a safe place, it will mean a great deal to you for years to come. As the years pass, it will serve as a reminder to you of the serious commitment that you made on this day.

2. As you begin to live your life for God it is important that you begin studying God's Word with the right type of respect and eagerness. II Timothy 2:15 says to present yourself to God as one approved. The best way to learn how to do this is by studying God's Word daily.

3. Read Matthew 28:18 several times and write down what the authority of Christ means to you.

4. Read John 12:47-50. What happens to the one who does not accept the words of Jesus? What does God want for us? How do we find that?

5. It is important to remember that God's Word is our authority. His Word is our standard for living. It doesn't matter what people have taught you before or what "you" think, but rather, what is final is what God says.

6. Read II Peter 1:19-21. Remember that "prophecy of Scripture" is referring to how the Bible was written. Man did not write the words of God by his own will but by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. What does verse 19 mean to you?

Day 2 _____

1. Begin today by reading II Timothy 3:1-5.

2. What is the problem with the kind of religion or "ungodliness" described here?

3. Read II Timothy 4:1-4 for another description of powerless religion.

4. Why would people ever substitute men's teaching for God's teaching on a given subject? How do you think this tendency might creep into your life?
5. Why would carefully following God's message lead to powerful religion as opposed to powerless religion?

Day 3 _____

1. Begin your study today by reading II Timothy 2:15. Take a few minutes and memorize this verse.
2. What do you believe God is communicating to you in this passage?
3. Write a brief explanation of each of these statements:
 - A. To handle God's Word correctly we must have great respect for it.
 - B. To handle God's Word correctly we must share it with a godly attitude. (See II Timothy 2:24-26)
 - C. To handle God's Word correctly we must spend time studying it.
4. In some translations this passage speaks of "rightly dividing the Word of truth." This was once interpreted to mean we need to know the difference between the Old Testament Scriptures and the New Testament Scriptures. The verse certainly refers to more than this, but no one can handle the Word correctly without understanding this difference. What is the difference? (Have a more mature Christian check your answer)

Day 4 _____

1. Read Romans 1:16-17. Before you start today's study, ask yourself; "Is anything hindering me from sharing the Word of God with my friends?" If there is something, then it needs to be put to death. Remember that it is God's Word that is the power to save. Read I Corinthians 2:1-5 for reinforcement.
2. Read I Timothy 4:16 and write down what two things are necessary to save yourself and your hearers.
3. There is no power in the things we tell people if we are not living the life we proclaim. Let God's Word **convict** people and let your life **convince** them that His Word is truth.
4. Read Titus 2:1. What is sound doctrine and how might you learn it? What is the attitude of so many "religious" people toward sound doctrine? Why is it important to learn exactly what God has commanded?

5. Read Titus 1:9. What will we be able to do by holding to sound doctrine?
6. Read I Timothy 6:3-5 and write down what this verse means to you. What is the connection between false teaching and a bad heart or a bad attitude? Why is keeping a pure heart so important in understanding God's Word?

Day 5 _____

1. Read II Timothy 3:16-17 and Hebrews 4:12-13. Make a list of all the things that God's Word can do for us.
2. Not only is it important to know what God's Word is, but it is equally important to do what it says. Read James 1:22-25.
3. What happens to the man who does what he has learned? God cannot use us if we do not do what He tells us.
4. Turn in the Old Testament to Ezekiel 33:30-33. You will not be able to understand the true meaning of God's Word until you do what it says. Read Philemon 6. How do we get a full understanding of what we have in Christ?
5. The man who doesn't put God's Word into practice will forget what he looks like. Write down some things that you know are right and that you intend to put into practice.

Day 6 _____

1. Very often in the practice of religion people make a decision to do something because what they "think" seems more right to them than what God's Word actually says. What warning do you hear for your life in Proverbs 14:22?
2. For an excellent example of this problem turn to and read I Samuel 15:1-23.
3. Why were Saul's actions judged to be wrong? What was his justification for what he had done? Why was God not "won over" by his argument?
4. Write down some examples of how Saul's problem might be found in someone's life today.
5. In view of Saul's problem, what attitude do you want to have toward God's Word?

Day 7 _____

1. You have now been studying the Bible with these lessons for one week. Write down some things you have learned and are wanting to do your second week. Share these things with a brother or sister and let them help you and encourage you.
2. Read Matthew 7:21-27 several times and write down what it means to you. Who are the people that will be turned away?
3. Read Luke 6:46-49. What does Jesus say about the one who builds his house on the Rock?
4. The right attitude toward God's Word is a crucial foundation for future growth. Read and memorize Psalm 1:1-3. It is so important to stay planted by the stream. Carry this Psalm in your heart, meditate on it often, respond to its challenge, and you will grow.

WEEK TWO

Dead to Self But Alive to Christ

This week you will be studying passages in the Scripture that show so clearly what the real problem in life is. The problem is the "old self" that lives for itself. Jesus Christ calls for the old self to be crucified, and He promises to raise up a new and very different "self."

Day 8 _____

1. Turn to Luke 9:18-26. Read this passage through at least twice, underlining or making notes on what you believe are the key words and phrases. Write an explanation for verses 23, 24 and 25.
2. Now turn to Luke 18:28-30 and look at the promise that is given to those who accept discipline. How do you expect this to work out in your life?
3. These two passages will become very important as you share your life in Christ with others. Why is this true? Remember where they are and think about how you should share them with someone else.
4. Be sure to spend time in serious prayer each day. In the ninth week of this study we will examine prayer, but don't wait until then to begin to develop a great prayer life.

Day 9 _____

1. Begin today by reading Galatians 2:20. Take a few minutes to memorize this verse.
2. The word in Greek in this verse actually means "I have been co-crucified with Christ." How do we use the prefix "co"? What is "co-leader" or "co-worker"? So what is the message for Christians?
3. Among other things the crucifixion of Jesus meant He voluntarily gave us His rights. What "rights" do you think you might have a tendency to hold on to?
4. The crucifixion of Jesus meant He put other's welfare above His comfort. How can you share in His crucifixion? What was the result of His crucifixion? What will be the result of yours?

Day 10 _____

1. Turn to Romans 6:1-4. Read and study this carefully. Each time you come to the word "we" or "us" substitute your own name. (For example: vs.2... "By no means. **John** died to sin, how can **he** live in it any longer?")

