

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

SCRIPTURE READING: John 6:60-70, John 8:30-36, John 13:34-35, Matt 28:19-20

MEMORY VERSE: John 8:31-32

PURPOSE: To cause us to think about our relationship with the Lord. To have us examine ourselves and make the necessary changes and adjustments to our lives in order to be disciples of the blessed Lord Jesus Christ.

LESSON: As you prepare to study this course pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and determine within yourself that you will do as HE directs. Read the scriptures at the head of each lesson prayerfully. Then read the comments. Think about what you are reading. Then to the best of your ability in your own words answer the questions as you believe the Holy Spirit would want you to.

I DISCIPLESHIP DEFINED

A. The Disciple:

1. "A learner"; "one who follows ones teachings"; "to learn". The Greek word indicates THOUGHT accompanied by ENDEAVOR. Thus we have, "one who THINKS upon or considers the teachings of another and then puts forth the **necessary effort** or applies himself to PUT IN TO PRACTICE the teachings or instructions he receives".

II SOME ASPECTS OF DISCIPLESHIP TO CONSIDER

A. The Teacher:

1. John the Baptist had his disciples, the Pharisees had theirs, Moses had his and today JESUS has HIS. Every disciple has someone who they listen to and follow.

2. Today there are all kinds and types of teachers trying to get people to follow them and their teachings. There are various CULTS, RELIGIONS, DENOMINATIONS, PREACHERS, SO CALLED WISE MEN, INDIVIDUALS AND CHURCHES, there are even DEMONIC SPIRITS who attempt to use ANY means possible to seduce or trick people into believing a lie.

3. The TRUE DISCIPLE of Christ has three primary teachers and they ALL agree. JESUS, the HOLY SPIRIT and the WORD (Bible).

A. Willful Submission to the Teacher:

1. A commitment is made on the disciple's part. "I will listen, I will consider and I will obey or apply in my own life the teachings, instructions and directions given."

2. If a disciple's commitment is not steadfast or sure then his discipleship will be shaken. He will cease to be a disciple and become a mere believer. He will cease to follow the Lord.

3. Willful obedience is required. "I will apply", requires not only commitment but DISCIPLINE.

A. The Example Given

1. As disciples (followers) we learn not only from the words spoken but from the EXAMPLE given. The actions, lifestyle of the teacher, His character, His attitudes, His motives and His desires. A duplicate is being made. Eventually a true disciple will develop the same CHARACTER, ATTITUDES, MOTIVES, OPINIONS etc. as his teacher.

III CONCLUSION

A. Areas of Christian development:

1. There are at least eight (8) areas of Christian development, which we need to consider and cultivate in order to become disciples. We have indicated these on our board (below) all connected to the hub, which is, labeled JESUS.

1. Daily Communion with the Lord. 1 John 15:1-4
2. Daily Word Study. 2 Timothy 2:15
3. Daily Application of the Word. James 1:22
4. Daily Prayer. Ephesians 6:17
5. Fellowship with Believers. Hebrews 10:24-25
6. Praise. Hebrews 13:15
7. Witnessing Acts 1:8
8. Spiritual Warfare. Ephesians 6:10

IV QUESTIONS

- A. Do the scriptures that we read and studied indicate that there is a difference between a disciple and a believer?
- B. If the answer to question A is yes. What is the difference?
- C. In **Matthew 28:19-20** the phrase "teach all nations" literally means to "make disciples of". As verse 20 indicates the disciples mission in this life is to "teach them to observe all things".
 1. What is your church doing about this command of Jesus?
 2. What are you doing about this command of Jesus?
 3. In your opinion are we merely making believers or are we making disciples?
- A. In **John 13:34-35** Jesus indicates the outstanding characteristic (mark or sign) of being a true disciple. What is it?
- B. In **John 6:60-71** many of Jesus' disciples quit following HIM and went away.
 1. Were they true disciples?
 2. Why do you think this is?
 3. In view of these scriptural teachings are YOU a believer or disciple?
 4. (For meditation, thought and discussion). Were the people who followed Jesus for a while and then went away, saved or lost?
 5. What does the BIBLE have to say about how a person can know that they are saved or lost? List at least three (3) scriptures:
 - A. In **John 8:36** Jesus states that a disciple will be free. What does this mean to YOU?
 1. According to the context, what is a disciple to be free from?
 - A. In your opinion, are there any real excuses for not being a disciple and following Jesus?
 - B. If your answer to G is Yes, then please list each one below. The following excuses are being used by me as good reasons for not being faithful to the Lord Jesus and for not being a disciple:
 - C. We thank you for being hones with yourself and with the Lord. There is always room for improvement, isn't there? Will you make a commitment to be a real disciple and begin to work on any excuses as the HOLY SPIRIT directs?

THANK YOU!

GOD BLESS!

WE LOVE YOU!

BRO. LEWIS

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION

As spokes in a wheel strengthen and share in the over all load of the wagon so our development or lack thereof of these eight (8) areas in relationship with Jesus will determine just how well we bear up under the loads of life. Jesus is always the center. All of our other developments must be centered in HIM and led by the Holy Spirit. Our focus on anyone of the spokes should never distract us from HIM. (Heb. 12: 2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;")



DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

PART II: DAILY WORD STUDY AND APPLICATION

SCRIPTURE READING: John 8:31-32; 2 Tim.2:15; 2 Tim 3:15-17; Matt.4:4; 1Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet.1:20-21; Heb.4:12; Mark 4:14-20

MEMORY VERSE: 2 Tim.2:15

PURPOSE: To understand the importance of regular daily Bible study and the daily application of the scriptures in our lives, i.e. what does the Word tell me to do when I am tempted to worry, to lose my temper, to talk about someone, to be lonely etc.

LESSON: There has never been and there will never be a book written like the BIBLE. It is more than just a book, it is a living, breathing revelation of God's will; His plan and purpose for man on this earth and foretells the future of this earth. To the true disciple the WORD OF GOD is his food. When one reads and studies the word it is quickened to his SPIRIT BY the Holy Spirit and it provides strength, knowledge and wisdom far beyond what anyone in the world can imagine.

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF WORD STUDY:

1. Just as the natural man's body (the physical) requires food (a well balanced diet) to remain healthy and to live, so the SPIRITUAL man requires food. The daily intake of the Word of God causes us to be strong, healthy, and to grow in our innermost being. Without it we will be weak, sickly and will remain babies or mental morons (spiritually weak) for the rest of our lives. (1 Pet.2:2; Matt 4:4; 2 Pet. 3:18).

2. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him"(God). (Heb.11:6) "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God". (Rom.10:17) In order to please God (and what Christian doesn't want to please Him) and in order to be a person of FAITH we ABSOLUTELY MUST spend time in the Word of God. Our faith grows and we become more pleasing to God as we spend time (daily) in the Word of God. It goes without saying, if we don't, we won't.

3. The WORD helps us to know and to understand the WILL OF GOD, HIS plan and PURPOSE for our lives. From His Word we learn how to please HIM and also how not to be ashamed of HIM at HIS appearing. (2 Tim. 2:15; Eph. 5:17)

4. Word study helps us to "rightly divide" or to understand the scriptures. To be able to distinguish TRUTH from ERROR. Those who do not get into the Word are the most susceptible to false spirits, false teachers, false doctrines and doctrines of demons. (2 Tim.2:15; 2 Tim.3:15-17; John 8:31-32; 1 Tim. 4:1).

