

Christ's Object Lessons Bible Study Series

# Seeds of Wisdom



# Seeds of Wisdom

Christ's Object Lessons  
*Bible Study Series*

Revelation Publications

- Compatible with any Bible  
- Individuals or groups  
- Contains full  
answer  
key!

## About this Project

*Christ's Object Lessons* was written by E.G. White and originally published in 1900 by Pacific Press Publishing Company. The subject matter is the parables of Christ—His method of revealing spiritual insight through practical life examples. Its Bible-based, Christ-centered, life-changing content has led a multitude to a greater understanding of the kingdom of heaven. *Seeds of Wisdom* is the first in a series of three Bible study guides. The other guides in this series are *Growing in Wisdom* (#2) and *Harvest of Wisdom* (#3). Since each guide is based on a unique set of parables, they can be utilized in sequence, out of sequence, or independently.

## 2nd Edition Seeds of Wisdom Christ's Object Lessons Bible Study Series

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## AN INVITATION TO THE READER

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We are glad you have received *The Seeds of Wisdom Bible Study Series*. It is our prayer that you will go through these lessons and draw closer to Christ; the One who offers you friendship, peace, and eternal life.

If there is an address in the box below, this guide is offered to you as a gift from a Bible school. Your school may utilize this guide in one of two possible ways.

The guide may or may not contain an answer section in the back, but when there is one, you may refer to it to verify your answers. Upon completion, if you wish to have your certificate validated, remove and send only your certificate to the address below for signature by an instructor.

If an address is present but your guide does not contain an answer section; then, upon completion, you may send your entire completed guide for verification and have your certificate signed.

In either situation, all you have mailed to us will be returned with additional free study materials. If at any time you have additional Bible questions, you may send them, and an instructor will respond.

You may have been a Christian all your life, or this may be your first opportunity to learn about the wonderful love of Jesus; in either case, this time you spend in the Word of God will be a rich blessing. May the Lord fill you with peace as you seek to know Him better.

***FOR MORE STUDY MATERIALS WRITE:***



## SUGGESTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDY

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- (1) PRAY FOR GUIDANCE** Each time you study, pray for discernment and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Approach your study with an open mind. Avoid preconceived ideas that may have a negative influence on your search for truth.
  
- (2) READ THE QUESTION** Read each question slowly taking extra time to contemplate and understand it. This will result in the greatest benefit from your study.
  
- (3) FIND THE ANSWER** Use any Bible to look up the reference text listed below the answer space. Read the reference and surrounding texts to gain an understanding of their context. Write a concise answer on the blanks provided in your study guide. If you want to confirm your answer you may look it up in the answer section located in the back.

For a deeper understanding, read and compare the reference text and related texts in multiple versions of Scripture. Use a concordance, column references, and a dictionary to look up unfamiliar words and search for other related texts.
  
- (4) CONTEMPLATE THE RESULTS** Reread the question and answer, then read the commentary. Contemplate the significance of what you have just studied and ask for wisdom from the Lord to help you know how to apply it to your life.
  
- (5) CONTINUE TO STUDY** It is our prayer that you will continue to study God's Word. We encourage you to contact your source for this guide and obtain other inspirational materials that will aid in your spiritual growth.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUP STUDY

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- (1) ASSIGN A LEADER** It is important to appoint an individual to lead your study group. This may be a pastor, church leader, or a shared responsibility among the group members. This individual's responsibility is to keep the discussion objective and encourage participation.
- (2) PREDETERMINE STUDY METHODS** Make a group decision whether to include outside materials in your study sessions. As a rule, study time will be the most fruitful when the focus is on Biblical references.
- (3) PRE-STUDY THE LESSON** Encourage each member of your group to study the lesson prior to meeting. This will result in the greatest benefit to each individual as well as enhancing his/her ability to participate in discussion.
- (4) BEGIN WITH PRAYER** Each time you meet always invite the Lord to be present in your study session and the Holy Spirit to be your guide.
- (5) READ QUESTION** The group leader may read or appoint another member of the group to read the questions.
- (6) READ ANSWER & COMMENTARY** The group leader can ask for volunteers to give the answer and related commentary. When time allows, ask for answers derived from various translations to increase participation and understanding.
- (7) DISCUSSION** The most benefit will be gained if the leader does not lecture the group but rather leads it. Each member of the group should be encouraged to participate in the capacity he/she is comfortable. One member of the group should not dominate the discussion. Encourage sensitivity to the feelings and opinions of others even in disagreement.
- (8) TESTIMONY** Have a time at the beginning or end of your session for brief testimonies. This can be general or limited to the subject matter being studied.

# *Why Christ Taught in Parables*



In Christ's parable teaching the same principle is seen as in His own mission to the world. That we might become acquainted with His divine character and life, Christ took our nature and dwelt among us. Divinity was revealed in humanity; the invisible glory in the visible human form. Men could learn of the unknown through the known; heavenly things were revealed through the earthly; God was made manifest in the likeness of men. So it was in Christ's teaching: the unknown was illustrated by the known; divine truths by earthly things with which the people were most familiar.

The Scripture says, "All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; . . . that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world." Matthew 13:34,35. Natural things were the medium for the spiritual; the things of nature and the life-experience of His hearers were connected with the truths of the written word. Leading thus from the natural to the spiritual kingdom, Christ's parables are links in the chain of truth that unites man with God, and earth with heaven.



In His teaching from nature, Christ was speaking of the things which His own hands had made, and which had qualities and powers that He Himself had imparted. In their original perfection all created things were an expression of the thought of God. To Adam and Eve in their Eden home nature was full of the knowledge of God, teeming with divine instruction. Wisdom spoke to the eye and was received into the heart; for they communed with God in His created works. As soon as the holy pair transgressed the law of the Most High, the brightness from the face of God departed from the face of nature. The earth is now marred and defiled by sin. Yet even in its blighted state much that is beautiful remains. God's object lessons are not obliterated; rightly understood, nature speaks of her Creator.