2. Write down some things about your old self that caused it to deserve death.
3. Write down some ways the "new self" God has made you to be needs to express itself.
4. How do you specifically plan today to put verse 13 into practice?

Day 11 _____

1. Before you start today's study, ask yourself a very important question: Am I making every effort to be in close contact with other Christians? This is crucial, and in Week Four the studies will all focus on the importance of relationships. However, if there is anything in you now that is not wanting to see or be with other disciples, then you can be sure that it is something that is not of God. That is the thinking of the flesh, not the new self you are in Christ.
2. Turn to Romans 7:14-24 and read how powerless you are to live this new life on your own. It is clear why we must "disown" the sinful nature. Especially note verse 24.
3. Go on to Romans 8 where we see how we can do through Christ what is not possible alone. You were probably assured at your baptism into Christ that you would receive the Holy Spirit upon your obedience to the Gospel. Study some of what that Spirit means in your life. Read verses 1-17, making notes on the things that strike you the hardest. Remember to keep substituting your own name for the pronouns.

Day 12 _____

1. As you have questions about things that you are studying or things that are happening to you, seek out some of your older brothers and sisters and let them help you. They have been through many things you will go through. Lean on their wisdom and understanding.
2. When we are children, we need to be taught things we don't know, and we need to be corrected when we are wrong. If you are a babe in Jesus Christ, there are many things you don't know and there are some areas where you need correction. That is true of every Christian. How you take correction is going to make all the difference in your growth in Christ.
Turn to Proverbs 12:1-2 and Proverbs 12:15. Go back to Proverbs 10:17. What is the message? How does this relate to the idea that we have died to the old self?
3. Write down your own attitude toward being corrected. Distinguish between those things that are left over from your earthly nature and those things that Jesus Christ is putting in your heart.

4. Go to the New Testament now and read II Timothy 3:16. Why are older brothers and sisters to bring the Word of God to you? What is going to be your attitude when they do?

Day 13 _____

1. Below are listed several verses. As you read them write down what you think the passage has to do with putting off the old self and putting on the new.

- A. Philippians 2:14-15
- B. Philippians 3:7-8
- C. Philippians 4:4, 11-13

2. Write a response to the following statement: "In Jesus Christ we have all we need to maintain a great attitude." True or false? Why or why not?

3. What do these passages have to do with having a great attitude?

- A. John 16:33
- B. Romans 8:28
- C. James 1:2-4

4. What will be the effect on others when you allow God to give you a great attitude in all circumstances?

Day 14 _____

1. By today you have probably realized that you are not doing all for Jesus Christ that you determined to do two weeks ago. You want to love Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. But you have failed in some specific areas. What you will study today will be very important in dealing with this for the rest of your life.

2. Turn to I John 1:5-10. Read it carefully.

3. Think of the difference in light and darkness. Think of the difference between a bright, open room with lots of windows and a totally dark basement area. In one, things are out in the open. You can see them as they are. In the other, things are hidden and covered by the darkness. With this in mind, what does he mean when he calls us to "walk in the light?" Do you see how this fits with verse 9 and the call to confess our sins?

4. We all (from the oldest to the youngest in Christ) sin. If we claim that we don't, we lie (verse 10). How then, are we to handle all of this? Do we cover and hide our sins? Or do we bring them out into the open through confession?

5. Write down the two results of walking out in the light as described in verse

6. Remember this trustworthy saying: "Satan's only ground is darkness". When we confess our sins and bring them out into the light, we take away from him his only base of operation.

7. Why is this passage comforting? What does it teach you about relationships in Christ?

WEEK THREE

The Grace of God

Day 15 _____

1. The grace of God makes our salvation possible. The grace of God makes our growth and development possible. His grace is the source of everything that is good in us. Read John 1:10-18 and look for the word "grace."
2. What does it mean to show grace toward someone? What does it mean that Jesus was "full" of grace?
3. Why did we need someone like Him who would be full of grace?
4. Jesus was full of grace and truth. Why is it important to see Jesus as being full of both and not just one of those?

Day 16 _____

1. Grace is "giving to him who deserves nothing that which you would normally give to him who deserves everything," and that's what happens to us in Jesus Christ. We deserve nothing but in Him we are given everything.
2. Read Romans 5:1-11. Why is it so amazing that God has shown His grace to us?
3. In view of the teaching of this passage, why is it so foolish for us to ever be proud, arrogant or boastful?
4. In verse 2 he says it is in "this grace which we now stand." In what ways does the knowledge of God's grace toward us enable us to stand? What does it help us stand against? What does it help us to stand for?

Day 17 _____

1. Read Ephesians 1:3-10
2. One translation of verse 8 speaks of the grace God has lavished on us. What does the word "lavished" mean to you? What picture does that give you of God? How does this differ from some views of God you are familiar with?
3. This grace He lavished on us is intended to bring us every spiritual blessing. Make a list of several of these blessings that you would not have except for God's grace.

4. In verse 4 Paul speaks of "the praise of His glorious grace." What positive effect can it have on us to consistently praise God for His glorious grace? What negative effect might it have if we stop praising Him?

5. How can you let people see you are thankful for God's grace?

Day 18 _____

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-10.

2. Go back through and write a short word of explanation about each verse in this text.

3. If a person sits down and does little or nothing because "I am saved by grace anyway," what do they misunderstand?

Day 19 _____

1. Read Philippians 3:4b-11.

2. Salvation is by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-10), but here in this passage we see what that faith looks like. It means first considering "everything as a loss compared to knowing Christ." How can you tell when that's where a person's heart is? Is that where your heart is?

3. Secondly, this faith admits it has "no righteousness of its own." Why will a person who has this kind of faith give up efforts to justify himself or herself? How else will this kind of faith affect a person's relationship with others?

4. When we stop defending ourselves and trusting ourselves, we receive the righteousness of Christ. That doesn't mean you instantly become just like Jesus but what does it mean? You might want to read Romans 4:18-25 and II Corinthians 3:4- 9, 18.

Day 20 _____

1. Read Titus 2:11-14.

2. This passage could be translated "the grace of God gives us an education." What is wrong when a person claims to receive God's grace but does not allow that grace to change him or her?