5. Word study makes us "wise unto Salvation", through faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation effects all three aspects of man (Spirit, Soul and Body). We must be wise in order to develop the complete man. This wisdom can only come from God. (2 Tim.2:15; Eph. 5:17; Hosea 4:6).

6. Word study helps us to distinguish between what is SPIRITUAL and what is SOULICAL or CARNAL. Only the Spiritual man can see within himself and discern the motives, attitudes and true thoughts of his heart. As we search the Word for truth the Word SEARCHES US. The Holy Spirit inspired Word of God only accomplishes this. (Heb.4:12)

7. Word study provides us with DOCTRINE, REPROOF, CORRECTION, INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS. Word study and the application of the word will make us MATURE and will bring us into all good works. We will be able to please God. (2 Tim. 3:15-17)

8. Word study helps us to bring forth fruit for God. The WORD is the SEED which produces the crop. The more seed (Word) we sow (plant) the greater will be the harvest. (Mark 4:14-20)

II. QUESTIONS:

1. Are you spiritually mature or are you still a spiritual baby? _____
2. How much of the Bible have you read? 1/8, 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, all? _____
3. How much of the Bible have you studied? 1/8, 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, all? _____

* Here is a clue to assist you with questions 1 & 2. There are 1189 chapters in the Bible. Compare this to the number of chapter that you have read and studied.

4. What is the longest chapter in the Bible? _____
5. What is the shortest chapter in the Bible? _____
6. What is the shortest verse in the Bible? _____

* The answers to questions 4-6 will not be found in our study verses. You will need a good reference bible or a bible reference book.

7. How many verses of the Bible have you committed to memory? _____

* There are 31,173 in the Bible. Divide this number into the number memorized to obtain percentage.

8. Do you read and study the Bible daily? Yes _____ No _____

9. Whatever your answer to question 8 is, WHY? _____

10. Do you know the actual difference between your SOUL and your SPIRIT? _____

11. Is Daily Bible study important to YOU? Yes _____ No _____

12. Do you KNOW God's will, plan and purpose for YOUR life? Yes _____ No _____

13. In the story of the SOWER as told by Jesus in Mark 4, where was the SEED (WORD) to be sown (planted)?

14. In this same story (Mark 4), what three (3) hindrances caused the seed (word) to not bring forth a crop or to be unfruitful? _____

15. Also the Word (seed) planted in the good soil produced three (3) quantities. What are they? _____

16. At what production level would you consider the Word to be bringing forth fruit in YOUR life? _____

WHY? _____

17. How many books are there in the Bible? _____ How many books in the Old Testament? _____ How many in the New Testament? _____ How many people did God use to write the Bible? _____ and over how many years? _____

18. Where did the Bible come from? _____ How did we get it? _____

19. In what language or languages was the original text of the Bible written? _____

20. Did the original translators (men) change the true meaning of the scriptures? _____

21. Do you believe that God watches over His Word? _____

THANK YOU!

GOD BLESS YOU!

ISN'T JESUS WONDERFUL!

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

PART III: DAILY WORD STUDY AND APPLICATION (CONTINUED)

SCRIPTURE READING: John 8:31-32; James 1:22; Matt. 7:21-29; Psa.119:11, Psa.119:67, 71,105,130,162; Joshua 1:7-8; Deut.6:3-7;Deut. 11: 18-28.

MEMORY VERSE: 2 Tim.2:15

PURPOSE: To understand the importance of regular daily Bible study and the daily application of the scriptures in our lives, i.e. what does the Word tell me to do when I am tempted to worry, to loose my temper, to talk about someone, to be lonely etc.

LESSON: When a passage of scripture is believed and acted upon strange and wonderful things begin to happen: lives are changed; bodies are healed; attitudes are changed; lives are filled with peace and joy; fears, doubts and worries are removed; many other things happen too numerous to mention. All because someone dared to believe the WORD of GOD and put it into practice. Will You?

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF WORD APPLICATION:

A. Jesus states that a disciple is one who CONTINUES in HIS WORD.

1. He continues to LEARN and to APPLY the lessons learned.
2. There is both an instantaneous and progressive FREEDOM for those who become disciples. (John 8:31-32)

B. James says that a true believer will apply or put into practice the WORD in his daily life. He also states that if anyone professes to be a believer but does not put into PRACTICE or APPLY the WORD in their lives, then that person has been deceived. (James 1:21-27)

1. The more knowledgeable of the WORD one is the more responsible he is. (Matt.13:12; Luke 12:47-48)
2. The more we apply the word given the more the word is given. Also the more we understand the word.

Revelation (the true understanding) of the word comes from GOD through the Holy Spirit. Why should He give us more when we are not applying what we already have.

C. Jesus describes a disciple as a man who is building his house upon a rock. (Matt. 7:21-29). He not only hears the word but he is a DOER of the word.

- 1.This man builds progressively. LINE upon LINE, PRECEPT upon PRECEPT here a little and there a little. (Isaiah 28:10-13) Gradually his spiritual house (his inner-man) takes shape and grows in maturity.
2. Such a persons spiritual house will stand against all of the storms of life.
3. The individual who **is not** a DOER of the word is building his house upon a sandy foundation and his spiritual house will not be able to stand even in the least of storms. The storms of life i.e. worry, doubt, fear, strife, turmoil, confusion etc.will lead to his total frustration, defeat and utter failure.

D. The WORD hidden in our heart keeps us from sin. (Psalms 119:11)

- 1.The very best way to remember the word is to apply what it says to our daily situations and circumstances.

E. The true disciple will usually come into affliction before he learns to apply the word in all his daily affairs. In fact many of the trials and problems, which come to Christians is to teach them to get into the WORD and to apply its precepts. (Psa. 119:67 & 71)

F. The WORD brings LIGHT and understanding in all areas and aspects of our lives. (Psa. 119:105)

G.The Word will make us wise in ALL matters. In spiritual things, worldly matters, business affairs, school, family, health and finances, to name just a few. The Bible is a very practical book. (Psa. 119:130)

H. The Word becomes more and more precious and valuable to us as we go along following its instructions. (Psa. 119:162 & Joshua 1:8)

I. All the blessings of GOD, spiritual success, material success, happiness, joy, peace prosperity, health and other blessings we could name come upon HIS people ONLY as we keep HIS word. Almost every promise in the Bible has this condition. Watch for the little word "if". "If you continue in my word".....(Deut. 6:3-7; Deut. 11:18-28; Joshua1: 7-8 etc.)

J. Word study helps us to bring forth fruit for God. The WORD is the SEED which produces the crop. The more seed (Word) we sow (plant) the greater will be the harvest. (Mark 4:14-20)

II. QUESTIONS:

- A. What does the word "continue" as used by Jesus in John 8:31 mean to you? _____
- B. What kind of freedom does a disciple have that a normal believer does not have?
- C. Name at least five (5) ways that you put into practice the scriptures daily.
- D. Name the specific scriptures that you use in each case.
- E. Name or list at least five (5) scriptures that YOU have hid in your heart so that you might not sin against God.
- F. What does the word MEDITATE as used in Joshua 1:8 mean to you?
- G. What is one major area of your life that you seem to have the most trouble with?
- H. Find in your Bible and list at least three (3) scriptures that speak to this problem.
- I. In view of this lesson do you consider yourself a disciple? Yes____ No_____
- J. There is always room for improvement isn't there?
- K. List one or more of the areas in your life that you need to work on.
- L. Now look up at least three (3) scriptures that apply to each one of these areas.
- M. Write down a least three(3) ways the WORD has been of benefit to you personally.