In the days of Christ these lessons had been lost sight of. Men had well-nigh ceased to discern God in His works. The sinfulness of humanity had cast a pall over the fair face of creation; and instead of manifesting God, His works became a barrier that concealed Him. Men "worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator." Thus the heathen "became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." Romans 1:25, 21. So in Israel, man's teaching had been put in the place of God's. Not only the things of nature, but the sacrificial service and the Scriptures themselves—all given to reveal God—were so perverted that they became the means of concealing Him. Christ sought to remove that which obscured the truth. The veil that sin has cast over the face of nature, He came to draw aside, bringing to view the spiritual glory that all things were created to reflect. His words placed the

teachings of nature as well as of the Bible in a new aspect, and made them a new revelation.

Jesus plucked the beautiful lily, and placed it in the hands of children and youth; and as they looked into His own youthful face, fresh with the sunlight of His Father's countenance, He gave the lesson, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow [in the simplicity of natural beauty]; they toil not, neither do they spin; and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Then followed the sweet assurance and the important lesson, "Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?"

In the sermon on the mount these words were spoken to others besides children and youth. They were spoken to the multitude, among whom were men and women full of worries and perplexities, and sore with disappointment and sorrow. Jesus continued: "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (for after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." Then spreading out His hands to the surrounding multitude, He said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt.6:28-33.

Thus Christ interpreted the message which He Himself had given to the lilies and the grass of the field. He desires us to read it in every lily and every spire of grass. His words are

## Why Christ Taught in Parables

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full of assurance, and tend to confirm trust in God.

So wide was Christ's view of truth, so extended His teaching, that every phase of nature was employed in illustrating truth. The scenes upon which the eye daily rests were all connected with some spiritual truth, so that nature is clothed with the parables of the Master.

In the earlier part of His ministry, Christ had spoken to the people in words so plain that all His hearers might have grasped truths which would make them wise unto salvation. But in many hearts the truth had taken no root, and it had been quickly caught away. "Therefore speak I to them in parables." He said; "because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. . . . For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed." Matt. 13:13-15.

Jesus desired to awaken inquiry. He sought to arouse the careless, and impress truth upon the heart. Parable teaching was popular, and commanded the respect and attention, not only of the Jews, but of the people of other nations. No more effective method of instruction could He have employed. If His hearers had desired a knowledge of divine things, they might have understood His words; for He was always willing to explain them to the honest inquirer.

Again, Christ had truths to present which the people were unprepared to accept or even to understand. For this reason also He taught them in parables. By connecting His teaching with the scenes of life, experience, or

nature, He secured their attention and impressed their hearts. After-ward, as they looked upon the objects that illustrated His lessons, they recalled the words of the divine Teacher. To minds that were open to the Holy Spirit, the significance of the Saviour's teaching unfolded more and more. Mysteries grew clear, and that which had been hard to grasp became evident.

Jesus sought an avenue to every heart. By using a variety of illustrations, He not only presented truth in its different phases, but appealed to the different hearers. Their interest was aroused by figures drawn from the surroundings of their daily life. None who listened to the Saviour could feel that they were neglected or forgotten. The humblest, the most sinful, heard in His teaching a voice that spoke to them in sympathy and tenderness.

And He had another reason for teaching in parables. Among the multitudes that gathered about Him, there were priests and rabbis, scribes and elders, Herodians and rulers, world-loving, bigoted, ambitious men, who desired above all things to find some accusation against Him. Their spies followed His steps day after day, to catch from His lips something that would cause His condemnation, and forever silence the One who seemed to draw the world after Him. The Saviour understood the character of these men, and He presented truth in such a way that they could find nothing by which to bring His case before the Sanhedrim.

In parables He rebuked the hypocrisy and wicked works of those who occupied high positions, and in figurative language clothed truth of so cutting a character that had it been

spoken in direct denunciation, they would not have listened to His words, and would speedily have put an end to His ministry. But while He evaded the spies, He made truth so clear that error was manifested, and the honest in heart were profited by His lessons. Divine wisdom, infinite grace, were made plain by the things of God's creation. Through nature and the experiences of life, men were taught of God. "The invisible things of Him since the creation of the world," were "perceived through the things that are made, even His everlasting power and divinity." Rom. 1:20, R. V.

In the Saviour's parable teaching is an indication of what constitutes the true "higher education." Christ might have opened to men the deepest truths of science. He might have unlocked mysteries which have required many centuries of toil and study to penetrate. He might have made suggestions in scientific lines that would have afforded food for thought and stimulus for invention to the close of time. But He did not do this. He said nothing to gratify curiosity, or to satisfy man's ambition by opening doors to worldly greatness. In all His teaching, Christ brought the mind of man in contact with the Infinite Mind. He did not direct the people to study men's theories about God, His word, or His works. He taught them to behold Him as manifested in His works, in His word, and by His providence.

Christ did not deal in abstract theories, but in that which is essential to the development of character, that which will enlarge man's capacity for knowing God, and increase his efficiency to do good. He spoke to men of those truths that relate to the conduct of life, and that take hold upon eternity.

It was Christ who directed the education of Israel. Concerning the commandments and ordinances of the Lord He said, "Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates." Deuteronomy 6:7-9. In His own teaching, Jesus showed how this command is to be fulfilled—how the laws and principles of God's kingdom can be so presented as to reveal their beauty and preciousness. When the Lord was training Israel to be the special representatives of Himself, He gave them homes among the hills and valleys. In their home life and their religious service they were brought in constant contact with nature and with the word of God. So Christ taught His disciples by the lake, on the mountainside, in the fields and groves, where they could look upon the things of nature by which He illustrated His teachings. And as they learned of Christ, they put their knowledge to use by cooperating with Him in His work.

So through the creation we are to become acquainted with the Creator. The book of nature is a great lesson book, which in connection with the Scriptures we are to use in teaching others of His character, and guiding lost sheep back to the fold of God. As the works of God are studied, the Holy Spirit flashes conviction into the mind. It is not the conviction that logical reasoning produces; but unless

## Why Christ Taught in Parables

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the mind has become too dark to know God, the eye too dim to see Him, the ear too dull to hear His voice, a deeper meaning is grasped, and the sublime, spiritual truths of the written word are impressed on the heart.