3. List some things that the grace of God educates you to do.

4. Why must a "yes" to God's grace be followed by "no" to worldly passions and ungodliness?
5. Is there anything still in your life that God's grace is teaching you to say "no" to?
6. Using your answer in question 5, now write out the following: "God's grace is sufficient to enable me to say 'no' to _____"

Day 21 _____

1. Read I Corinthians 15:9-11.
2. In what sense can you say something similar to what Paul says in verse 9?
3. What do you think he means when he says, "and His grace to me was not without effect?" (verse 10)
4. How can you respond so that God's grace will not be without effect?
5. Why do you think Paul adds that last comment in verse 10, "Yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me?"
6. End this week of study with some time to thank God and praise Him for His marvelous grace. Look at your lost condition without Him and His great mercy that you in no way deserve. Make sure there is no self-righteousness in your heart but that you truly believe "by the grace of God I am what I am."

WEEK FOUR

No life Outside the Body

This week you will study the importance of the church, the Body of Christ and the relationship you have in the church.

Day 22 _____

1. Begin today by reading again, Matthew 28:18-20, concentrating on verses 18 and 20. What do these verses say to you?
2. Jesus Christ, who has all authority, taught us that the church is very, very important. In Matthew 16:16-18, Jesus hears Peter confess Him to be the Christ, the Son of God; and immediately Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." Jesus saw the church at the center of His plan. He wanted to build it and He intended to make it so strong that the forces of Satan could not stand against it. What Jesus counted as so important, we too must count as so important. What statements have you heard religious people make that discounts (lessens) the importance of the church?
3. For a true picture of what the church should be striving to become every day, look at Acts 2:40-47. What impresses you the most about the church in Jerusalem?
4. What can you do today and the rest of this week to contribute to this kind of life among God's people, the church?

Day 23 _____

1. As you read each of the following passages write down something the passage teaches about what our relationship must be in the Body of Christ.
 - A. John 13:34-35
 - B. Ephesians 5:1-2
 - C. I Corinthians 13:1-3
 - D. Colossians 3:14
 - E. Galatians 5:6, 13-14
 - F. I Peter 4:8
2. What does it mean to love another person?
3. What does I John 3:16 say it means to love another person? How does this apply to our relationships?

4. What is good and so right about loving like this? What are the results?

Day 24 _____

1. Paul describes the church as the "Body of Christ." Read Romans 12:1-8. How does giving yourself first to God need to lead to giving yourself to other people in the Body of Christ?

2. Notice particularly verse 5 which says, "each member belongs to all the others," or "we are all members one of another." How does this fit with or conflict with the popular Western ideal of individualism?

3. List three things that you already know you can do for other members of the body of Christ. Share these with someone who is close to you and get their reaction.

4. List at least three things that you know you need from the Body of Christ in order to grow in Christ.

Day 25 _____

1. Read Ephesians 4:1-5. Why does it seem to you that God is so very concerned about the Body of Christ having unity and peace?

2. Read Romans 14:13-15:3. How far should we go and how much should we bend to keep the Body of Christ together. Can you think of a practical application of this passage?

3. Is there anything in your life that is so important to you that you would not give it up even if it was keeping people from coming to Jesus Christ or growing in Him? If there is, look back to verse 21 and get help in dealing with this area of your life. What most competes against Christ in your life and why?

Day 26 _____

1. God is greatly concerned about the unity of the church, but He is also greatly concerned about the purity of the Body of Christ. We are called to a holy life and a pure life, and sin in the Body that is being hidden or ignored will destroy the power of the church.

2. Read Ephesians 4:17-5:14. List those things which are described here as important for God's holy people.

3. How would living as "children of light" be totally different from those things you have just listed? What is the basic difference?

4. Even if you are a young Christian, what should you do if you see brothers or sisters falling into some sin? Read Galatians 6:1-2 and write out the principles you learned about who should help others with their sin and how it should be done.

Day 27 _____

1. One of our greatest responsibilities is to **encourage** each other in the Body of Christ. Read an important statement about this in Hebrews 3:12-14.

2. According to this passage, why is encouragement so needed? Judging from this passage, what kind of encouragement do you think would prove most helpful?

3. Look at Hebrews 10:24-25. What do we need to do to make our meeting together even more encouraging? Why is it discouraging for someone to miss meetings without communicating why they are not there?

4. Write down the name of three people you want to encourage and how you plan to do this.

5. Explain why different people are encouraged by different means.

Day 28 _____

1. The Body of Christ will not be a "perfect place" immune from relationship problems. Why will problems even arise in relationships that are in the church?

2. Read Matthew 5:23-24, that tell us how to resolve problems that arise in the church. Remember Jesus is teaching Jews who were still going to the temple to offer sacrifices: but what is the principle for us?

3. Read Matthew 18:15-20, that tell us how to resolve problems that arise in the church. How is this different from the way people often handle a problem of sin? Why would the church have to sever fellowship with the person who will not repent and confess?

4. Determine now, that for the rest of your Christian life, you will not complain or grumble behind someone's back. Determine that you will go to them and seek to resolve the problem with God's help.

5. How would you evaluate the way you have handled your relationships in the Body in the last month?

6. What are you appreciating the most about these relationships?

7. Ask someone close to you for some feedback on the conduct of your relationships so far.

WEEK FIVE

Purity of Heart

This week all of the studies will have to do with keeping our hearts pure before God and before one another. Probably you have already heard a lot about the importance of a great heart, but this study will help you see how to have such a heart and what the results of such a heart will be.

Day 29 _____

1. Read Proverbs 4:23. How would you define the "heart" that the writer is describing? What would it mean to "guard your heart?"
2. Look at I Samuel 16:1-7. Particularly notice verse 7. In terms of religion, how might our "outward appearance" be different from what is really going on in the "heart?" But what is God concerned about?
3. Have you been tempted in your "new life" in Christ to put on the outward appearance without having the heart? If so, how?
4. Read David's prayer for a pure heart in Psalm 139:23-24 and spend some special time praying about your own heart.

Day 30 _____

1. All the great men and women in the scriptures had to deal with their hearts, but no one shares his heart with us and his struggle for purity of heart more than David. Psalm 32 and Psalm 51 were written by David and will be important in this week's study. Read them both carefully at this time. Make notes on those verses that seem most significant.
2. From these Psalms we can learn valuable lessons about how to come to purity of Heart and how to keep the heart pure.
 - A. We must be willing to face our sin honestly and admit to ourselves what it is.
 - B. We must be broken over that sin (take seriously its effects).
 - C. We must be willing to confess that sin.
3. Why can no one have and keep a pure heart without dealing with sin in a Biblical way?