THANK YOU!

GOD BLESS YOU!

ISN'T JESUS WONDERFUL!

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

PART IV: DAILY COMMUNION

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 John 1:1-7; John 15:1-8; Eph. 5:21-32; Amos 3:3

MEMORY VERSE: John 1:7

PURPOSE: To understand what **daily communion** with Jesus really is. To understand the importance of daily communion with Him and how to cultivate this daily communion.

LESSON: By far the most important of all the areas of this discipleship course is this lesson before us. It is absolutely essential that we understand this principle and apply it. For it is on the principle of "daily communion" that all our Christian experience will be built. In fact, it could be said that if we miss it here we have missed it altogether, for this IS CHRISTIANITY and TRUE DISCIPLESHIP.

I. WHAT IS DAILY COMMUNION:

- A. Two (2) Greek words will help us summarize "communion". They are "MENO" and "KOINONIA".
1. "MENO" means to "ABIDE"; "DWELL"; "LIVE"; "CONTINUE"; "RESIDE"; "TARRY"; and "VITALLY UNITED".
 2. "KOINONIA" means "FELLOWSHIP"; "A COMMON SHARING WITH ANOTHER"; "TO BE A PARTNER"; "TO BE A PARTAKER";
 3. All this indicates that one who is a disciple will "live" or "dwell" "vitaly united" in "fellowship" with the Lord Jesus Christ as a "partner" with Him in this life and throughout eternity.
- B. In JOHN 15, Jesus indicates that this type of relationship will exist between HIS disciples and HIMSELF. In fact, He definitely states that anyone (a branch) cut off or severed from HIM will not bear fruit and is withered and cast into the fire.
1. Therefore we have Christianity as more than just a belief, a doctrine, or a religion. It is a VITAL UNION or CONNECTION with ANOTHER (Jesus). It is to DWELL IN HIM, TO ABIDE IN HIM, TO RESIDE IN HIM and to have a common sharing of life or PARTNERSHIP with HIM that is so strong that even DEATH cannot break it.
 2. The result of such a COMMON SHARING is that WE share our lives with HIM and HE shares HIS life with US. It is in this process of daily living that we become PARTNERS.
 3. This is what TRUE CHRISTIANITY is, building up and cultivating a personal relationship, a closeness, an intimate friendship and a love for Jesus that is literally out of this world.
 4. We carry on a daily communion and conversation with HIM, a sharing of our burdens, trials, problems, worries, fears, joys, life, anything and everything. He helps us in these daily affairs and uses these to teach us and to grow us up in our relationship with HIM. In turn HE shares with us HIS desires, HIS will and purpose in all the affairs of our lives, in others and the world. MY! What a relationship and partnership is developed. DO YOU HAVE AND ENJOY SUCH A RELATIONSHIP?
 5. This type of relationship is illustrated for us in several places throughout the New Testament but perhaps most graphically in Eph. 5: 21-32 where the apostle Paul uses marriage as an example. The close intimacy of a HUSBAND and WIFE who share one another, their life, joy, happiness, trials, problems, successes and failures etc. together.
 6. The relationship cultivated does not grow stale and become a burden as a dry dead religious doctrine or theology but continues to grow and develop until HIS love for us and OUR love for HIM becomes so intimate and real that the things of the WORLD loose all their holds on us and we only live for HIM and HEAVEN.
- C. Why is daily communion with the LORD so important?
1. It is the very source of our life. (John 15:4-6)
 2. It is the very source of our fruitfulness. (John 15:4-5; & 8)
 3. It is the very source of our Joy. (John 15:11; 1 John 1:4 & 1 Pet. 1:8)
 4. It is the source of our prayers being answered. (John 15:7)
 5. Who enjoys all the privileges of a blessed, joyous, fruitful, abundant, healthy life? Only those who ABIDE IN HIM.

D. HOW do we cultivate or cause to grow and develop this kind of DAILY COMMUNION i.e. RELATIONSHIP with JESUS?

1. First, it requires a WILLINGNESS, DESIRE and a COMMITMENT on our part. When we first met JESUS and were BORN INTO HIS FAMILY the Holy Spirit instilled within us the DESIRE. We experienced a LOVE from Him and for Him which fills us with such joy, peace and happiness that we DESIRE to KNOW HIM better and WANT TO LIVE FOR HIM.

2. This becomes or is a self-perpetuating type of movement or walk. The more involved we become or enjoy it the more we desire. Praise God, it's habit forming.

3. This type of fellowship or communion requires our willingness to walk in the Light, the LIFE and WORD of the LORD. (1 John 1:7; Amos 3:3; John 15:3 & 7).

4. This life style involves our submission to HIM. Our agreement with HIM. Which means that if we intend to enjoy HIS presence in our daily lives we must agree with HIS WORD AND WALK IN IT.

5. It also means that we FOLLOW HIS DIRECTIONS, ABIDE IN HIS WILL, BE OBEDIENT TO HIS WORD and FOLLOW THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. (Eph. 5:22-24)

6. This also means that we cease to do things our way and according to our thoughts. We will eventually learn that HIS WAY is the BEST WAY not only just for HIM but for US. And that no matter where HE leads or directs us as long as HE is with US nothing else matters.

II. QUESTIONS:

1. After reading the scriptures and studying this lesson are you aware that this is the kind of daily experience that God desires for you to have? _____

2. Are you enjoying or experiencing this type of daily life? Yes _____ No _____

3. If the answer to item B above is No, then what will you do about it? _____

4. Is Jesus real to you? Someone with whom you share your innermost secrets, desires and needs? Do you do this on a daily basis. How does HE respond? _____

5. Does HIS presence in your daily life really make a difference in the way you speak, the places you go and the things that you do? Yes _____ No _____

6. Is your relationship so close that you sense deep within yourself HIS HURT when you do something that displeases HIM. Yes _____ No _____

7. Do you believe in Jesus just as you do in George Washington or Abraham Lincoln, that is, He is just a historical person that you believe existed in the past and perhaps still exist today but He is not A LIVING, VIBRANT PERSONAL BEING to you? He is alive in Me__ He is not alive in Me.__ Please confess out LOUD with your mouth "JESUS CHRIST IS LORD"! SAY IT AGAIN! DO YOU MEAN IT?

8. If you suddenly MET JESUS in the flesh.....There He is. Would you be meeting a FRIEND, someone YOU KNOW or would you be meeting a stranger? _____

9. In a few brief words (if you can make it brief) explain in your own words just what JESUS means to you? Write it down. Know one else needs to see it and HE ALREADY KNOWS.

THANK YOU!

GOD BLESS YOU!

ISN'T JESUS WONDERFUL!

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

PART V: DAILY PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING: Eph. 6:18; Philip. 4:6-7; 1 Thes. 5:17; John 15:7; Matt. 6: 5-15; James 5:15-18

MEMORY VERSE: Philip. 4:6-7

PURPOSE: To enable us to understand what prayer is; the importance of prayer and to learn how to pray effectively or how to pray and get results. Get Your Prayers answered.