In these lessons direct from nature, there is a simplicity and purity that makes them of the highest value. All need the teaching to be derived from this source. In itself the beauty of nature leads the soul away from sin and worldly attractions, and toward purity, peace, and God. Too often the minds of students are occupied with men's theories and speculations, falsely called science and philosophy. They need to be brought into close contact with nature. Let them learn that creation and Christianity have one God. Let them be taught to see the harmony of the natural with the spiritual. Let everything which their eyes see or their hands handle be made a lesson in character building. Thus the mental powers will be strengthened, the character developed, the whole life ennobled.

Christ's purpose in parable teaching was in direct line with the purpose of the Sabbath. God gave to men the memorial of His creative power, that they might discern Him in the works of His hand. The Sabbath bids us behold in His created works the glory of the Creator. And it was because He desired us to do this that Jesus bound up His precious lessons with the beauty of natural things. On the holy rest day, above all other days, we should study the messages that God has written for us in nature. We should study the Saviour's parables where He spoke them, in the fields and groves, under the open sky, among the grass and flowers. As we come close to the heart

of nature, Christ makes His presence real to us, and speaks to our hearts of His peace and love.

And Christ has linked His teaching, not only with the day of rest, but with the week of toil. He has wisdom for him who drives the plow and sows the seed. In the plowing and sowing, the tilling and reaping, He teaches us to see an illustration of His work of grace in the heart. So in every line of useful labor and every association of life, He desires us to find a lesson of divine truth. Then our daily toil will no longer absorb our attention and lead us to forget God; it will continually remind us of our Creator and Redeemer. The thought of God will run like a thread of gold through all our homely cares and occupations. For us the glory of His face will again rest upon the face of nature. We shall ever be learning new lessons of heavenly truth, and growing into the image of His purity. Thus shall we "be taught of the Lord"; and in the lot wherein we are called, we shall "abide with God." Isa.54:13; 1Cor. 7:24.



# The Sower Went Forth to Sow



## Lesson 1

The first four lessons of this series are based on Matthew 13: 1-9; 13:18-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15.

(1) WHAT GREAT MYSTERIES DID CHRIST ILLUSTRATE WITH THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER?

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**Matthew 13:11**

By the parable of the sower, Christ illustrates the things of the kingdom of heaven, and the work of the great

Husbandman for His people. Like a sower in the field, He came to scatter the heavenly grain of truth. And His parable teaching itself was the seed with which the most precious truths of His grace were sown. Because of its simplicity the parable of the sower has not been valued as it should be. From the natural seed cast into the soil, Christ desires to lead our minds to the gospel seed, the sowing of which results in bringing man back to his loyalty to God. He who gave the parable of the tiny seed is the Sovereign of heaven, and the same laws that govern earthly seed sowing govern the sowing of the seeds of truth.

(2) WITH WHOM DID CHRIST SHARE THE BLESSINGS OF HIS PARABLES?

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**Luke 8:4**

By the Sea of Galilee a company had gathered to see and hear Jesus—an eager, expectant throng. The sick were there, lying on their mats, waiting to present their cases before Him. It was Christ's God-given right to heal the woes of a sinful race, and He now rebuked disease, and diffused around Him life and health and peace.

As the crowd continued to increase, the people pressed close about Christ until there was no room to receive them. Then, speaking a word to the men in their fishing boats, He stepped into the boat that was waiting to take Him across the lake, and bidding His disciples push off a little from the land, He spoke to the multitude upon the shore.

(3) WHAT PARABLE DID CHRIST SHARE THAT DAY BY THE SEA?

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**Matthew 13:3**

Beside the sea lay the beautiful plain of Gennesaret, beyond rose the hills, and upon hillside and plain both sowers and reapers were busy, the one casting seed and the other harvesting the early grain. Looking upon the scene, Christ said—

“Behold, the sower went forth to sow; and as he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the birds came and devoured them” (R.V.); “some fell

upon stony places, where they had not much earth; and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: and when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: but other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.”

(4) WHY DID THE MULTITUDE NOT REALIZE WHO WAS SPEAKING TO THEM?

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**John 1:10**

Christ's mission was not understood by the people of His time. The manner of His coming was not in accordance with their expectations. The Lord Jesus was the foundation of the whole Jewish economy. Its imposing services were of divine appointment. They were designed to teach the people that at the time appointed One would come to whom those ceremonies pointed. But the Jews had exalted the forms and ceremonies and had lost sight of their object. The traditions, maxims, and enactments of men hid from them the lessons which God intended to convey. These maxims and traditions became an obstacle to their understanding and practice of true religion. And when the Reality came, in the person of Christ, they did not recognize in Him the fulfillment of all their types, the substance of all their shadows. They rejected the antitype, and clung to their types and useless ceremonies. The Son of God had come, but they continued to ask for a sign. The message, “Repent

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## The Sower Went Forth to Sow

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ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,” they answered by demands for a miracle. Matt. 3:2. The gospel of Christ was a stumbling block to them because they demanded signs instead of a Saviour. They expected the Messiah to prove His claims by mighty deeds of conquest, to establish His empire on the ruins of earthly kingdoms. This expectation Christ answered in the parable of the sower. Not by force of arms, not by violent interpositions, was the kingdom of God to prevail, but by the implanting of a new principle in the hearts of men.

(5) WHAT WAS THE EARTHLY MISSION OF CHRIST?

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### *Matthew 13:37*

Christ had come, not as a king, but as a sower; not for the overthrow of kingdoms, but for the scattering of seed; not to point His followers to earthly triumphs and national greatness, but to a harvest to be gathered after patient toil and through losses and disappointments.

(6) WHY WAS CHRIST’S MISSION AND THE MESSAGE HE SHARED NOT UNDERSTOOD BY ALL?

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### *Luke 8:10*

The Pharisees perceived the meaning of Christ’s parable, but to them its lesson was unwelcome. They affected

not to understand it. To the multitude it involved in still greater mystery the purpose of the new teacher, whose words had so strangely moved their hearts and so bitterly disappointed their ambitions. The disciples themselves had not understood the parable, but their interest was awakened. They came to Jesus privately and asked for an explanation.