Day 31 _____

1. Briefly review yesterday's study. Re-read Psalm 32 and Psalm 51.
2. David struggled before he faced his sin. When are times you really don't want to face your sin? How do you usually avoid that confrontation?
3. What did David mean when he said God's hand was heavy upon him?
4. True or false? "Guilt plays no role in helping people come to purity of heart."
(Comment on your answer)
5. David said, "I know my transgressions." Are there any sin in your life that you need to face honestly and say "I know that is my sin?" What will be the good of such honesty?

Day 32 _____

1. Today's study is a continuation of day 31. Without re-reading them can you give a brief summary of Psalm 32 & 51?
2. When David saw sin in his life, he was broken and contrite over the sin. What does that mean?
3. David confessed his sin. Why is confession "good for the soul?"
4. To whom did David confess? (If you said "only to God" think again. He wrote this Psalm of confession to be read and heard by all Israel.)
5. What did you learn earlier about confession from I John 1:9? Memorize this verse.
6. Look at James 5:16. You will be tempted to not let this be happening in your life, but you must remember how right it is. Also memorize this verse.
7. None of this is to write a rule that says "you must confess every sin to some other person." But isn't it clear God's people need to have a confessing attitude? Isn't it clear that hearts cannot be pure where there is something hidden or deception?
8. What is your attitude toward confession of sin?

Day 33 _____

1. The last several days you have studied ways to keep a pure heart. Now we want to turn specifically to the *results* or *fruits* of having a pure heart. Again let's consider what we learn from Psalms 32 and 51.

- A. There is a great awareness of forgiveness and salvation.
- B. There is a thankful, rejoicing, singing spirit.
- C. There is a great desire to share the joy of salvation and cleansing.

Look back through these two Psalms and write down the verses that illustrate these points.

- 2. Which of these results do you see most clearly in your own life?
- 3. What's the problem when these fruits aren't seen?

Day 34 _____

1. After doing the study on the heart this week, why would you say that our hearts need *continual maintenance*?

2. Look closely at I Timothy 1:5-7. What is implied in the phrase "wandered away from a pure heart?"

3. Describe how this process of wandering away from purity of heart might happen in someone's life. Give some steps that might be involved.

4. What are three things you can regularly do to guard against this "wandering" in your own life?

Day 35 _____

1. Read Proverbs 4:23. Write out what this passage says and why you think it says it.

2. In your Christian life you will need to learn to diagnose different "heart" conditions. Study the following:

- A. Hard heart - Proverbs 28:14
- B. Unrepentant heart - Romans 2:5
- C. Unbelieving heart - Hebrews 3:12

3. As you handle different situations in your life, learn to ask; "Where is my heart?" If you resist correction ask; "Where is my heart?" If you find yourself wanting to skip a meeting of the Body ask; "Where is my heart?" Why is it so dangerous to give in even a little to a bad heart?

4. Who is someone you know who strikes you as having a pure heart? What is it about them that you want to imitate?

WEEK SIX

"Go Make Disciples"

This week we want to look at how God plans to use you to bring others to the new life in Jesus Christ. Nothing God allows us to do is more exciting, more challenging, and more meaningful than helping others to find freedom from an old sinful life. Study carefully the material for this week and ask God to prepare you for a most effective outreach to others.

Day 36 _____

1. Begin this week by reading I Peter 3:13-17 (look especially at verses 15 and 16).
2. Write down what you think is involved in each of these statements:
 - A. "In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord"
 - B. "Always be prepared to give an answer"
 - C. "With gentleness and respect"
 - D. "Keeping a clear conscience"
3. Looking at the things above, it is clear that you cannot hope to powerfully share your faith with others unless you keep a clear conscience. Thus far in your Christian life have you experienced any days in which you didn't have a clear conscience? What kinds of things will have to be put out of your life if your conscience is to be clear? How does I John 1:9 relate to this?

Day 37 _____

1. The last words a person speaks usually tell us a lot about the major things on that person's heart. Read Matthew 28:18-20 which describes the final commission of Jesus Christ before He left this world.
2. What does it mean that Jesus has all authority over you?
3. Where is the One with all authority telling you to "go?"
4. Jesus is sending you into your world to bring others to Him. Write down the names of some of the people in your world right now that you want to be "going" to with the good news of Jesus Christ
5. Read Ephesians 3:20-21. In keeping with this verse begin asking today that God would use you in the lives of the people you just wrote down and begin imagining yourself loving them and reaching out to them with the good news.

Day 38 _____

1. Begin today by reading Acts 4:16-20; 5:40-42; 8:1-4
2. What impresses you about these early Christians?
3. Why do you suppose they were so committed to sharing the gospel with other people?
4. What are some lies Satan would like for us to believe...lies that would dampen our desire to share God's Word?
5. Write down at least two different places where you often go, and then pray about taking God's message into those places.

Day 39 _____

1. Read I Thessalonians 2:7-9 as Paul talks about the relationship he had with some that he had led to Christ.
2. What do we need to learn from Paul's example about how to reach out to other people?
3. What would be involved in sharing not only the gospel with someone but our lives as well?
4. Someone once said; "People won't care how much we know, until they can see how much we care." How can you show some of the non-Christians around you that you really care for them?
5. Look also at John 13:34-35. How will our relationships with each other in the Body affect our evangelistic outreach to those outside the Body?

Day 40 _____

1. Read II Corinthians 5:11-21. Write down at least five things this passage teaches about evangelism...sharing your faith.
2. Go back to II Corinthians 4:7-10. What do we need to learn from Paul's experience in sharing the Word with people?
3. Read II Corinthians 4:1 and commit it to memory.
4. Why could there be no greater purpose in life than bringing others to Christ?

Day 41 _____

1. Begin today by reading Colossians 4:2-6.
2. List all the things you find here in regard to sharing your faith with someone.
3. What do you think Paul meant by "make the most of every opportunity?"
4. List some opportunities you could have used recently if you had been more alert and ready to speak.
5. Have you heard the term "lifestyle evangelism?" It refers to the fact that we should not reserve one night of the week for evangelism or even two or three, but that we should be living lives that are always evangelistic. What are some things that we need to be saying to ourselves at the beginning of every day in order to live an *evangelistic lifestyle*?