LESSON: Someone as said, "PRAYER CHANGES THINGS". Prayer really does change things. Prayer changes people, circumstances, situations; it has changed the course of history and the out come of world wars; it has changed governments and has influenced whole nations for Christ. Prayer is the most powerful FORCE in the WHOLE WORLD. IT IS YOURS FOR THE USING.

I. WHAT IS PRAYER?:

A. There are several Greek words, which are translated by our one English word "prayer". The meaning of these words are as follows: "a request"; "supplication"; "entreaty"; "asking"; "beseech"; "a wanting"; "a need"; "to desire"; "intercession".

1. All of this very simply means, "talking to God". Making our request, desires, and needs known to HIM. But it means more than that. It is "talking with God". It is carrying on a conversation with GOD. It is more than our just talking all the time. It also means we LISTEN. HE also has some request, needs and desires. Real prayer will keep us in tune with HIM.

2. Prayer also implies a DEPENDENCE upon GOD; a looking away from ourselves, others and possible answers and looking UNTO HIM. HE ALONE ANSWERS PRAYER. Dependence is an ATTITUDE.

3. Our dependence upon HIM is to be as a little CHILD depends upon its parents. Dependence implies TRUST. HE is MY/YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER. We can trust HIM.

4. TRUST is FAITH. So that when we pray if we have TRUST or FAITH in HIM we know that HE will supply our needs and/or answer our request. While we are praying we THEN thank HIM for the answers.

5. We should pray about matters that concern us and HIM UNTIL we sense by faith a release in our spirits or our trust is released. We then THANK HIM in all CONFIDENCE. This is the PRAYER OF FAITH.

II. VARIOUS KINDS OF PRAYER AND PRAYING:

A. SECRET PRAYER is prayer that is made "in the closet". (Matt. 6:5-6) This can mean a literal closet or it could mean a prayer from within one's heart that is not shared with anyone else but GOD. (Example is HANNAH. 1 Samuel 1:4-18.)

B. COMMUNION PRAYING is my favorite because it is ceaseless prayer. This is where we maintain an attitude of prayer as we fellowship with JESUS during the day and discuss WITH HIM many things. (John 15:7 & 1 Thes. 5:17)

C. PRAYING FROM A NEED point of view is praying when problems and circumstances arise through which the enemy attempts to cause worry and fear to fill our minds. It is in such times as these that we must not give in to doubt, worry and fear but to cast all that concerns us upon HIM and absolutely refuse to WORRY. (Phil. 4:4-6; 1 Pet. 5:7)

D. PRAYER FOR THE SICK is the privilege, responsibility and the duty of every Christian. We have God's promise that the prayer of FAITH will save the sick and the LORD shall raise him up. So we can pray expecting the sick to be healed. This of course also includes ourselves. (James 5:14-15)

E. PRAYING TO CHANGE CIRCUMSTANCES, ours or someone else's is prayer that believes that God can do anything. As the scriptures say, "WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE". With the child of God there are no problems only opportunities to see God do some amazing things. Our bible passage indicates that a man who is just like us in every way prayed for it not to rain and his pray SHUT UP THE HEAVENS for over three (3) years. If this tells us anything it tells us that God can and will do amazing things with circumstances when we PRAY. (James 5:15-18).

F. PRAYER WARFARE is praying to defeat our common enemy, Satan and his devices. Since the Christians battle or struggle is not with flesh and blood i.e. "things seen" but against "master spirit forces or wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere" i.e. "things not seen.", we must ever be in prayer. To pray for people, countries, governments etc. and to pray the prayer of faith in such cases is to release God's angels and His Spirit to stop the enemy in the spiritual realm and to see circumstances changed in our own lives, in others lives and in the world. (Eph. 6:18; Eph. 6:12; James 4:7)

G. THE PRAYER OF AGREEMENT is when two or more Christians agree together i.e. to unite their hearts and voices in harmony to BIND and to LOOSE in the spiritual (supernatural) realm. This type or kind of praying is the most powerful force in all the world. There is absolutely no limit to what GOD can and will do when Christians band together in prayer and expect an answer. (Matt. 18:19)

H. PRAYER THAT IS NOT PRAYER is when we merely say or speak words and do not believe that God will answer our request. It is begging God to change His mind. It is insincere unconcerned prayer. It is going through the motions of prayer while our hearts and minds are preoccupied with other matters and things. It is public prayer which is spoken with more concern with the people who are listening than with the GOD who is listening.

III. WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID ABOUT PRAYER:

A. JUDE: "but you, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, PRAYING IN THE HOLY GHOST."

B. GEORGE WHITFIELD: "Whole days and WEEKS have I spent prostrate on the ground in silent or vocal prayer."

C. SAID OF TERSTEEGEN: "It seems to me as if he had gone straight into heaven, and lost himself in God; but often when he had done praying he was as white as the wall."

D. E. M. BOUNDS: "Our praying, however, needs to be pressed and pursued with an energy that never tires, a persistency which will not be denied, and a courage which never fails." MATTHEW HENRY: "When God intends great mercy for His people, the first thing He does is set them a-praying."

E. JOHN CLIMACUS: "We know the utility of prayer from the efforts of the wicked spirits to distract us during the divine office; and we experience the fruit of prayer in the defeat of our enemies."

F. R. SIBBES: "When we go to God by prayer, the devil knows we go to fetch strength against him, and therefore he opposeth us all he can."

G. CHARLES G. FINNEY: "I used to spend a great deal of time in prayer; sometimes, I thought, literally praying without ceasing. I also found it very profitable and felt very much inclined to hold frequent days of private fasting. On these days I would seek to be entirely alone with God, and would generally wander off into the woods, or get into the meetinghouse, or somewhere away entirely by myself."

H. UNKNOWN: "To arouse ONE man or woman to the tremendous power of prayer for others is worth more than the combined activity of a score of average Christians."

I. UNKNOWN: "The hidden life, a life whose days are spent in communion with God in trying to reach the Source of Power is the life that moves the world."

J. CHARLES G. FINNEY: "The spirit of prayer that prevailed in those revivals was a very marked feature of them. It was common for young converts to be greatly exercised in prayer; and in some instances, so much so that they were constrained to pray for whole nights, and until their bodily strength was quite exhausted, for the conversion of souls around them. There was a great pressure of the Holy Spirit upon the minds of Christians; and they seemed to bear about with them the burden of immortal souls. They manifested the greatest solemnity of mind and the greatest watchfulness in all their words and actions. It was very common to find Christians whenever they met in any place, instead of engaging in conversation, to fall on their knees in prayer."

IV. QUESTIONS:

- A. How is your prayer life? GOOD____BAD____ NEEDS IMPROVEMENT_____
- B. Can YOU say for certain that GOD has ever answered one of your prayers? YES____NO____ Name one such instance_____
- C. Has God answered a prayer for you recently? YES_____ NO_____
- D. Do you ever pray with the belief that your prayers will change someone's life or circumstances? YES_____
NO____ Don't you get excited and happy when you see God answer your prayers?
- E. Do you pray for your church?____ Your pastor?____ Your church members?____ The lost in your community?_____
- F. How much time would you say that you spent in prayer each week_____, Each day_____, two (2) hours, less than ten (10) minutes, what?
- G. Have you ever united with someone else and prayed a warfare prayer?____ Did you see any results?_____.
- H. Do you ever pray for the sick? _____ Have you ever seen someone healed as a results of your prayers?_____.
- I. How important is prayer to YOU? What do your actions indicate about the importance of prayer in your daily life? Daily prayer?____ Attend prayer meetings?____ Maintain a prayer list?_____.