(7) WHAT PROMISE IS GIVEN TO THOSE WHO SEEK TRUTH WITH A SINCERE HEART?

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### *John 8:32*

This was the desire which Christ wished to arouse, that He might give them more definite instruction. He explained the parable to them, as He will make plain His word to all who seek Him in sincerity of heart. Those who study the word of God with hearts open to the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, will not remain in darkness as to the meaning of the word. “If any man willeth to do His will,” Christ said, “he shall know of the teaching whether it be of God, or whether I speak from Myself.” John 7:17, R. V. All who come to Christ for a clearer knowledge of the truth will receive it. He will unfold to them the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, and these mysteries will be understood by the heart that longs to know the truth. A heavenly light will shine into the soul temple, and will be revealed to others as the bright shining of a lamp on a dark path.

(8) WHAT DID THE SOWER IN THE PARABLE DO WHICH



ILLUSTRATES WHAT CHRIST DID TO SAVE THE LOST?

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**Mark 4:3**

In the East the state of affairs was so unsettled, and there was so great danger from violence that the people dwelt chiefly in walled towns, and the husbandmen went forth daily to their labor outside the walls. So Christ, the heavenly Sower, went forth to sow. He left His home of security and peace, left the glory that He had with the Father before the world was, left His position upon the throne of the universe. He went forth, a suffering, tempted man; went forth in solitude, to sow in tears, to water with His blood, the seed of life for a world lost.

(9) IN LIKE MANNER, WHAT DOES CHRIST ASK OF HIS SERVANTS?

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**Matthew 28:19**

His servants in like manner must go forth to sow. When called to become a sower of the seed of truth, Abraham was bidden, "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee." Genesis 12:1. "And he went out,

not knowing whither he went." Heb. 11:8. So to the apostle Paul, praying in the temple at Jerusalem, came the message from God, "Depart; for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles." Acts 22:21. So those who are called to unite with Christ must leave all, in order to follow Him. Old associations must be broken up, plans of life relinquished, earthly hopes surrendered. In toil and tears, in solitude, and through sacrifice, must the seed be sown.

(10) WHAT DID CHRIST COME TO THIS WORLD TO SOW?

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**Mark 4:14**

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**John 1:17**

Christ came to sow the world with truth. Ever since the fall of man, Satan has been sowing the seeds of error. It was by a lie that he first gained control over men, and thus he still works to overthrow God's kingdom in the earth and to bring men under his power. A sower from a higher world, Christ came to sow the seeds of truth. He who had stood in the councils of God, who had dwelt in the innermost sanctuary of the Eternal, could bring to men the pure principles of truth. Ever since the fall of man, Christ had been the Revealer of truth to the world. By Him the incorruptible seed, "the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever," is communicated to men. 1 Peter 1:23. In that first promise spoken to our fallen race in Eden, Christ was sowing the gospel seed. But it is to His personal ministry among men and to the work which He thus established that the parable of the sower especially applies.

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**The Sower Went Forth to Sow**

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(11) WHAT WAS THE “SEED” CHRIST SOWED THAT REVEALS TRUTH?

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*Matthew 13:20*

*John 17:17*

The word of God is the seed. Every seed has in itself a germinating principle. In it the life of the plant is enfolded. So there is life in God’s word. Christ says, “The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life.” John 6:63. “He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life.” John 5:24. In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God.

(12) WHAT IS THE RESULT WHEN THE SEED OF GOD’S WORD MATURES IN THE HEART?

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*2 Corinthians 3:18*

Every seed brings forth fruit after its kind. Sow the seed under right conditions, and it will develop its own life in the plant. Receive into the soul by faith the incorruptible seed of the word, and it will bring forth a character and a life after the similitude of the character and the life of God.

(13) WHAT WAS THE FOCUS OF CHRIST’S TEACHING AND PREACHING?

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*John 5:39*

The teachers of Israel were not sowing the seed of the word of God. Christ’s work as a teacher of truth was in marked contrast to that of the rabbis of His time. They dwelt upon traditions, upon human theories and speculations. Often that which man had taught and written about the word, they put in place of the word itself. Their teaching had no power to quicken the soul. The subject of Christ’s teaching and preaching was the word of God. He met questioners with a plain, “It is written.” “What saith the Scriptures?” “How readeest thou?” At every opportunity, when an interest was awakened by either friend or foe, He sowed the seed of the word. He who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Himself the living Word, points to the Scriptures, saying, “They are they which testify of Me.” And “beginning at Moses and all the prophets,” He opened to His disciples “in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” John 5:39; Luke 24:27.

(14) HOW MUCH OF THE BIBLE SHOULD WE ACCEPT AS INSPIRED INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS?

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*2 Timothy 3:16*

In our day, as of old, the vital truths of God's word are set aside for human theories and speculations. Many professed ministers of the gospel do not accept the whole Bible as the inspired word. One wise man rejects one portion; another questions another part. They set up their judgment as superior to the word; and the Scripture which they do teach rests upon their own authority. Its divine authenticity is destroyed. Thus the seeds of infidelity are sown broadcast; for the people become confused and know not what to believe. There are many beliefs that the mind has no right to entertain. In the days of Christ the rabbis put a forced, mystical construction upon many portions of Scripture. Because the plain teaching of God's word condemned their practices, they tried to destroy its force. The same thing is done today. The word of God is made to appear mysterious and obscure in order to excuse transgression of His law. Christ rebuked these practices in His day. He taught that the word of God was to be understood by all. He pointed to the Scriptures as of unquestionable authority, and we should do the same. The Bible is to be presented as the word of the infinite God, as the end of all controversy and the foundation of all faith.

(15) WHAT WARNING ARE WE GIVEN CONCERNING THE PHILOSOPHIES OF MAN?