Day 42 _____

1. Read carefully, Jesus' words in Mark 4:26-29.
2. Now read Paul's words in I Corinthians 3:5-9.
3. What is our role in making disciples?
4. What is God's role?
5. Why can we never take any personal pride in the fact that we have been used to lead someone else to Jesus Christ?
6. If God is really the one who brings change to people's hearts and lives why shouldn't we just leave the business of making disciples up to Him alone?
7. Look back over the people and opportunities you have written about this week. Pray about these and commit yourself to be used for the rest of your life to bring other people to Jesus Christ. If reaching out is a big difficulty for you, admit that to someone and let them help you to overcome it. But believe that it can happen in your life!

WEEK SEVEN

The Meaning and Power of Submission

This week you will study one of the keys to the Christian life. It is seldom understood and almost always rejected by those in the world. It is something that you see perfectly in Jesus Christ, and something He wants to see consistently in us. It is the principle of submission.

Day 43 _____

1. On the first day of our study on this topic we want to look at the different places in Scripture where submission is commanded. Look up the following Scriptures and list those to whom we are to be submissive.

- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| A. James 4:7 | A. |
| B. I Peter 2:13-18 | B. |
| C. I Peter 3:1-5 | C. |
| D. Ephesians 5:21 | D. |
| E. Hebrews 13:17 | E. |
| F. I Peter 5:5 | F. |

2. Now, to the right of each of these categories write the name of someone in your life to whom you should be in submission.

3. What are some of the major problems that you have with having a submission attitude in these relationships?

4. Why does being submissive fit with what you know about the message of Jesus?

Day 44 _____

1. As you study the Biblical concept of submission, one of the most important things to learn is that God wants us to have a submissive *attitude*. He does not want us to submit with resentment, resignation, or bitterness. He does not want our submission to be legalistic. He wants it to come from the heart because of our trust in Him...because of our confidence that He honors a life of submission.

2. Submission was an attitude found in Jesus. Read about it in Philippians 2:5-9. In what ways was Jesus our example of submission?

3. Again read about Jesus' submissive attitude in I Peter 2:13-21 (note the first part of verse 13, 18 and 21).

4. Once we realize that Jesus Christ was the perfect model of submissiveness, we realize that submissiveness does not mean certain things. It does not mean: a) lack of conviction b) silence c) weakness d) inferiority.

5. Instead submissiveness as we see it in Jesus does mean: a) surrender of self-interest b) yielding of personal rights in order to benefit others c) trusting God. Some people think to submit means to do nothing, but we see in Jesus' life that submission meant trusting God.

6. In view of what we see in Jesus, which Christians should be submissive?

7. Read James 4:7-8. Ultimately, to whom are we to be submissive?

Day 45 _____

1. One of the things that all Christians need to be concerned about is their own personal spiritual growth. Why is submission such an important attitude to have in order for growth to take place? What will happen to the person who is unsubmitive?

2. Read Luke 2:51-52. Then go to Hebrews 5:7-9. How did Jesus learn what He learned?

3. What are some things that you are sure that God wants you to be learning right now, and how will a submissive attitude toward others help you to learn these things?

4. Do you feel like you have a rebellious or unsubmitive attitude about anything in your life at the present time? The tenor of God's Word would strongly encourage you to open all that up to someone so you can more quickly deal with it and put it behind you. A rebellious attitude will destroy spiritual growth.

Day 46 _____

1. Read I Peter 2:13 and then comment on each of the following phrases in that verse:

A. "Submit yourselves"

B. "For the Lord's sake"

C. "To every authority instituted among men"

2. Is the following statement true or false? "Whenever we don't have a submissive attitude it is not for the Lord's sake but for our sake." Explain your answer.

3. Think of some times in your life when you were not submissive. How was your lack of submissiveness "for your sake" and not "for the Lord's sake?"

4. A man claiming to be a Christian once made this statement: "I submit to Jesus Christ and I submit to God, but any submission to men is way down the list, and I mean way down the list." What do you think of his attitude? How does it fit with Scripture?

Day 47 _____

1. In the body of Christ, God has placed certain men over you. First there are *Elders* (overseers) in the Body (see Acts 20:17, 28-31; I Peter 5:1-4) and then there are others who are over you because of special responsibilities they have been given in the fellowship. Look at what Hebrews 13:17 says about your responsibility to these Christians.

2. Do you know the names of the elders and other leaders in the congregation where you are? Have you reached out to them in any way since becoming a Christian? How could you show them that you have a submissive attitude toward their leadership and that you want to make their work a joy and not a burden?

3. Does this passage say we have to agree with everything a leader does before we can submit to him and obey him?

4. Make sure your relationship with all your leaders are good ones. If there is ever any anger or resentment or hurt in you toward any of them, don't put off sitting down with that leader and opening up your heart. What would happen in a congregation if this did not happen?

Day 48 _____

1. As we look at submission we must recognize that there will be times when we cannot specifically submit to people in what they are asking of us because to do so would be to be unsubmitive to God. Read Acts 4:18-20 and Acts 5:27-30. Why did the early Christians not submit to the religious leaders in this instance?

2. Before we refuse to be submissive in any situation there are three important questions we need to ask ourselves:

A. Do I really want to be submissive and have a submissive attitude or am I looking for an excuse to be independent and rebellious?

B. Is this really a violation of God's will or a violation of my strongly held tastes and preferences?

C. Am I not wanting to submit because of the principle involved or some person involved? (We should never decide not to submit to someone just because we have a negative personal feeling toward them.)

3. How could you refuse to submit to some particular thing, but still maintain a submissive attitude toward the person? Example: A Christian wife is asked by her non-Christian husband to lie for him to a business partner. How can she refuse that but still maintain a submissive attitude toward her husband?

Day 49 _____

1. After studying submission now for six days you should have a better picture of what true submission means. Now, read Philippians 2:9-11 to see the results of submission.

2. How did God bless the submission of Jesus Christ?

3. What are some specific ways that Christians will be richly blessed throughout the development of a submissive heart and attitude?

4. As we conclude this week of studies, you are encouraged to spend some special time in prayer about your desire to grow in the area of submission.