THANK YOU!

GOD BLESS YOU!

ISN'T JESUS WONDERFUL!

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

PART VI: CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

SCRIPTURE READING: Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 2:42-47; 9:5; John 13:34-35; Eph.4:1-7; 11-16 ;1 Cor. 12:12-27; 1 John 3:11-20; 4:11-21.

MEMORY VERSE: John 13:34-35;

PURPOSE: To understand the importance of fellowship with other Christians. What we as believers get out of it and what we put into it.

LESSON: When a person is born-again into the family of God the Lord Jesus will lead that person to unite with a local church or assembly. The reasons for this are many but at first it is for the new converts protection, growth and development. Later, provided the new convert gets through the struggles of the baby period and avoids the pitfalls of the enemy he will be used of God within the local fellowship or church to help develop and grow other new Christians. Praise the Lord, it's just great the way HE works.

I. WHY CHRISTIANS ATTEND CHURCH AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS:

A. It would be difficult to image a baby being born into a family and not loving it's parents, it's brothers and sisters. Babies are so loving and are so loved by others even though they can be really cranky and have to be cared for much of the time. Yes, there are many things mature Christians have to over look in babies. However because the love of God is in our hearts we do love them, protect them and do our best to help them grow. When we are born into God's family, His nature of love is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit so that we love others. Especially one another. (Rom. 5:5; John 13:34-35). It stands to reason that if we love someone we want to be with them. One of the reasons that we know for sure we are true children of God is our love for the brethren. (1 John 3:14). If we do not love our brothers and sisters in the Lord then that is a sure sign that something is wrong with our relationship with God. (1 John 4:20).

B. This is the primary reason that our Heavenly Father leads a person who is saved to unite with a local church. In fact he will almost be driven by the Holy Spirit to unite with a local assembly. (Acts 2:42-47). This is also why the enemy seeks to use people in the local churches to hurt, misuse and abuse new converts. He, Satan wants them to separate themselves from the fellowship of the church so that they will not grow and develop properly. Young Christians need to be aware their Christian brothers and sisters are not perfect they are human. Also not all church members are brother and sisters. The Greek word for fellowship is "KOINONIA", which means, "a common sharing with others"; "communion"; "fellowship". "and all that believed were together, and had all things common." (Acts 2:44).

C. There is a togetherness or UNITY in fellowship, which produces much strength in the Body. There is ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BODY, ONE BAPTISM etc.

1. We all share a common interest: JESUS
2. We all have a common ENEMY: SATAN
3. We all need MUTUAL HELP, ENCOURAGEMENT and EXHORTATION. (Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Cor. 12:12-14).

D. There is HELP and ASSISTANCE among the members for each other. There is spiritual strength and growth through unified PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP and SHARING. "No man is an island." Someone has said, "You may attempt to swim the Atlantic ocean by yourself and make it, but it will be a whole lot safer with many others swimming together and a lot less lonely."

E. As disciples we become BODY CONSCIOUS. There is LIFE in every part or member of the BODY. ALL parts are essential to the WHOLE. When the enemy attacks a member or part of the body he is attacking a part of YOU. Whether we realize it or not a weakened member is a HURT and a BURDEN to us ALL. (1 Cor. 12:18-22).

F. Our common enemy seeks to weaken the body, to tear it down or to hinder our effectiveness through DIVISION, STRIFE, DISUNITY and DISSIMILATION. My, how the enemy seeks to use YOU i.e. your MOUTH, your ATTITUDE, your ACTIONS or lack of ACTIONS etc. to hinder the ministry of the church. To disrupt the unity of the SPIRIT. TO DIVIDE and TO CONQUER. To hinder the ministry of the SPIRIT within the church and its members. To do harm, hinder and to speak disparagingly of your church and its members is to be used by the EVIL ONE. To do any harm whatever to any member in any manner is to do HARM TO JESUS HIMSELF. IS TO HURT HIM!! The other side of the coin is also true; to do GOOD to any member and the church is to do good to HIM. (Acts 9:5; Matt. 25:37-40; 44-46; Heb. 10:24-25).

II. QUESTIONS:

1. How do you feel about your LOCAL CHURCH?
2. Name two or three areas that you feel that your church needs some improvement.
3. Will you commit to pray daily about these matters and to do whatever else the Lord directs you to do?
4. Is there anything YOU can do to help in these or some other areas?
5. Has God been dealing with you about some need in your church family that you can assist with?
6. How do you feel about all the people in your church?
7. Has the enemy used YOUR mouth to talk about or to criticize others? If yes, do you realize the severity of this matter? Have you repented and ask God to forgive you?
8. Do you really LOVE God's people, HIS children? Why would you want to hurt them?
9. What does your present and past actions, attitudes and words indicate about your love for God's children?
10. Do YOU support your local church with your PRESENCE, your TITHES, your TALENTS and your PRAYERS?
11. Here are some things to think about. Please do:
 - > If every member of YOUR church were JUST LIKE YOU, what kind of church would you have?
 - > Would there be any prayer for people? How much?
 - > Would there be services on Sunday? Sunday night? Wednesday night?
 - > Would the church bills be paid? Would the pastor be paid?
 - > Would the mechanical needs of the church, the repairs of the equipment etc. be done?
 - > Would there be any Sunday school teachers. Would there be a Sunday school?
 - > How about the cleanliness of the building?" IF ALL THE MEMBERS WERE JUST LIKE YOU"
 - > Would people get their feeling hurt by what was said?
 - > Would visitors feel at home and be welcomed?
 - > Would the members be critical of each other?
 - > Would the members quit because their feelings were hurt?
 - > Would the members quit because things did not go their way?
 - > Would the members be so busy with personal affairs or pleasures; would they be so lazy or indifferent that nothing could be accomplished?> Would the Sick be visited?
" IF ALL THE MEMBERS WERE JUST LIKE YOU"
 - > Would the LOST be witnessed to?
 - > Would those in jail be visited? Would they even be written to?
 - > Would the hungry be fed? WHAT, a can of soup?
 - > Would the POOR be clothed? With what, some old wore out discarded clothes?
 - > Would the widows in the fellowship have a helping hand?
 - > Would the lonely in the NURSING homes and SHUT INS be visited?
 - > Would these elderly and infirm people be prayed for? Would they have volunteers who would take them to the HOSPITAL, the DOCTOR, to the GROCERY STORE?"IF ALL THE MEMBERS WERE JUST LIKE YOU"
 - > Would the missionaries be cared for? Do you know the missionaries your church supports? Have you ever had any of them into your home? Would the missionaries have financial support?
 - > Would church attendance be good or would the member be home watching TV or their favorite TV minister. Perhaps fishing or taking care of some more important matters.
 - > Would the members know the WORD? Could they win someone to CHRIST? Could they minister the word to someone in need?
 - > Would the members be sharing happiness, love and joy among themselves?
 - > Would there be a summer camp? Would there be a youth ministry? Would all these activities be dead due to a lack of interest or other more pressing matters?
 - > Would the members be TOUCHY, OVER SENSITIVE and WITHDRAWN?
 - > Would there be a music ministry? Would there be a praise & worship service?
 - > Would everybody want their own way and get their feelings hurt if they didn't get their way?
 - > Would the unity of the Spirit be maintained because the people would be forgiving of each other and not hold grudges and not allow a root of bitterness to prevail among them?
12. When your pastor has to stand before God and give an account of your attitude, actions and works, what do you suppose he will say about you?
13. What do you think Jesus meant when He said that we were to get the beam (log) out of our own eye before we tried to get the splinter out of someone else's eye? (Matt. 7:1-5)

14. Do you realize that to pass judgment upon someone else is to bring judgment upon yourself. Not the judgment of men, which is really unimportant but the judgment of God. Many Christians have lost their JOY, their PEACE and their HAPPINESS because of such foolishness. Quite often if there has been no repentance, their lives are filled with TROUBLES, TURMOIL, STRIFE, BITTERNESS, CONFUSION, WORRIES, FEARS and ANXITIES because their attitudes toward some member or the church and because of their mouths. Some are even so BLIND AND BITTER that they blame GOD for their problems.

