



## LESSON 6

### THE HOLY SPIRIT: HIS WORK AND GIFTS

It is vital that a disciple of Jesus Christ understand the work and gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Bible proclaims that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit at the same time. The third person of the trinity, the Holy Spirit, has often been misunderstood, neglected, and even ignored by many teachers because many aspects of the Holy Spirit are so hard to understand.

Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? These are the questions we will seek to answer in this lesson. Martin Luther described the work of the Holy Spirit in this way: “The Holy Spirit has called me (talking about all Christians) through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith.”

Then you can boldly claim the promises of Galatians 5:18, “*But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.*” And Romans 8:14, “*For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*”

#### **Study Questions**

1. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is God. Look up the following passages to see what these verses say about the





deity of the Holy Spirit.

a. The Holy Spirit is given the names of God. What names are given to the Holy Spirit in the following passages?

- 1 Corinthians 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Hebrews 9:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 5:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. The Holy Spirit has the same attributes of God. What attribute does the Holy Spirit share with God? Look up the following verses to find these attributes:

- Romans 8:2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- John 16:13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:30 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



3) Assignment—Complete the lesson on *Sharing Your Faith*.

Key Points of Lesson:

- Study Acts 1:8—Help the disciple understand that the Holy Spirit is empowering him or her to witness.
  - Help the disciple find a tool to use for witnessing.
  - Help the disciple to write out his or her testimony—work with them.
- 4) The 3 key parts of a testimony: What your life was like before Christ, how and where Christ became real in your life, and what difference Christ has made in your life.
  - 5) Encourage the disciple to witness to a friend!
  - 6) Pray together.

### **CONTINUING FOLLOW-UP IDEAS**

- 1) Pick a practical, influential book to continue going through and discussing weekly. Cover one chapter at a time over dinner or coffee.
- 2) Encourage participation in a weekly church Bible study.
- 3) Find evangelism opportunities in the area for both you and your disciple to be apart of.



## **LESSON 8—OBEDIENCE**

- 1) Review Key Points from Lesson 7: Did the disciple find a fellowship group that he/she can stay connected with?
- 2) Key Points of Lesson:
  - No one likes to obey anyone or any law. It is our nature to do things our own way!
  - Obedience is key to living an abundant Christian life. The Laws are there to protect us!
- 3) Assignment—Consider getting together again in a less teaching atmosphere to talk about obedience after applying it to every area of your lives. Maybe the disciple would love to continue studying another topic.
- 4) Assignment—Complete the lesson on *Temptation*. Help the disciple identify and write down the temptations they have this week—maybe you should do the same!
- 5) Pray together.

## **LESSON 9—TEMPTATION**

- 1) Review from Lesson 8: Does the disciple struggle with obedience?
- 2) Key Points of Lesson:
  - No one is above temptation!
  - The closer one gets to Jesus, the more temptation will come.
  - Help the disciple be ready for the battle.



- Hebrews 9:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Psalm 139:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Corinthians 2:11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What does the Holy Spirit do? Look up the following verses and list the ways the work of the Holy Spirit is described.
  - a. Read John 6:63 — It is the Holy Spirit that gives \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. What a wonderful promise of salvation! (See also Romans 8:11)
  - b. Read Titus 3:5-6 — God saves us through the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit. These verses tell us that the Holy Spirit is active in bringing us to salvation in Christ.
  - c. Read John 14:26 — The Holy Spirit is our \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. He teaches us and guides us regarding the Word of God. (See also John 16:13)
  - d. Read John 16:8 — The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ us of our \_\_\_\_\_. This work is necessary for growth as a Christian.
  - e. Read Romans 8:26 — The Holy Spirit helps us to



\_\_\_\_\_. He gives us the words to say even when we don't know how to talk to God.