WEEK EIGHT

Victory Over Sin

Day 50 _____

1. For the next week you will be studying about having victory over sin or obtaining freedom from sin. This has always been God's desire for His people. It is only with the absence of sin in our lives that we can have the kind of life God wants for us. Read John 10:10 to see what kind of life that is. In your own words, what does it mean to have life to the full?
2. Read Mark 5:1-20. The demon-possessed man paints for us a vivid picture of what life without Christ is like. In one sense, it is a life of freedom. The man is free to roam where he wants, no one controls him or tells him what to do. But is the man, in reality, free? Why not?
3. Read verse 9 again. At first the name Legion may seem a bit odd to us. Actually a legion was a Roman army unit of 6,000 skillful men. This man is being pulled apart by a legion of conflicting desires, ambitions, and interests. One man is speaking, but a legion of conflicting voices are making their demands, tugging this way and that, fighting for attention. "Legion" is the illness that attacks every man who tries to live apart from Christ. Read Galatians 5:16-17 (especially verse 17). How was this true in your life before becoming a Christian?
4. Jesus can bring freedom to those afflicted by the "Legion Syndrome." He brings order, unity, and purpose to confused, mixed-up lives. The change that takes place in a Christian's life can have a great effect on others as well. Read Mark 5:14-15 again. How has your becoming a Christian affected people that you know? What other impact can you envision yourself making?

Day 51 _____

1. Read Psalm 36:1-2. What is the problem with the man being described here? What attitude does he really need to have toward his sin?
2. Why do you think it is unlikely that you will ever have much victory over a particular sin in your life until you hate that sin?
3. Write down some sins that you have struggled with, and then write down why those sins need to be despised and hated. Write down the effect they have on you, others, and God's plans.

4. For an example of how unacceptable religion is when it does not take sin seriously, read Jeremiah 6:13-15.

5. What words do we sometimes use to dress wounds of sin lightly? What phrases do we employ to cover up the seriousness?

Day 52 _____

1. Today we will begin to look practically at some things we can do to overcome sin. Remember, though, we must never skip the steps of having the right attitude first.

2. Read all of Psalm 119 today, underlining or marking each verse that tells us, in some way, how to avoid sin or to overcome it. Go back and read the marked verses over again.

3. You can see that a critical factor in our ability to overcome sin in our lives is our attitude toward God's Word. What attitudes toward the Word do you see as necessary in order to have victory over sin?

4. Any time you begin to get discouraged over a failure in your life or you see a brother or sister discouraged in the same way, you can bring encouragement by reading and meditating over these passages again.

Day 53 _____

1. Read James 1:13-15. What does this passage tell us about the way sin progresses in our lives? Is it possible to sin without some warning of temptation? List some practical things you can do when you first sense temptation in your life.

2. Read Philippians 4:6-9. Paul is dealing specifically with the sin of worry here, but we can easily draw some applications for any sin we are having trouble overcoming.

3. Why do you think it's important to pray with thanksgiving as described in verse 6? How is it possible to have a thankful attitude when you are dealing with sin?

4. In verse 8, Paul tells us to set our mind on the good. How will this action give us encouragement to have victory over sin?

5. Verse 9 tells us to get busy. Put into practice the things you already know. You know that it is right to think of others first, to encourage and serve. Don't sit around thinking about yourself...do something for someone else.

6. Notice in verse 7 and 9 the promise we can claim as we do these things.

Day 54 _____

1. Read Ephesians 4:17-5:21. Verses 22-24 teach us that we must put off the old behavior (sin) and replace it with something from God. List the examples we are given in this passage...what must be put off and what is to be put on.
2. What does Ephesians 5:1-2 teach us about the standard we should adopt for our life? How does aiming for perfection and running the race with perseverance fit in with this idea?
3. Read carefully Ephesians 5:5-7. Why is it important to be aware of the effect other people have on us and the way we are influenced to sin? How should we handle it when we realize that we are easily influenced to sin when we are with a particular person or group of people?
4. Ephesians 5:13-16 instructs us to live wisely, making the most of every opportunity. How will living a disciplined life help us to overcome sin? What are some things we can do when we find ourselves with lots of "empty" time on our hands?

Day 55 _____

1. Read I Corinthians 10:13. List the three promises God gives to us about overcoming sin in our lives. Why should it be such an encouragement to us to know that whatever temptation we face, it is common to man? Is there any temptation in your life that you have been reluctant to share with another Christian because you were afraid no one would understand? You can see from this passage that we are not alone in our battle against sin. If you really believe that God has victory over Satan, you must not doubt the assurance of your victory over sin with God's help.
2. Read James 4:7-10. How would you describe the attitude that we are called to have here? What are some ways that you can practically come near to God?
3. How can you practically resist the devil when you face the temptation to:
 - A. deceive?
 - B. lust?
 - C. have resentment?
 - D. selfishly indulge?
 - E. not care?
 - F. speak unwholesomely?
4. Read James 1:12. What do you think it means to persevere under trial? How do you know if you have stood the test? Describe some area in which you need to practice perseverance. Why will this area require this?

Day 56 _____

1. As we close out this week of study on "Victory Over Sin" write down several different ways we can "handle" sin in our lives other than the right way. After each of these write down the typical results of each.
2. In your own words write down the basic approach a Christian should take in gaining victory over sin.
3. How would you respond to this comment: "I would be much more encouraged to be in a church that didn't talk about sin because sin is such a negative idea?"
4. Spend some of your time in prayer concentrating on God's power to help us overcome sin. Be negative about sin but positive about God's power over it. Picture your victory.
5. In your battle against sin depend on God and never, never, never give-up. Read I John 3:1-3 and meditate on its message.

WEEK NINE

The Privilege of Prayer

Today you begin your ninth week in this study toward discipleship. No doubt, prayer has become something very important to you, as it should be. Yet, even in this greatest of privileges you may have experienced struggles. Prayer is not natural, but like so many other facets of being a disciple of Jesus, it has to be learned. This week you will concentrate on prayer.

Day 57 _____

1. Read carefully John 14:6-7. How has Jesus enabled you to come to God?
2. It is always more difficult to communicate with someone you barely know than with someone you are very close to. If you are young Christian you are still new in your relationship to God. Therefore, at first your prayers may be difficult. According to verse 7, where will we look and what will we do to know God better?
3. Read Ephesians 3:10-12 and Hebrews 4:14-16. These passages use the word "confidence" to describe how we approach God. What are some things you can bring before God today with confidence?
4. Today, concentrate on the confidence Jesus has given you as you pray to your Father.