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*2 Peter 3:17*

The Bible has been robbed of its power, and the results are seen in a lowering of the tone of spiritual life. In the sermons from many pulpits of today there is not that divine manifestation which awakens the conscience and brings life to the soul. The hearers can not say, "Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures?" Luke 24:32. There are many who are crying out for the living God, longing for the divine presence. Philosophical theories or literary essays, however brilliant, cannot satisfy the heart. The assertions and inventions of men are of no value. Let the word of God speak to the people. Let those who have heard only traditions and human theories and maxims hear the voice of Him whose word can renew the soul unto everlasting life.

(16) WHAT MESSAGE DID CHRIST SHARE AND IS OUR PRIVILEGE TO ALSO PROCLAIM?

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*Matthew 4:23*

Christ's favorite theme was the paternal tenderness and abundant grace of God; He dwelt much upon the holiness of His character and His law; He presented Himself to the people as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Let these be the themes of Christ's ministers. Present the truth as it is in Jesus. Make plain the requirements of the law and the gospel. Tell the people of Christ's life of self-denial and sacrifice; of His humiliation and death; of His resurrection and ascension; or His intercession for them in the courts of God; of His promise, "I

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## The Sower Went Forth to Sow

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will come again, and receive you unto Myself.” John 14:3.

Instead of discussing erroneous theories, or seeking to combat the opponents of the gospel, follow the example of Christ. Let fresh truths from God’s treasure house flash into life. “Preach the word.” “Sow beside all waters.” “Be instant in season, out of season.” “He that hath My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord.” “Every word of God is pure. . . . Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.” 2 Tim. 4:2; Isa. 32:20; Jer. 23:28; Prov. 30:5, 6.

**(17) WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL DANGER IN NON-BIBLICALLY BASED EDUCATION?**

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### ***Proverbs 16:25***

“The sower soweth the word.” Here is presented the great principle which should underlie all educational work. “The seed is the word of God.” But in too many schools of our day God’s word is set aside. Other subjects occupy the mind. The study of infidel authors holds a large place in the educational system. Skeptical sentiments are interwoven in the matter placed in school books. Scientific research becomes misleading, because its discoveries are misinterpreted and perverted. The word of God is compared with the supposed teachings

of science, and is made to appear uncertain and untrustworthy. Thus the seeds of doubt are planted in the minds of the youth, and in time of temptation they spring up. When faith in God’s word is lost, the soul has no guide, no safeguard. The youth are drawn into paths which lead away from God and from everlasting life.

To this cause may in great degree be attributed the widespread iniquity in our world today. When the word of God is set aside, its power to restrain the evil passions of the natural heart is rejected. Men sow to the flesh, and of the flesh they reap corruption.

**(18) WHEN THE SUPPOSITIONS OF MAN ARE BELIEVED ABOVE THE WORD OF GOD WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT?**

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### ***Galatians 6:8***

And here, too, is the great cause of mental weakness and inefficiency. In turning from God’s word to feed on the writings of uninspired men, the mind becomes dwarfed and cheapened. It is not brought in contact with deep, broad principles of eternal truth. The understanding adapts itself to the comprehension of the things with which it is familiar, and in this devotion to finite things it is weakened, its power is contracted, and after a time it becomes unable to expand.

**(19) WHAT SHOULD BE THE FOCUS OF EDUCATION?**

(20) BEFORE LEADING OTHERS TO CHRIST, WHAT SHOULD OUR OWN TESTIMONY BE?

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**2 Timothy 2:15**

The work of every teacher should be to fasten the mind of the youth upon the grand truths of the word of Inspiration. This is the education essential for this life and for the life to come.

And let it not be thought that this will prevent the study of the sciences, or cause a lower standard in education. The knowledge of God is as high as heaven and as broad as the universe. There is nothing so ennobling and invigorating as a study of the great themes which concern our eternal life. Let the youth seek to grasp these God-given truths, and their minds will expand and grow strong in the effort. It will bring every student who is a doer of the word into a broader field of thought, and secure for him a wealth of knowledge that is imperishable.

The education to be secured by searching the Scriptures is an experimental knowledge of the plan of salvation. Such an education will restore the image of God in the soul. It will strengthen and fortify the mind against temptation, and fit the learner to become a co-worker with Christ in His mission of mercy to the world. It will make him a member of the heavenly family; and prepare him to share the inheritance of the saints in light.

**1 John 1:2**

But the teacher of sacred truth can impart only that which he himself knows by experience. "The sower sowed [his] seed." Christ taught the truth because He was the truth. His own thought, His character, His life-experience, were embodied in His teaching. So with His servants: those who would teach the word are to make it their own by a personal experience. They must know what it is to have Christ made unto them wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. In presenting the word of God to others, they are not to make it a suppose-so or a maybe. They should declare with the apostle Peter, "We have not followed cunningly devised fables when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eye-witnesses of His majesty." 2 Peter 1:16. Every minister of Christ and every teacher should be able to say with the beloved John, "The life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us." 1 John 1:2.

**The Sower Went Forth to Sow**

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*I am grateful to Jesus for coming to earth to share the “mysteries of heaven” through the blessings of His parables.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*It is my desire to be among those whose ears are open to hear the “heavenly grain of truth” that He came to sow. It is my decision not to put the traditions of man above the Word of God.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*It is my desire to have eyes open to see the meaning of God’s Word and apply it to my life. I desire a greater knowledge of truth revealed*

*through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*As the seed of the Word of God enters the soil of my heart I pray it will root deeply. May it grow to bear fruit for the cause of Christ in unselfish service for others.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*It is my prayer to experience wisdom, righteousness, and sanctification in my life by the grace of Jesus so that I can be a true witness. It is my desire that the testimony of my life will cast light on the pathway of others.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

**Study Notes / Prayer Requests / Answered Prayers:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# Infertile Soil



## Lesson 2

(1) UPON WHAT DOES OUR  
ETERNAL DESTINY DEPEND?

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**Matthew 13:9**

That with which the parable of the sower chiefly deals is the effect produced on the growth of the seed by the soil into which it is cast. By this parable Christ was virtually saying to His hearers, It is not safe for you to stand as critics of My work, or to indulge disappointment

because it does not meet your ideas. The question of greatest importance to you is, How do you treat My message? Upon your reception or rejection of it your eternal destiny depends.