15. Can you see beloved that the church is YOU and the improvements must start with YOU? What will YOU do?

16. These questions are not intended to make someone feel guilty or condemned. Nor are they ask just so that we can have a better church fellowship. They are ask so that we can examine ourselves and help all of us to realize our problems (sins) and to lead us to repentance so that we can all enjoy the fullness of the blessings of God in our lives. WILL YOU JOIN ME? MAY GOD HELP US ALL AMEN.

THANK YOU!

GOD BLESS YOU!

ISN'T JESUS WONDERFUL!

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

PART VII: DAILY PRAISE

SCRIPTURE READING: Heb. 2:12; Heb.13:15; James 5:13; Eph.1:6,12 &14; Eph 5:18; Col. 3:16; Psa. 50:15 & 23; Psa. 34:1-3; Psa 35:27-28; Psa.149: 1-9

MEMORY VERSE: Heb. 13:15

PURPOSE: To understand what PRAISE really is. To see the importance of praise in our DAILY lives and to put it into practice in our lives and in our church.

LESSON: Praise is the VOCAL expression of our faith or trust in the living God. So we should PRAISE HIM when we do not feel like it and when we do feel like it. Next to prayer PRAISE is the most important exercise in the Christians life. Our memory verse speaks of the sacrifice of praise. Praise is not just a sacrifice when we feel like it but is a real sacrifice when we do not feel like it.

I. WHAT IS PRAISE?

A. There are several Greek and Hebrew words, which are translated by our one English word "praise". We list these for you in the following notes along with some comments.

1. "A TALE"; "A STORY"; "A NARRATION": Today this would be our testimony of what GOD has done for us or someone else. To tell others of HIS love, HIS salvation, HIS healing and delivering power and how HE has supplied some material need etc. is to praise HIM.

2. "COMMENDATION": Is praise to God for (a) His acceptance of us (Eph. 1:6). (b) For His GLORY (the exhibition of His character and His operations (Eph. 1:12). (c) For His Glory in HIS possession, i.e. the church who is HIS inheritance.

3. "ANYTHING PRAISE WORTHY": His work within us. His work within others. His love demonstrated. Praise Him for Who He is. Praise Him for the gift of His Son. For the Gift of His Holy Spirit and thousands of other things.

4. "DOXOLOGY"; "GLORY": To give glory to; to worship; to express great honor to; to exalt; to magnify; to praise by the expression of speech with words or with song.

5 "SINGING HYMNS": "I will sing THY PRAISE". "I will sing PRAISES UNTO THEE." Means to vocalize i.e. sing out loud and to have a continual song in your heart. "Singing and making melody in your heart unto the Lord".

6. "TO TWITCH OR TWANG" as on a bowstring: Thus to pluck a stringed instrument with the fingers. Can and should be expanded to include all musical instruments as used to glorify and to praise HIM. Many Christian musicians can express their praise, worship and the glory of God on an instrument better than they can with their voice.

7. "EULOGIZE": Is to bless; To speak well of GOD. i.e. "God is GOOD"

II. GENERAL COMMENTS CONCERNING PRAISE:

A. As can be noted from all of the above definitions, praise is primarily an expression of our lips or our mouths. We can of course praise God within our hearts and we should but effective praise must be vocalized. Our memory verse states that the sacrifice of praise is the FRUIT OF OUR LIPS.

B. The EFFECTS of our praise can be seen in several passages of scripture. In fact a good study to undertake would be to locate all the scriptures, which deal with PRAISE and see the results. Here are two (2) Acts 16:19 & 2 Chronicles 20. As you can see from these two passages of scripture when the children of God praise HIM regardless of circumstances HIS mighty hand is released with power to change even the most impossible situations and circumstances.

C. The Bible says that we are to "rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice." (Phil. 4:4). This means that in all things we are to give thanks. No matter what the circumstances we can and should rejoice in Jesus. We may not enjoy the situation or circumstance, which we are in, in fact it may be completely deplorable, but we can still rejoice in the LORD.

D. One of the most precious and enjoyable times for the Christian is when two or more gather together to praise and worship God. We do this in almost every service at our church. As we sing praise songs every Christian should join in and sing praises as unto the Lord. As we praise Him our burdens are lifted and His presence FILLS the place. His Word tells us that God inhabits the praises of His children. (Psa. 22:3).

E. The psalmist says, "I will praise the name of the Lord with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving. This will please the Lord more than a burnt offering." (Psa. 69:30). One of the most natural and common actions of all God's children from the beginning of time is PRAISE. It is as natural as breathing.

III. QUESTIONS:

- A. Name three ways you can praise God. _____, _____, _____
- B. List five (5) things you are thankful to God for. Speak them OUT LOUD.
- C. According to our memory verse, the sacrifice of praise is? _____
- D. According to Heb. 2, & Psa. 35:18 where will or should we sing praises unto God?
- E. According to Psa. 50, when we offer unto God thanksgiving, pay our vows and call upon Him in the time of trouble; What will HE do? _____ Then what will WE do?
- F. How do we glorify Him? _____(Psa.50:23)
- G. What does it mean to glorify Him? _____
- H. In Acts 16 what happened to the Jail? _____ Why? _____
- I. In 2 Chronicles 20 what group did God have put out in front of His army to spear head the attack against the enemy? _____ What did this group do? _____ What did God do? _____.
- J. Describe a situation in your own life where you did not feel like praising God because of your circumstances but you did anyway and tell what God did. Speak it out to someone.
- K. According to our scripture readings and this lesson, when we are in any kind of trouble what should we do? _____.
- L. We have stated in this lesson that praise is the vocal expression of _____.
- M. Murmuring, complaining, worry, doubt, fear, and grumbling when put into practice or vocalized, provide the enemy with power to tear down and to destroy. Praise to God on the other hand releases God's _____ and frees us from our WORRY, DOUBT and FEARS. When we praise God in the midst of our trials, problems and circumstances, this is called the _____. (Heb.13:15)
- N. Wherever you are, RIGHT NOW, why don't you just lift your hands and praise HIM OUT LOUD? Practice doing this every day as an expression of your love and your faith.

THANK YOU!

GOD BLESS YOU!

ISN'T JESUS WONDERFUL!