Day 58 _____

1. There are certain things necessary for effective, joyful prayer. For the next 3 days we want to concentrate on these essentials.
2. Read Proverbs 15:8, 29 and James 5:16 and I John 3:7-8. List things you learn from each passage about prayer.
3. How is righteousness defined in I John?
4. What relationship is there between living "right" and having a strong, helpful prayer life?
5. Read carefully Matthew 26:36-44 and I John 5:14-15. Closely tied to being righteous is being submissive to God's will as you pray. God can accomplish much with a Christian who always prays, "not my will, but Your will be done." How can you tell if your prayers are unsubmitive prayers? What should you do to correct that? Why is it so important to be submissive in prayer?

Day 59 _____

1. No one will have a meaningful prayer life who does not appreciate the importance of prayer and perhaps nothing helps us see this importance more than the life of Jesus. Read Luke 5:15-16 and Luke 6:12-13 and Luke 9:18 and Luke 11:1 and Mark 1:32-36.
2. Because of these statements about Jesus, G.S. Thompson has written: "Prayer was the atmosphere in which He lived. It was the air He breathed." Robert Coleman commenting on the same Scripture has written: "Prayer was indeed the sweat and tears of His ministry. The battle of the cross was fought and won on His knees." The same author also wrote: "Jesus never got behind in His work because He never got behind in prayer."
3. Write down what the example of Jesus means to you in relationship to your prayer life.

Day 60 _____

1. Another key element in prayer is faith. Prayer alone without faith has no effect.
2. Read Joshua 10:12-14. Faith carries our prayers to the ears of God. God listened to a man, Joshua, because he prayed believing, and the sun and moon stood still. Joshua asked for something that was impossible, yet he asked the God who makes "all things possible."
3. Read Mark 11:22-24 again. What doubts have you had as you prayed? What situations seem impossible? Where do these doubts come from?
4. Read Luke 18:1-8 and Psalm 34:15. When is it important to remember these passages?
5. Read James 1:5-8. What does this say to you?
6. List three things you want to pray about with faith.

Day 61 _____

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. For the next two days we want to concentrate on some practical guidelines for prayer.

1. Read Matthew 6:5-8 and Luke 5:15-16. What do these passages seem to be telling you about prayer?

2. As you look at your living situation, what arrangements must you make to have a time and place to be alone with God?
3. Read Psalm 55:17. David prayed regularly. Jesus often withdrew to pray. Why is it important for you to have a regular, set time to pray? Why is it worth extra effort to work this out?
4. Read Ephesians 6:18 and I Thessalonians 5:17. Prayer is not limited to a set time and place, but should be spontaneous and continuous throughout the day. Why does God want us to "pray continually?" What does this mean to you? How might such a thing be done?

Day 62 _____

1. Read the prayer in Matthew 6:7-13.
2. List the different elements that make up this prayer.
3. Many times our prayers are concentrated only on certain subjects. Why is it important to remember to praise God as well as to ask for forgiveness or for our daily needs?
4. Look at verse 7. There is often a tendency to "babble" in our prayers. We find ourselves saying certain phrases over and over without real consideration. How do we overcome this tendency?

Day 63 _____

1. Read Philippians 4:4-7.
2. If we are to pray powerfully we must not only see the importance of prayer and the need for faith in prayer, but we must appreciate the joy of prayer.
3. Why should our prayer lives bring us joy?
4. What are some possible things that are wrong if a Christian does not see prayer as something that brings joy?
5. As you close this week of study on prayer, what patterns of prayer are in your life at this time? What changes do you want to make?

WEEK TEN

The Disciplined Life

This week of your study will be devoted to the area of discipline. This is an important part of doing the will of God in the most effective way possible. Disciplined Christian living means bringing all the areas of our lives under the control of Jesus Christ so that all we do fits together and contributes to our one purpose, to bring glory to God. When you became a Christian it was a decision to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, to put yourself under His discipline.

Day 64 _____

1. Read II Timothy 1:7. What kind of spirit has God given us? What kind of excuses do you sometimes give for being undisciplined? Are they valid?
2. With the promise of this kind of spirit you can believe that you can become a disciplined person no matter where you are right now. Decide that from this time forward that whatever changes need to be made will be made.
3. Read II Timothy 3:16-17. What part do the Scriptures play in becoming disciplined?
4. How could a failure to be disciplined in your study of the Scriptures affect being under God's discipline or control in other areas?
5. What kind of disciplined study do you want to have after this eleven week study is over?

Day 65 _____

1. Read I Corinthians 9:24-26.
2. What are some characteristics of discipline?
3. What is the purpose of discipline?
4. What are some characteristics of being undisciplined?
5. What does it mean to run aimlessly?
6. Are there any ways right now that you may be "running aimlessly?"

Day 66 _____

1. There are any numbers of things that are not wrong in and of themselves, but to do them in excess without God's control will have a negative effect on your life and outreach.
2. What example of this does Paul give in I Timothy 6:6-10?
3. In the past, what have been some things you might have done in excess without proper control or discipline?
4. Are there some things in your life right now that are not wrong but which could be done excessively if you aren't careful?
5. Meditate on what your life would look like with the different areas under control. Get the image fixed in your mind.

Day 67 _____

1. In yesterday's study you read a passage from I Timothy that dealt with our attitude toward money. One of the reasons it is so important to be disciplined in our use of money is that such discipline frees us to support the Kingdom of God in a financial way. It gives us the opportunity to express generosity.
2. Read II Corinthians 8:1-7. What would be necessary for someone in extreme poverty to "well up in rich generosity?" What steps would enable you to become more generous in your giving?
3. According to II Corinthians 9:6-11, what will be the joys of generosity?
4. How are you making your decisions about your giving? Do you see your giving as being generous? What sacrifices would you have to make to be more generous?

Day 68 _____

1. Read II Timothy 2:1-7 and look for the three analogies Paul uses to characterize the Christian life.
2. What discipline is involved in being a soldier?
3. What discipline is involved in being an athlete?
4. What discipline is involved in being a successful farmer?

5. As we seek to be disciplined like a soldier, an athlete, or a farmer why do we need to keep an eye on verse one, remember the grace of God?