(2) WHAT DANGEROUS EFFECT  
DOES THE DECEITFULNESS OF  
SIN HAVE ON THE HEART?

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**Hebrews 3:13**

Explaining the seed that fell by the wayside, He said, "When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the wayside."

The seed sown by the wayside represents the word of God as it falls upon the heart of an inattentive hearer. Like the hard-beaten path, trodden down by the feet of men and beasts, is the heart that becomes a highway for the world's traffic, its pleasures and sins. Absorbed in selfish aims and sinful indulgences, the soul is "hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Heb. 3:13. The spiritual faculties are paralyzed. Men hear the word, but understand it not. They do not discern that it applies to themselves. They do not realize their need or their danger. They do not perceive the love of Christ, and they pass by the message of His grace as something that does not concern them.

**(3) HOW DOES SATAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A HARDENED HEART?**

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***Mark 4:15***

As the birds are ready to catch up the seed from the wayside, so Satan is ready to catch away the seeds of divine truth from the soul. He fears that the word of God may awaken the careless, and take effect upon the hardened heart. Satan and his angels are in the assemblies where the gospel is preached. While angels of heaven

endeavor to impress hearts with the word of God, the enemy is on the alert to make the word of no effect. With an earnestness equaled only by his malice, he tries to thwart the work of the Spirit of God. While Christ is drawing the soul by His love, Satan tries to turn away the attention of the one who is moved to seek the Saviour. He engages the mind with worldly schemes. He excites criticism, or insinuates doubt and unbelief. The speaker's choice of language or his manner may not please the hearers, and they dwell upon these defects. Thus the truth they need, and which God has graciously sent them, makes no lasting impression.

**(4) WHAT IMPACT DOES THE WORDS WE SPEAK HAVE ON OUR LIVES AND THE LIVES OF OTHERS?**

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***Proverbs 14:25***

***Matthew 12:37***

Satan has many helpers. Many who profess to be Christians are aiding the tempter to catch away the seeds of truth from other hearts. Many who listen to the preaching of the word of God make it the subject of criticism at home. They sit in judgment on the sermon as they would on the words of a lecturer or a political speaker. The message that should be regarded as the word of the Lord to them is dwelt upon with trifling or sarcastic comment. The minister's



character, motives, and actions, and the conduct of fellow members of the church, are freely discussed. Severe judgment is pronounced, gossip or slander repeated, and this in the hearing of the unconverted. Often these things are spoken by parents in the hearing of their own children. Thus are destroyed respect for God's messengers, and reverence for their message. And many are taught to regard lightly God's word itself.

Thus in the homes of professed Christians many youth are educated to be infidels. And the parents question why their children are so little interested in the gospel, and so ready to doubt the truth of the Bible. They wonder that it is so difficult to reach them with moral and religious influences. They do not see that their own example has hardened the hearts of their children. The good seed finds no place to take root, and Satan catches it away.

**(5) HOW LONG DOES THE SEED SOWN IN THE STONY GROUND OF UNSURRENDERED SELF LAST?**

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***Matthew 13:21***

The seed sown upon stony ground finds little depth of soil. The plant springs up quickly, but the root cannot penetrate the rock to find nutriment to sustain its growth, and it soon perishes. Many who make a profession of religion are stony-ground hearers. Like the rock underlying the layer of earth, the selfishness of the natural heart

underlies the soil of their good desires and aspirations. The love of self is not subdued. They have not seen the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and the heart has not been humbled under a sense of its guilt. This class may be easily convinced, and appear to be bright converts, but they have only a superficial religion.

**(6) WHAT PHRASE IN THIS VERSE DESCRIBES HOW WE SHOULD RECEIVE GOD'S WORD INTO OUR HEART?**

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***James 1:21***

It is not because men receive the word immediately, nor because they rejoice in it, that they fall away. As soon as Matthew heard the Saviour's call, immediately he rose up, left all, and followed Him. As soon as the divine word comes to our hearts, God desires us to receive it; and it is right to accept it with joy. "Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:7. And there is joy in the soul that believes on Christ. But those who in the parable are said to receive the word immediately, do not count the cost. They do not consider what the word of God requires of them. They do not bring it face to face with all their habits of life, and yield themselves fully to its control.

**(7) WHAT IS THE ROOT THAT KEEPS OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE NOURISHED?**

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***Romans 1:17***

The roots of the plant strike down deep into the soil, and hidden from sight nourish the life of the plant. So with the Christian; it is by the invisible union of the soul with Christ, through faith, that the spiritual life is nourished. But the stony-ground hearers depend upon self instead of Christ. They trust in their good works and good impulses, and are strong in their own righteousness. They are not strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Such a one "hath not root in himself"; for he is not connected with Christ.

(8) WHAT IS THE RESPONSE OF THOSE WITH SHALLOW ROOTS WHEN EXPOSED TO THE HEAT OF AFFLICTION?

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***Matthew 13:20, 21***

The hot summer sun, that strengthens and ripens the hardy grain, destroys that which has no depth of root. So he who "hath not root in himself," "dureth for a while"; but "when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended." Many receive the gospel as a way of escape from suffering, rather than as a deliverance from sin. They rejoice for a season, for they think that religion will free them from difficulty and trial. While life moves smoothly with them, they may appear to be consistent Christians. But they faint beneath the fiery test of temptation. They cannot bear reproach for Christ's sake. When the word of God points out some cherished sin, or requires self-denial or sacrifice, they are offended. It would cost them too much effort to make a radical change in their life. They look at the present inconvenience and trial, and forget the eternal realities. Like the disciples who

left Jesus, they are ready to say, "This is an hard saying; who can hear it?" John 6:60.

(9) WHAT IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR LIVES TO BE IN HARMONY WITH GOD?

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***John 15:4***

There are very many who claim to serve God, but who have no experimental knowledge of Him. Their desire to do His will is based upon their own inclination, not upon the deep conviction of the Holy Spirit. Their conduct is not brought into harmony with the law of God. They profess to accept Christ as their Saviour, but they do not believe that He will give them power to overcome their sins. They have not a personal relation with a living Saviour, and their characters reveal defects both hereditary and cultivated.