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

PART VIII: WITNESSING

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-49

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 1:8

PURPOSE: One of the most important things we can do for others is to tell them or to direct them to Jesus and to what God has done for us "IN CHRIST". To understand this and what it means to be a witness is the purpose of this lesson.

LESSON: A witness or to be a witness is not just something we do or say. A witness is something WE ARE. While it includes what we say and do, it definitely has to do with WHO WE ARE and HOW WE LIVE. Who we are determines how we live. When we KNOW JESUS and HE has CHANGED OUR INNERMAN (Our Spirit) we will BE A WITNESS for or unto HIM. We will point or direct men to CHRIST by the WAY we LIVE, our ATTITUDES, WHAT WE SAY and WHAT WE DO. In short, our whole life will BE a witness to JESUS.

I. THE DEFINITION OF WITNESS:

A. "MARTUS" or "MARTUR": "English, 'MARTYR', one who bears witness by his death." The term denotes one who can or does state POSITIVELY or AFFIRMS what HE has SEEN or HEARD or KNOWS. Thus we have "TESTIMONY"; "TO TESTIFY".

B. The term also includes within its meaning one, who even at the point of suffering torture and physical death can not help but testify to the TRUTH he KNOWS. (Acts 4:13-21).

C. It also has a much deeper meaning. Every DISCIPLE HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST and our relationship to HIM in HIS DEATH causes us to also be related to HIM in HIS LIFE. (Gal. 2:20 & Rom. 6:1-10) Thus the LIFE OF CHRIST within every true believer causes us to BE A WITNESS unto HIM. Even more so as we appropriate His Life and Loose ours. "He MUST increase, but I MUST decrease." (John 3:30)

II. THE RESULTS OR EVIDENCES OF BEING A WITNESS:

A. We bear witness or TESTIFY to the fact that HE IS ALIVE.

1. We do so by our LIVES. People will see a person who knows JESUS and the way they live for HIM and they will know that THEY HAVE SOMETHING DIFFERENT from the world. The believers LIFE gives evidence that there is a force or power within them and about them that makes them PECULIAR.

2. We do so by our WORDS. The true Christian can not keep his mouth shut. His words, his expressions of praise, his lack of cursing and bitterness, murmuring and complaining, ALL give him away. HE CANNOT HIDE WHO HE IS.

3. We do so by our ACTIONS. The way we act toward others, the way we react to circumstances and situations of life, the way we hold up under stress and our attitude of peace, joy and happiness ALL SPEAK OF WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST AND INDICATE TO OTHERS THAT WE HAVE SOMETHING OR SOMEONE THAT THEY NEED. We of course KNOW WHO that SOMEONE is, JESUS!!!

4. The way or manner that we conduct ourselves in all the situations and circumstances of life indicate that there is a LIFE within us that enables us to LIVE above ALL the THINGS of this life. Because the way A CHRISTIAN handles his affairs and holds up under difficult circumstances and situations of life IS BEYOND HUMAN ABILITY.

B. We bear witness or TESTIFY to HIS LOVE.

1. Since we are forgiven and accepted in the BELOVED we indicate HIS LOVE for US in our assurance, firm reliance, peace and joy unspeakable and full of glory. Our attitudes of CONFIDENCE and ASSURANCE IN HIM will sometimes upset some of those who DO NOT KNOW HIM.

2. Because of HIS love and acceptance of US we can LOVE and accept others. His LOVE is shed abroad in OUR HEARTS and flows over into our LIVES where it is manifested by our ATTITUDES and ACTIONS toward others, even OUR ENEMIES. The way we treat others, the many ways we help others with our encouragement, our help in their time of need i.e. food, clothing, money, support of any kind etc. all testify to HIS LOVE. When we are KIND, GENTLE, HUMBLE, UNDERSTANDING, TOLERANT, FORGIVING, NOT ENVOIOUS, NOT JEALOUS, NOT BOASTFUL, PROUD, ARROGANT, CONCEITED, NOT SELF-SEEKING, TOUCHY, FRETFUL, RESENTFUL and DO NOT INSIST IN OUR OWN WAY we testify to HIS LOVE and HIS LIFE WITHIN. (See 1 Cor. 13 in the Amplified Bible)

C. We bear witness or TESTIFY to HIS POWER.

1. Of course ALL of the above attitudes and actions we have spoken of bear witness to HIS POWER because they are all beyond our human abilities.

2. The POWER of the HOLY GHOST or SPIRIT as mentioned in our memory verse is the RESURRECTION POWER OF GOD. (Eph.1:19-20) This is the mighty POWER within the BELIEVER which enables him to live as we just described.

3. When we cooperate with the HOLY SPIRIT in our lives HE will produce HIS FRUIT in our lives. He will impart SPIRITUAL GIFTS and thus make witness of GOD'S POWER to save and to deliver. People, especially those who knew us before will see what GOD has done in and with our lives; they will also hear from us what GOD has done and is doing and they will KNOW that the POWER is of GOD not of us and that HIS POWER can change their lives also.

4. Our lives, our actions and our words also TESTIFY to HIS power to DELIVER. God can do anything. He has delivered and still does DELIVER people from DRUGS, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DEMONS, MENTAL PROBLEMS, WORRIES, DEPRESSION, SUICIDE, and thousands of other problems to numerous to mention.

5. The Christian's life will also bear witness to God's POWER TO HEAL and to perform MIRACLES. The book of Acts and many other passages of scripture bear this out. God bears witness through signs and wonders to HIS SAVING, HEALING AND DELIVERING POWER. HE bears witness by these that HIS message and the messenger is faithfully delivering HIS WORD. (Mark 16:17-20; Heb. 2:4 etc.)

III. CONCLUSION:

A. There will be no questions concerning this study. There could be many which would stimulate us to think but we will let you ask your own questions under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. As you can see there are many ways to be a witness and a witness is something you are. If you are a Christian then you are a WITNESS. You can be a better one if you will cooperate with the HOLY SPIRIT. Learn to hear HIS voice and to follow HIS directions.

THANK YOU!

GOD BLESS YOU!

ISN'T JESUS WONDERFUL!

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

PART IX: SPIRITUAL WARFARE

SCRIPTURE READING: Eph.6:10-18; 1 Pet.5:6-9; James 4:7; 1 Tim.6:12; Matt.16:15-19; Matt. 18:18-20; 2 Cor. 10:3-5

MEMORY VERSE: Eph. 6:12

PURPOSE: To help the believer understand WHO HE IS, IN CHRIST i.e. the AUTHORITY that he has. To understand who and what forces are against us. To know something about the SPIRITUAL REALM and how to deal with the enemy for himself and for others. In short to learn how to DO spiritual warfare.

LESSON: The bible teaches that those of us who are Christians have been translated out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of God's dear son. (Col.1:13) These two (2) kingdoms (the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness) are antagonistic to each other. While people, circumstances and situations are involved and are what we can see, the Word of God warns us that our struggle, wrestling or warfare is not against "flesh and blood". We are to resist the power or forces of darkness behind the "SEEN" i.e. THINGS NOT SEEN WITH OUR NATURAL EYES. Therefore we know that in order to change circumstances, people, situations, etc. in the physical-material realm, WE MUST DO WARFARE WITH THE SPIRITS OF DARKNESS IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM.