- f. Read Romans 8:16 — The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ that we are God's children. This gives us assurance of our salvation.
  - g. Read Acts 1:8 — The Holy Spirit gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ to be witnesses of the work of Christ.
  - h. Read Acts 4:31 — The Holy Spirit gives us \_\_\_\_\_ to share the Word of God.
  - i. Read 2 Peter 1:20-21 — This verse says “...men moved by the \_\_\_\_\_ spoke from God.” This passage as well as other verses (Hebrews 10:15-16, 1 Corinthians 2:10-13) tells us that the Holy Spirit was active in inspiring God's words, and today the Spirit helps to explain the Bible to us.
3. The Word of God promises that all believers have the Holy Spirit in them (Acts 2:38, 1 Corinthians 3:16). This presence of the Holy Spirit is marked by our actions. Galatians 5:22-24 lists the “fruit” of a life that is guided by the Holy Spirit. Take a moment to list the fruit of the Spirit.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



## LESSON 6—THE HOLY SPIRIT: HIS WORK AND GIFTS

- 1) Review Key Points from Lesson 5: Go through each of the attributes and help the disciple grasp the awesomeness of the God we serve.
- 2) Key Points of Lesson:
  - Who is the Holy Spirit?
  - What is His work in a believers' daily life?
- 3) Assignment for next time—The key to staying connected with the Body of Christ is fellowship. Have the disciple try to identify the Holy Spirit's work in his/her life during the week. Also complete the lesson on *Fellowship*.
- 4) Pray together.

## LESSON 7—FELLOWSHIP

- 1) Review Key Points from Lesson 6: What did the Holy Spirit do in your life this past week?
- 2) Key Points of Lesson:
  - Can you live a Christian life without being connected to a body of believers?
  - Please focus on the necessity of being connected.
- 3) Assignment—Get connected with a body of believers. Help your disciple find a worship place and Bible study with which they are comfortable. Also complete the lesson on *Obedience*.
- 4) Pray together.



- Explain, “What is Prayer?”
  - Help the disciple realize that prayer is simple communication with their Savior (Jesus).
  - Talk about the fact that there is nothing too big or too small to pray about.
  - Prayer is the lifeline to Jesus.
- 3) Spend some time with your disciple outside of the Discipling time. Introduce them to other believers.
  - 4) Assignment—Complete the lesson on *Attributes of God*
  - 5) Pray together.

**LESSON 5—ATTRIBUTES OF GOD**

- 1) Review Key Point from Lesson 4: Communication with our Savior is essential to keep a sweet relationship with Him.
- 2) Key Points of Lesson:
  - The Word of God reveals the true God who is in control everything.
  - Ask the disciple to apply the truth of God’s attributes to his daily life.
- 3) Assignment —Complete the lesson on *The Holy Spirit: His Work and Gifts*.
- 4) Pray together.

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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. Finally, the Holy Spirit gives Christians special abilities called spiritual gifts. The Bible promises that all Christians receive these gifts. Each gift is important for the work of God’s kingdom, and each gift is a blessing from God. The Bible relates these gifts to a human body. A human body consists of different parts such as legs, fingers, eyes and a head. Each body part has a special function, yet they all work together to accomplish tasks. In the same way the gifts given by the Holy Spirit work together to accomplish the tasks that God wants His children to do.

A. These Gifts of the Spirit can be categorized in the following way:

- **Motivational Gifts** (Romans 12:6-8) List these gifts (find 7):

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



- \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- v. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- vi. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- vii. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- **Manifestation Gifts** (1 Corinthians 12:8-11) List these gifts (find 9):

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- v. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- vi. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- Jesus will help you through every problem.
- Inform the disciple about our enemies: the world, the Devil, and the flesh

- 3) Assignment —Complete the lesson on *How to Read/Study the Bible*
- 4) Pray together.

### **LESSON 3—HOW TO READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE**

- 1) Review Key Point from Lesson 1: Salvation is based on the finished work of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection. Stress the fact of this statement.
- 2) Key Points of Lesson:
  - There will be no relationship with a person unless there is communication—face-to-face, by talking on the phone, or through written letters.
  - Make sure the disciple understands that it is essential to communicate daily with God.

- 3) Assignment —Complete the lesson on *How to Pray*
- 4) Pray together.

### **LESSON 4—HOW TO PRAY**

- 1) Review Key Point: The Word of God is literally God speaking to you.
- 2) Key Points of Lesson:



You may notice that the lessons are different lengths. Please be flexible and sensitive to the needs of the individual you are discipling.

- Teach it
- Apply it
- Live it
- Talk about it

### **LESSON 1—ASSURANCE OF SALVATION**

- 1) Review Key Point: My (your) sins are forgiven!!!
- 2) Key Points of Lesson:
  - Make sure the Law has done its work and that the disciple is truly converted.
  - Make sure the disciple has assurance of salvation!
- 3) Application: Help the disciple understand that their salvation is dependent on facts, not feelings.
- 4) Assignment —Bible reading and prayer.
- 5) Pray together.