Day 69 _____

1. Read and study Galatians 5:22-23.
2. Consider how the last element mentioned (self-control) relates to the others.
 - A. Why will a lack of self-control (self-discipline) hinder your ability to love?
 - B. Why will a lack of self-control interfere with peace?
 - C. Why will a lack of self-control often frustrate your ability to be kind, patient and gentle?
3. Self-control is a part of the fruit of the Spirit. That means we don't produce it on our own, but what willingness must there be in our lives if God is to produce this in us?

Day 70 _____

1. Self-discipline not only applies to how we use our time, money, and possessions. It applies to how we handle our emotions.
2. List three emotions that need to be controlled and disciplined in your life.
3. Read Hebrews 11:8. What emotions could have controlled Abraham in this instance? How does faith bring those emotions under control?
4. Consider the same questions as you read Hebrews 11:17-19.
5. Someone has said: "We lose control when **we** take control. In the same way we gain control when we give it to God." How does this need to apply to your life?

WEEK ELEVEN

Growth and Direction

Day 71 _____

1. Many seem to believe that the normal thing is for a person to grow as a Christian to a certain point and then level off. Read the following passages and see what you think.
 - A. Hebrews 5:11-14
 - B. I Peter 2:1-2
 - C. II Peter 1:5-8
 - D. II Peter 3:17-18
2. Look at Ephesians 3:14-19. How much is there to know? Who has learned enough?
3. It has been said that as Christians we either grow or dry up. Do you think this is true, why or why not?

Day 72 _____

Spiritual growth is something that you must go after. The following are 4 keys to enable you to more fully pursue that growth.

1. **Make a decision to grow.** Very seldom does any significant growth occur without this decision. Read Philippians 3:7-12. What is Paul's attitude toward growth? Notice especially verse 10 and 12. How are you answering this question right now: "In my own life what am I willing to give up in order to grow?"
2. **Concentrate on specifics.** Change takes place not in the vague or general but in the specific. "I want to be like Jesus." Okay! But how?
3. **Push yourself to grow.** We need to be so willing to put ourselves in situations where we must grow and where we must depend on God for His help. Read I Timothy 4:7. Why is the word "train" an important word here? When an athlete trains what does he do? What are some ways you can be pushing yourself to grow right now? (Think about areas where growth does not at all come naturally for you.)
4. **Have a vision for what you can become.** Read II Peter 1:3-11 and realize that you can become everything that Jesus would have you to become. What is the promise that we have in verse 3? End your time today by reading Philippians 1:6.

Day 73 _____

If we are not growing then what does that mean? Read the following passages and complete this statement for each: "If I am not growing then it must mean that..."

- A. John 12:25
- B. Ephesians 4:15
- C. Philippians 3:12-14
- D. Hebrews 12:1-2
- E. I Corinthians 9:19-23

Day 74 _____

All of us make plans...hopefully we have some dreams for our lives...goals. How can we know whether or not we're doing God's will? How can we know that decisions we are making are in keeping with God's will? The last 4 lessons will deal with this topic.

1. Read Romans 12:1-2. What does this passage teach about knowing God's will? The word here for transformed is the word "metamorphosis." The usage of this word implies a radical or drastic kind of change. What are some ways in which God has had to radically change you in order to make known His will to you?

2. Read I Thessalonians 5:16-17. Sometimes God's will is difficult to discover in our lives but **always** we know some right things to do. It is always right to be joyful, to pray continually, and to give thanks. Think back over the last week, are there some times when this was not your attitude? Why will this attitude help you see other aspects of God's will?

3. Read Ephesians 5:8-17. How does tolerating darkness in our lives keep us from knowing God's will? What is the definition of a "fool?"

4. Read Philippians 1:9-11. If we want to discern what is best then we must be letting our love abound more and more. So often, when we are struggling, when we have doubts or questions, when we don't know what God is trying to say to us, the best thing we can do is look for a way to serve someone. Are there some ways your love can be abounding more and more?

Day 75 _____

1. Read Psalm 20:1-5. From verse 4 we can draw two conclusions: 1) God wants His people to have plans. 2) When His people have godly plans He wants to bless those plans.

2. Why do you think that many religious people have no real plans for their spiritual development, but at the same time have various plans for other aspects of their lives?
3. If we don't have plans, then obviously God cannot make those plans succeed. It is, of course, possible to over-plan or to plan so much you can't possibly get to it all. But we all need plans...plans that God can bless. Write down elements in your plan for future growth in God's kingdom.
4. In the time you are spending with a more mature Christian, ask for their evaluation and feedback on your plans.

Day 76 _____

1. Read Psalm 37:1-11. Look especially at verse 4 and make a list of the desires of your heart that you know are God's desires as well.
2. Look at verse 5. Can you give some specific examples of how you need "to commit your way to the Lord?" What is the promise made to you in verse 6?
3. Look at verse 8. What kind of problems do you get into if you begin to "fret" over your plans?
4. Describe the difference you want your faith to make in your life...as you make decisions and as you go through trials.

Day 77 _____

1. This is the last day of your guide study. At this point you need to formulate plans for continuing your own personal Bible study. There are many ways for you to proceed. One suggestion is to pick a certain gospel, letter, etc. and work your way through it verse by verse. For younger Christians, a letter like I Peter or Colossians would make an excellent study.
2. Whatever you decide to do, have a specific plan. Beware of the "lucky dip" method that involves just letting the Bible fall open somewhere each day. That may be often used but it is unproductive.
3. As you leave this study don't think that you are through looking at these "foundational" ideas. You will need to come back to them again and again. Write down what you consider the most important things that you have learned so far about being a disciple of Jesus.
4. May God bless you in your future study of His will for your life.

It has been 77 days since you started this study. Hopefully you have been able to grasp the value and the importance of a daily quiet time with God. It is the desire of the Lord that Christians would continue to grow all through their Christian lives.

The Discipleship Ministry at the Church of Christ at Mountain View would be glad to assist you in your quest to be disciple of Jesus Christ. Remember the goal of every Christian should be to follow Jesus and strive to become like him.

You can do it! We can help!

For more information about the Discipleship Ministry or any other opportunities the church offers to help you to continue to grow spiritually contact Chris Straley at (540)664-2146 or the church office (540)869-2244.