(10) IF WE TRULY LOVE CHRIST, TO WHAT EXTENT, WILL WE SUBMIT OURSELVES TO HIM?

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***Mark 12:30***

It is one thing to assent in a general way to the agency of the Holy Spirit, and another thing to accept His work as a reprover calling to repentance. Many feel a sense of estrangement from God, a realization of their bondage to self and sin; they make efforts for reform; but they do not crucify self. They do not give themselves entirely into the hands

of Christ, seeking for divine power to do His will. They are not willing to be molded after the divine similitude. In a general way they acknowledge their imperfections, but they do not give up their particular sins. With each wrong act the old selfish nature is gaining strength.

The only hope for these souls is to realize in themselves the truth of Christ's words to Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again." "Except a man be born from above, he can not see the kingdom of God." John 3:7, 3.

**(11) WHAT DOES CHRIST ASK OF THOSE WHOM HE HAS DELIVERED?**

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***Luke 1:74, 75***

True holiness is wholeness in the service of God. This is the condition of true Christian living. Christ asks for an unreserved consecration, for undivided service. He demands the heart, the mind, the soul, the strength. Self is not to be cherished. He who lives to himself is not a Christian.

**(12) AS WE ABIDE IN CHRIST AND HE IN US, WHAT WILL BECOME THE FOUNDATION OF OUR CHARACTER AND GUIDE OF OUR ACTIONS?**

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***Ephesians 3:17***

Love must be the principle of action. Love is the underlying principle of God's government in heaven and earth, and it must be the foundation of the Christian's character. This alone can make and keep him steadfast. This alone can enable him to withstand trial and temptation.

**(13) HOW WILL OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST BE REVEALED?**

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***Matthew 10:39***

And love will be revealed in sacrifice. The plan of redemption was laid in sacrifice—a sacrifice so broad and deep and high that it is immeasurable. Christ gave all for us, and those who receive Christ will be ready to sacrifice all for the sake of their Redeemer. The thought of His honor and glory will come before anything else.

**(14) WITH LOVE FOR CHRIST AS OUR MOTIVE, WHAT WILL BECOME THE FOCUS OF OUR LIVES?**

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***1 Peter 4:10***

## Infertile Soil

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If we love Jesus, we shall love to live for Him, to present our thank offerings to Him, to labor for Him. The very labor will be light. For His sake we shall covet pain and toil and sacrifice. We shall sympathize with His longing for the salvation of men. We shall feel the same tender craving for souls that He has felt.

(15) HOW MANY MASTERS CAN WE SERVE?

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**Luke 16:13**

This is the religion of Christ. Anything short of it is a deception. No mere theory of truth or profession of discipleship will save any soul. We do not belong to Christ unless we are His wholly. It is by halfheartedness in the Christian life that men become feeble in purpose and changeable in desire. The effort to serve both self and Christ makes one a stony-ground hearer, and he will not endure when the test comes upon him.

*It is my prayer for the soil of my heart to be fertile. I realize that upon this my eternal life depends.*

**Circle: Yes    Undecided**

*May the roots of my faith grow deep and nourish the union of my soul to Christ. May reliance on Christ and not on myself keep me steadfast in His righteousness.*

**Circle: Yes    Undecided**

*When the heat of tribulation and persecution comes I pray for it to strengthen and ripen the "grains of truth" in my heart.*

**Circle: Yes    Undecided**

*I give my life in unreserved consecration to the will of God. I pray that His principles of love will be the foundation of my undivided service to Him.*

**Circle: Yes    Undecided**

**Study Notes / Prayer Requests / Answered Prayers:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# Among the Thorns



## Lesson 3

(1) WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SEED IN AN UNSURRENDERED HEART?

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**Matthew 13:22**

The gospel seed often falls among thorns and noxious weeds; and if there is not a moral transformation in the human heart, if old habits and practices and the

former life of sin are not left behind, if the attributes of Satan are not expelled from the soul, the wheat crop will be choked. The thorns will come to be the crop, and will kill out the wheat.

(2) TO WHAT DEGREE DOES GOD DESIRE OUR SANCTIFICATION?

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**1 Thessalonians 5:23**

Grace can thrive only in the heart that is being constantly prepared for the precious seeds of truth. The thorns of sin will grow in any soil; they need no cultivation; but grace must be carefully cultivated. The briars and thorns are always ready to spring up, and the work of purification must advance continually. If the heart is not kept under the control of God, if the Holy Spirit does not work unceasingly to refine and ennoble the character, the old habits will reveal themselves in the life. Men may profess to believe the gospel; but unless they are sanctified by the gospel their profession is of no avail. If they do not gain the victory over sin, then sin is gaining the victory over them. The thorns that have been cut off but not uprooted grow apace, until the soul is overspread with them.

(3) WHAT THREE PITFALLS DID CHRIST WARN CAN CHOKES THE SPIRITUAL SEED WITHIN US?

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**Mark 4:19**

Christ specified the things that are dangerous to the soul. As recorded by Mark He mentions the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things. Luke specifies the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life. These are what choke the word, the growing spiritual seed. The soul ceases to draw nourishment from Christ, and spirituality dies out of the heart.

(4) HOW CAN WE AVOID BEING OVERCOME WITH CARES OF THIS LIFE?

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**1 Peter 5:7**

“The cares of this world.” No class is free from the temptation to worldly care. To the poor, toil and deprivation and the fear of want bring perplexities and burdens. To the rich come fear of loss and a multitude of anxious cares. Many of Christ’s followers forget the lesson He has bidden us learn from the flowers of the field. They do not trust to His constant care. Christ cannot carry their burden, because they do not cast it upon Him. Therefore the cares of life, which should drive them to the Saviour for help and comfort, separate them from Him.

(5) WHAT DANGER IS PRESENT WHEN ETERNAL ENDEAVORS BECOME SUBORDINATE TO THE PURSUIT OF WORLDLY GAIN?