### **LESSON 2—LIFE AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST**

- 1) Review Key Point: Disciples of Jesus Christ walk by faith.
- 2) Key Points of Lesson
  - Struggles are part of life.

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vii. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

viii. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ix. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- **Ministry Gifts** (Ephesians 4:11) List these gifts (find 5, although the last two are closely linked):

i. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

iii. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

iv. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

v. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. These gifts are not to be neglected. Rather, they are to be used faithfully and diligently so that others might be saved. (Read 1 Timothy 4:11-15)



C. These wonderful gifts of the Spirit are to be used for the purpose of preparing God's people for works of service and to promote unity and maturity (Ephesians 4:12-13). In 1 Peter 4:10-11, Peter gives us three ways these gifts should be used. List them.

- To s\_\_\_\_\_ others (vs. 10)
- To give God's g\_\_\_\_\_ to others (vs. 10)
- To give p\_\_\_\_\_ to God (vs. 11)

***The Day of Pentecost: Acts 2:1-4, 16-18***

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance...but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

*“And It shall be in the last days’ God says, That I will pour out my Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, Even on my bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth my spirit, And they shall prophesy.”*

## DISCIPLER’S GUIDE

### INTRODUCTION

What a privilege it is for you, mature disciple, to lead a new disciple in the basics of the faith! Please approach this task with much care and prayer. The first lesson should be done with the disciple. Take time to work through the lesson. Talk about each point. Let the disciple know the importance of applying each truth to their life.

It is essential that prayer is the first and last thing you do each time you meet. It would be good to help the disciple to become very comfortable in praying in front of you. Transparency is very important as you pour your life into this new disciple of Jesus. Notice that this individual is not your disciple, remember that he or she is to be Jesus’ disciple. 1 Corinthians 11:1 *“Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”*

Application of the lesson must be a main topic of your discussion. This individual needs to be thinking about the truths each day so that they become ingrained in his or her life. There needs to be a time at the beginning of the next lesson to ask the disciple how the truth from the last lesson was applied each day since you last met.







## **SUGGESTED EVANGELISM RESOURCES:**

- *God's Master Plan of Evangelism*—Robert E. Coleman
- *Out of the Salt Shaker into the World*—Nina Wallestad
- *Share Jesus Without Fear*—William Fay
- *Tell it Often Tell it Well*—Mark McCloskey
- [www.wayofthemaster.com](http://www.wayofthemaster.com)
- *The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel*—CFW Walther

## **Assignments in Response to Lesson # 10**

- 1) Continue to read your Bible and pray.
- 2) Witness to a friend.
- 3) Write in a journal all that you have learned from the time spent with your Discippler.

## **NOTES:**



## **LESSON 7**

### **FELLOWSHIP**

We have seen in the study of spiritual gifts that gifts are given for the edification, the building up of the church. When one becomes a Christian and thus a disciple, he or she is not meant to follow Christ alone. 1 Cor. 12:7, *“But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”* It is in the midst of the church, the congregation of fellow believers, where we enjoy fellowship with God and with man. It is vitally important to be connected to such a fellowship.

Take a look at 1 John 1:1-4. These verses talk of the two-fold relationship of fellowship. The first aspect of this fellowship is the vertical relationship between God and Man. The second aspect of this fellowship is a horizontal relationship with our fellow believers. Let's take a look at what Scripture says about these two aspects of fellowship.

### **Study Questions**

#### ***THE VERTICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN***

1. God calls us into a fellowship and relationship with Him in Isaiah 45:22, *“Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the*



earth; for I am God, and there is no other.” Therefore, we are to seek to have a special relationship with Him. How has God established a relationship with you?

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2. In Psalm 73:24 we find a promise that God will counsel and guide us. What other promise can we find in this verse?

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3. According to John 10:14-15, what are the two promises received through fellowship with God? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-16. What does this passage say to you about God’s love for those who have fellowship with Him? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. All those who have fellowship with God can look joyfully at the promise of Luke 23:43. What is that promise? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. As you seek to share your faith, it may be helpful to have a simple format in mind ready to use. Every situation will be different. Each person will have specific questions and comments. Some people might not even want to listen to you! Don’t get discouraged. Remember, it is the Holy Spirit at work through the Word of God as you share the Faith.