I. THE BELIEVERS AUTHORITY IN CHRIST:

A. JESUS defeated Satan at the CROSS - through His death, burial and resurrection. See (Eph.1:17-23; Heb.2:14-15; 1 John 3:8) and of course there are MANY other scriptures pertaining to JESUS victory and Satan's defeat and our resurrection and our co-victory IN Him. So we KNOW that the enemy has no authority over the believer other than what we allow him. (More about this later)

B. Yet as we look around us at the WORLD, OTHERS and even OURSELVES we do not see much victory and it appears that Satan is not a defeated enemy. WHY?

1. God has not put him down completely yet. God is still using him. (Heb.2: 8; 1 Cor.15:24-26) Satan is nothing more than a TOOL or instrument in God's hands (Isa. 10:5 & 15)

2. God intends to use US, the CHURCH, the BELIEVERS to over come him and to defeat him in our lives and circumstances. In this struggle with the WORLD, the FLESH and the DEVIL we learn FAITH, PATIENCE, HOW TO GROW SPIRITUALLY, the importance of UNITY, LOVE, and many other TRUTHS. See (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:17; Luke 10:17-20; Matt. 18:18-20)

C. Jesus has given US (the believers) authority over all the power of the evil one, in HIS (JESUS) NAME. (Luke 10:19-20) Yet we MUST exercise this authority under the leadership of the Holy Spirit in order for it to be effective.

1. (James 4:7) states that WE are to SUBMIT our selves unto God and RESIST the devil and he will flee from US. (1 Pet. 5:9) states that we are to RESIST him STEADFAST IN THE FAITH. These passages indicate that this is something each individual must do for himself. We can and must also obtain the help of our brothers and sisters in the Lord so that we can resist and stand fast together and for each other in the faith and experience complete victory in our lives, circumstances, situations and our church.

2. (1 John 4:4 & 5:4) teach us that GREATER is HE that is IN US (Jesus, the Holy Spirit) than he (the devil) that is in the world. And that it is OUR faith, which allows us to OVERCOME and to see the victory in OUR LIVES and circumstances.

3. (Luke 7:28 & Matt.11:11) These two (2) passages spoken by Jesus teach us that even the LEAST believer in the kingdom of God is greater i.e. has more power and authority than John the Baptist or any other Old Testament prophet.

II. THE PLACE PRAYER HAS IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

A. In (Matt.18:18-19) & (Eph.6:18) We are instructed to "BIND & TO LOOSE" and to PRAYING ALWAYS".

1. When two (2) believers or more come together in HARMONY or in AGREEMENT in prayer to speak to BIND or to LOOSE, God's POWER is released in the spiritual realm and things begin to happen in the material-physical realm.

2. We as believers can and should BIND the enemy from tearing down, destroying and stealing from ourselves, others and our loved one's.

3. We can and should LOOSE any and all of God's blessings and His provisions to His people, which the enemy may be attempting to block or hinder.

III. THE PLACE THE WORD HAS IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

A. In (1 Tim. 6:12) we are told to "FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH". Where does faith come from? (Rom. 10:17) tells us that FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD. We are also instructed in the word to RESIST IN FAITH, STAND IN FAITH, TAKE THE SHIELD OF FAITH, and TO ASK IN FAITH etc. We are told that we CANNOT PLEASE GOD WITHOUT FAITH (Heb.11:6). If we are going to be strong for battle, do warfare and please God we must get into the WORD and APPLY IT.

B. The WORD is the Christians ONLY offensive weapon. (Eph.6:17) Without the use of the Word of God in our daily lives we have no OFFENSE. We will be constantly on the DEFENSE. No coach or general can win with his team constantly on the defense. There must be some offense. Please read the first several verses of Matt.4 or Luke 4 and note how JESUS handled the DEVIL. GO THOU AND DO LIKEWISE.

IV. THE PLACE YOUR MIND HAS IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

A. If you will read (2 Cor.10:3-5) very carefully and in three or four different translations if you can you will see that much of the battle in the spiritual realm has to do with our MINDS.

1. How we think will determine how we get along in this life and with God. While this includes positive thinking it is more than that. IT IS FAITH THINKING! See (Rom 12:1-2).

2. FAITH is as attitude of HEART and MIND. Put the WORD in your HEART and MEDITATE upon it with your MIND. Use it to WARD OFF thoughts of WORRY, FEAR, DOUBT, UNCERTAINTY, LUST, PRIDE etc. which the enemy brings in and tries to use against you. (Philip. 2:5 & 4:6-8).

3. Get your thinking in line with the Word of God. Let HIS Word be your thoughts and control your thoughts. Then your MIND will be ARMED against the cunning deceit of the enemy and YOU WILL MAKE YOUR WAY PROSPEROUS AND SHALL HAVE GOOD SUCCESS. (1 Pet. 4:1-2 & Joshua 1:7-9)

V. QUESTIONS:

A. Have YOU ever resisted the Devil? Yes_____ No_____

B. HOW did you resist him? The Word___Prayer___A Partner___ all of these_____.

C. Name or describe one such instance._____What were the results?_____

Have you told anyone of your success in over-coming the enemy in the case? Would you please tell someone now.

D. Have you ever been PERSONALLY aware that spiritual forces were attacking you or a loved one? Yes_____ No._____ Will you be from now on?_____

E. Have you ever been aware that many of the thoughts which come into your mind were not your own and in fact were placed there by an outside force? Where do you suppose that these thoughts come from?

F. Do you ever attempt to control your mind i.e. you thoughts? How much success have you had in your attempt? Did you find that in some matters you had a very difficult time staying focused and in control of your thoughts?

G. Have you noticed a special difficulty with your thinking when you attempt to pray?

H. How DID and how DO you handle these stray thoughts?

I. Do you realize that THOUGHTS of doubt, hate, fear, worry, anger, lust, depression, disgust, frustration, suicide, bitterness, resentment etc. ALL come from or have their source in the EVIL ONE?_____.

J. Do you realize that YOU have control over these thoughts and that YOU have AUTHORITY (power) over the evil one?

K. Can you name ONE time when you resisted the Devil and he fled from YOU?

L. How much FAITH would YOU say that you have? Little____, Some____, A lot _____. Where does FAITH come from?
_____ Do YOU want MORE? _____

M. In your own words describe what faith is._____

N. Have you ever united with one or more people to pray about someone else's specific need?
_____.

What were the results? _____.

O. Can you right now, without looking quote the memory verse of this lesson?

P. Are there some circumstances or situations in your life, family, affairs etc. that you think you need to deal with the enemy about right now?_____Will you do it?_____. If you need help, call one or more Christian friends.

Q. Can you think of anyone who is having trouble with the enemy in their lives, situations etc. right now?_____. Will you, right now, pray for them and BIND the enemy?

Will you also, right now, LOOSE God's blessings upon them?

R. Is there a friend, family member, enemy that you have been blaming for you problems have been fighting with over some situation or hurt? Do you realize that they are not the cause of your problem, but the enemy is? Do YOU realize that your are not resisting or fighting against flesh and blood, but against wicked spirits, super-natural forces behind that person or behind you? Therefore you can love the person and resist the enemy that attempts to use him.

S. To have a lot of knowledge is to be SMART. To apply the knowledge that we have is to be WISE. To not have knowledge is to be IGNORANT. To have knowledge and not use it is to be a FOOL. The choice is ours. Which one will you be?

THANK YOU!

GOD BLESS YOU!

ISN'T JESUS WONDERFUL!