- Have your testimony ready. A testimony should include how God saved you and how He is working in your life now. Read Paul’s testimony in the book of Acts for direction.
- Discern what status the person is currently in. For example, if the person you are sharing your faith with does not feel conviction of sin, he is not ready to hear the Gospel. He needs the Law. If the person is feeling terrible conviction of sin, he or she needs to hear the Gospel.
- Questions are great tools to use. Jesus used questions when speaking with people. Think with the person and ask good, thought-provoking questions to stimulate discussion. If you don’t know an answer to a question, tell the person you don’t know but will search for an answer.
- As you share your faith, pray for the salvation of the person.
- These are just a few tips to help you share your faith. There are many wonderful resources available that can help you evangelize.



- ◆ How and when did the Apostle Peter use the Gospel in his sermon? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ If you have further questions about the distinction between Law and Gospel, please ask your pastor.

5. According to the following verses, **WHY** should you evangelize?

- Revelation 20:11-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Matthew 28:18-20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Mark 16:15-16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Romans 1:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 6. In Philippians 1:22-23, Paul is talking about being pulled between the flesh and his desire to be with Christ. Why is it far better to be with Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7. 1 Peter 1:8 talks about faith. Can we have fellowship with God without faith? \_\_\_\_\_ What do you think happens if we believe, yet fail to seek and develop a relationship with God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***THE HORIZONTAL RELATIONSHIP WITH FELLOW BELIEVERS***

- 1. According to Acts 2:42, in addition to the learning, praying and partaking in the Lord's Supper, what did the disciples do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. In Galatians 6:1-10, Paul admonishes the believers to do what three things? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Read Philippians 2:1-11. What does it say in regard to how we are to treat fellow believers, and how does this relate to fellowship? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_




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4. What does Ecclesiastes 4:10, 12 say are advantages to fellowship with believers? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What does Proverbs 27:17 say about fellowship? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What four things does the author of Hebrews encourage us to do in Hebrews 10:23-25? \_\_\_\_\_

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As it is clearly seen from the above verses, it is essential to the vitality of the Christian life to be in fellowship with other believers. If we aren't, then we do not commune with the body of Christ and we suffer because of it. Fellowship with God and fellowship in the midst of the congregation are enjoyable.



- What is the place of good works in evangelism?

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- What is the place of suffering in light of evangelism?

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4. According to 1 Peter 3:13-17, **HOW** should you evangelize?

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- In 1 Peter 3:13, what is meant by "what is good"?

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- What is the purpose of prayer in evangelism? \_\_\_\_\_

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- Keeping the proper distinction between Law and Gospel is important to remember when sharing your faith. Read Acts 2:22-40. How did the Apostle Peter use the Law when he preached to the people?

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- What message do you have to share ? \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. According to 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, **WHO** should evangelize?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- Who is included in the phrase “in Christ”? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- What does it mean to be an ambassador? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- Are there other references calling us to share the gospel? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3. According to 1 Peter 3:13-17, **WHEN** should you evangelize?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Suggested Follow-up Verses:

- 1 John 1:7
- Ephesians 4
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
- 1 John 4:7-8
- Romans 12:5
- 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
- Ephesians 3:6
- Ephesians 5:30

### Preparing for Lesson # 8

- 1) Continue reading the Bible.
- 2) Complete the lesson on *Obedience* before your next appointment.
- 3) Memorize Acts 1:8.
- 4) Talk to people you know at church about Jesus.
- 5) Take notes during the pastor’s sermon.

### NOTES:



## LESSON 10

### SHARING YOUR FAITH

Evangelism, witnessing, and “sharing your faith” are all terms that Christians use to describe the work of proclaiming, or telling, the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ to the world. It is what the early Christians were empowered to do (Acts 1:8) and it was part of their mission to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). We have been given a wonderful gift in the grace of God. In this last lesson of the discipleship manual we will learn why we should share the faith and helpful hints on how to do it.

#### Study Questions

1. According to Luke 8:39, **WHAT** is evangelism? \_\_\_\_\_

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- Do you have to be an evangelist to do evangelism?

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- Who is qualified to evangelize? \_\_\_\_\_

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passion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; how blessed are all those who long for Him.”

- 4. Psalm 34:15 says, “The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and His ears are open to their cry.” Why does King David remind us that the Lord is attentive to us when we cry out? \_\_\_\_\_

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Temptation will find a way into the lives of committed disciples of Jesus. This chapter has been a warning to you, new disciple, that temptation lies ahead! Strap on that armor of God, arm yourself with the Word and Spirit of God, and go do battle!

### **Preparing for Lesson # 10**

- 1) Continue to read your Bible and pray.
- 2) Complete the lesson on *Sharing Your Faith* before your next appointment.
- 3) Memorize John 14:21.
- 4) Focus on obeying the Word of God as you read it this week.
- 5) Set your heart on total commitment to knowing and obeying Jesus.

<sup>1</sup> LW vol. 6 p. 133

<sup>2</sup> O. Hallesby. “Religious or Christian” p. 71

<sup>3</sup> Hallesby, 71



## LESSON 8

### OBEDIENCE

True Christian obedience is not a set of “do’s” and “don’ts”. It’s a lifestyle marked by continual focus on Jesus and the cross. Our obedience to God flows from what God has done for us. Ephesians 2:1-10 is a good reminder of what God has done. These verses state who we once were; we were dead in our trespasses and sins (v. 1). The good news is that God loved us even when we were dead in our trespasses (vv. 4b, 5). For it is by grace we were saved (v. 8). Finally, we see that we are His workmanship created for all good works (v. 10). So it is friends, our obedience flows out of who we once were, what we are in Christ, and what we do in Christ.

Furthermore, obedience is rooted in God’s love. Romans 5:8 declares, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” We can love God by being obedient to Him, because He first loved us. No longer are we slaves to sin, but servants to Christ. Scripture is clear that believers are to be obedient to God. One such passage is Matthew 16:24, “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’” (This same verse is repeated in Mark 8:34 and Luke 9:23)



Undoubtedly, the word “cross” would have conjured up thoughts in the disciples minds of a violent, degrading death. In this verse Christ is demanding willful commitment from His disciples even unto death. The greater context of this verse comes from Matthew 16:21 where we learn that Jesus told His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and also be killed and raised from the dead three days later. Jesus suffered, died, and rose from the dead for our sake. It is for this reason only that we can even bear the cross, even unto death. Death has lost its sting and we can now joyfully pick up our cross and follow Jesus!

**Study Questions**

1. What are some words or phrases that describe Christ, according to Matthew 16:21-24? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does this tell us about our attitude toward Christ and what He did for us? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is our motivation for picking up our cross? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



**TRUE FORGIVENESS**

*“Temptation will gain the victory over us if we do not learn to turn to the Lord at once for help. The danger in connection with temptation is that it little by little distorts our perspective and weakens our moral judgment, as a result of which our view of the sin which is tempting us is altered little by little, under the quiet influence of the temptation.”<sup>4</sup>*

**Study Questions**

1. According to 1 John 1:5-10, why do we need to ask for forgiveness when we have sinned? \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Consider Luke 15:11-32. Why does the father respond the way he does? \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. There will be times in your life after you have sinned that you will think, “God doesn’t want me.” This is a lie from Satan. It is unfortunate that people think this even though the Bible is full of verses like Isaiah 30:18 *“Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have com-*



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2. Discuss the armor of God. How does it relate to the Christian fighting temptation? \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_
  
  3. According to 1 Corinthians 10:13, what gracious promise has been given to the believer? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
  4. Read Hebrews 4:15-16. What do these verses tell us about temptation and Jesus \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
  5. According to Matthew 4, how does Jesus respond to temptation? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
  6. Read James 1:2-4. What type of attitude should we have as we are being tempted or when we are in a trial? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



**Warnings against not picking up our cross: (Law Statement)**

- Luke 14:27 *“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”* (Same verse repeated in Matthew 10:38).

**Other Scriptural references:** (I believe the following verses illustrate what it means to pick up our cross and follow Jesus. Basically, following Jesus means doing the will of God, i.e. presenting our bodies as living sacrifices, holy, and acceptable to God. Also it means abstaining from sexual immorality. In addition, it means loving God and people!)

- Romans 12:1-2 *“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

4. What are some ways in which we conform to the world?  
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5. Why is Christian obedience important? \_\_\_\_\_  
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1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 *“For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.”*

6. How do we know if we have done enough to please God?

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7. If God has called us to live holy lives, how do we do that?

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Matthew 22:36-39 *“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ And He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. And the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”*




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5. According to Matthew 5:11-12, Romans 8:18, 2 Thess. 1:5-7, and 2 Corinthians 4:7-10, what is God’s desired result of temptation for the believer? \_\_\_\_\_

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**FIGHTING TEMPTATION**

Hallesby says that *“in the hour of temptation something very significant takes place within us, something very decisive in its importance, something vital to our whole being. The hours of temptation are brief, but fraught with destiny and filled with eternal import. The course of our life, not only the temporal, but the eternal as well, is determined in these fleeting moments.”*<sup>3</sup>

**Study Questions**

1. According to Ephesians 6:12, against whom are we fighting the battle? \_\_\_\_\_

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temptation. We will also look at the causes of temptation.

**Study Questions**

1. What is the difference between testing and temptation?

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2. What are some reasons why God tests His people? (Acts 14:22; 2 Cor. 12:7-9; 1 Peter 1:6-7; Isaiah 26:16; 1 Peter 4:1)

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3. According to Matthew 4:1, 1 Corinthians 7:5, 2 Corinthians 11:3, 1 Chronicles 21:1, and 1 Thessalonians 3:5, who is the main source of all temptation? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Even though Satan tempts us, what role does our sinful nature play? (Romans 7; Galatians 5:17) \_\_\_\_\_

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Galatians 5:13-14 *“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

8. What does God command us to do in these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Why is there no list of things we must do in this discussion of the greatest commandment? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. What are some ways in which we can show love to our neighbors? \_\_\_\_\_

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Disciples of Jesus Christ obey God out of a heart of thankfulness for what Jesus Christ has done for us. The motivation comes from knowing the Gospel. When somebody obeys God because they feel they *have to*, their obedience may feel similar to that of a slave. This is motivation by the Law. Ask yourself: “Why do I obey God?”



## Preparing for Lesson # 9

- 1) Continue reading the Bible and praying every day.
- 2) Complete the lesson on *Temptation* before your next appointment.
- 3) Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:13.
- 4) As you intentionally obey the words of Christ this week, remember who God is and what He has done for you.
- 5) Take notes during the pastor's sermon.

### NOTES:

3. Do a careful study of Romans 7. What is the major thing that Paul is struggling with? \_\_\_\_\_

4. According to Paul, what role does the sinful flesh have upon the Christian regarding the issue of temptation? (Galatians 5:17; Romans 7) \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is meant by the following phrase, "*the agony of temptation is evidence of life*"? \_\_\_\_\_

### **THE NATURE OF TEMPTATION**

It is important for us to know the nature of temptation. Through this study we will notice the difference between testing and



Through this study, our hope and prayer is that you will gain a greater understanding of yourself and temptation. It is also our hope that you will learn what God has laid out for you so that, by His grace you can resist temptation. Most of all, our desire is that through the work of the Spirit of God through His Word, you will be brought to a place having peace with God through His gracious forgiveness.

### THE NATURE OF THE CHRISTIAN

When dealing with temptation, it is important to lay the foundation. This is why one must look at the nature of the Christian. This is important because one's understanding of their own nature will directly dictate how they view and handle temptation.

#### Study Questions

1. Based on Romans 3:9-23, Ephesians 2:1-3, and Colossians 2:13, what is the nature of man before conversion? How complete is the depravity? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Based on 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:4, and Ephesians 4:20-24, describe what happens when a sinner is born again.

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## LESSON 9

### TEMPTATION

*“You cannot prevent the birds from flying over your head. But let them only fly and do not let them build nests in the hair of your head. Let them be thoughts and remain such; but do not let them become conclusions.”* Martin Luther <sup>1</sup>

Martin Luther was no stranger to temptation. It seems from his writings that Luther experienced more temptation as attacks from the world, flesh, and the Devil than most. Luther did not enjoy temptation, and yet he saw it as something from which he could grow. For many, temptation is not seen in this light. Luther believed that in order for the Christian to grow, one would face temptation and learn by the grace of God to resist and grow from it. Norwegian devotional writer O. Hallesby agreed with Luther when he wrote, *“Character cannot be formed without being tried in the flaming fires of temptation.”* <sup>2</sup>

As we approach the topic of temptation, it is important to lay some ground work which will help in our understanding of the battle. We will look at four main issues surrounding temptation. We will first look at the nature of the Christian, and secondly, the nature of temptation. After these two foundational truths are established, we will learn how to resist temptation and then close with the Gospel promise of forgiveness.