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**Matthew 16:26**

Many who might be fruitful in God’s service become bent on acquiring wealth. Their whole energy is absorbed in business enterprises, and they feel obliged to neglect things of a spiritual nature. Thus they separate themselves from God. We are enjoined in the Scriptures to be “not slothful in business.” Rom. 12:11. We are to labor that we may impart to him who needs. Christians must work, they must engage in business, and they can do this without committing sin. But many become so absorbed in business that they have no time for prayer, no time for the study of the Bible, no time

to seek and serve God. At times the longings of the soul go out for holiness and heaven; but there is no time to turn aside from the din of the world to listen to the majestic and authoritative utterances of the Spirit of God. The things of eternity are made subordinate, the things of the world supreme. It is impossible for the seed of the word to bring forth fruit; for the life of the soul is given to nourish the thorns of worldliness.

(6) WHAT IS THE KEY TO FRUITFUL CHRISTIAN MINISTRY?

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**John 15:5**

And many who are working with a very different purpose, fall into a like error. They are working for others' good; their duties are pressing, their responsibilities are many, and they allow their labor to crowd out devotion. Communion with God through prayer and a study of His word is neglected. They forget that Christ has said, "Without Me ye can do nothing." John 15:5. They walk apart from Christ, their life is not pervaded by His grace, and the characteristics of self are revealed. Their service is marred by desire for supremacy, and the harsh, unlovely traits of the unsubdued heart. Here is one of the chief secrets of failure in Christian work. This is why its results are often so meager.

(7) WHAT SHOULD WE REMEMBER WHEN TEMPTED WITH THE "DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES?"

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**Deuteronomy 8:18**

"The deceitfulness of riches." The love of riches has an infatuating, deceptive power. Too often those who possess worldly treasure forget that it is God who gives them power to get wealth. They say, "My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth." Deut. 8:17. Their riches, instead of awakening gratitude to God, lead to the exaltation of self. They lose the sense of their dependence upon God and their obligation to their fellow men. Instead of regarding wealth as a talent to be employed for the glory of God and the uplifting of humanity, they look upon it as a means of serving themselves. Instead of developing in man the attributes of God, riches thus used are developing in him the attributes of Satan. The seed of the word is choked with thorns.

(8) WHAT IS THE DANGEROUS EFFECT OF SELF-INDULGENT FULFILLMENT OF LUST?

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**1 Peter 2:11**

"And pleasures of this life." There is danger in amusement that is sought merely for self-gratification. All habits of indulgence that weaken the physical powers, that becloud the mind, or that benumb the spiritual perceptions, are "fleshly lusts, which war against the soul."

"And the lusts of other things." These are not necessarily things sinful in

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## Among the Thorns

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themselves, but something that is made first instead of the kingdom of God. Whatever attracts the mind from God, whatever draws the affections away from Christ, is an enemy to the soul.

(9) WHAT RESPONSIBILITY DOES GOD GIVE PARENTS IN THE SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE OF THEIR CHILDREN?

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### *Proverbs 22:6*

When the mind is youthful and vigorous and susceptible of rapid development, there is great temptation to be ambitious for self, to serve self. If worldly schemes are successful, there is an inclination to continue in a line that deadens conscience, and prevents a correct estimate as to what constitutes real excellence of character. When circumstances favor this development, growth will be seen in a direction prohibited by the word of God.

In this formative period of their children's life, the responsibility of parents is very great. It should be their study to surround the youth with right influences, influences that will give them correct views of life and its true success. Instead of this, how many parents make it their first object to secure for their children worldly prosperity. All their associations are chosen with reference to this object. Many parents make their home in some large city, and introduce their children into fashionable society. They surround them with influences that encourage worldliness and pride. In this atmosphere the mind and soul are

dwarfed. The high and noble aims of life are lost sight of. The privilege of being sons of God, heirs of eternity, is bartered for worldly gain.

(10) WHAT PRINCIPLE SHOULD PARENTS FOLLOW WHEN SEEKING THE HAPPINESS OF THEIR CHILDREN?

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### *Matthew 6:33*

Many parents seek to promote the happiness of their children by gratifying their love of amusement. They allow them to engage in sports, and to attend parties of pleasure, and provide them with money to use freely in display and self-gratification. The more the desire for pleasure is indulged, the stronger it becomes. The interest of these youth is more and more absorbed in amusement, until they come to look upon it as the great object of life. They form habits of idleness and self-indulgence that make it almost impossible for them ever to become steadfast Christians.

(11) WHAT PRINCIPLE SHOULD BE THE FOCUS OF CHURCH FUNCTIONS?

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### *Psalms 89:7*

Even the church, which should be the pillar and ground of the truth, is found encouraging the selfish love of



pleasure. When money is to be raised for religious purposes, to what means do many churches resort? To bazaars, suppers, fancy fairs, even to lotteries, and like devices. Often the place set apart for God's worship is desecrated by feasting and drinking, buying, selling, and merrymaking. Respect for the house of God and reverence for His worship are lessened in the minds of the youth. The barriers of self-restraint are weakened. Selfishness, appetite, the love of display, are appealed to, and they strengthen as they are indulged.

(12) WHERE DOES THE PURSUIT OF CARNAL PLEASURE LEAD?

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**Romans 8:5, 6**

The pursuit of pleasure and amusement centers in the cities. Many parents who choose a city home for their children, thinking to give them greater advantages, meet with disappointment, and too late repent their terrible mistake. The cities of today are fast becoming like Sodom and Gomorrah. The many holidays encourage idleness. The exciting sports—theatergoing, horse racing, gambling, liquor-drinking, and reveling—stimulate every passion to intense activity. The youth are swept away by the popular current. Those who learn to love amusement for its own sake open the door to a flood of temptations. They give themselves up to social gaiety and thoughtless mirth, and their intercourse with pleasure lovers has an intoxicating effect upon the mind. They are led on from one form of dissipation to another, until they lose both the desire and the capacity for a life of usefulness. Their

religious aspirations are chilled; their spiritual life is darkened. All the nobler faculties of the soul, all that link man with the spiritual world, are debased.

It is true that some may see their folly and repent. God may pardon them. But they have wounded their own souls, and brought upon themselves a lifelong peril. The power of discernment, which ought ever to be kept keen and sensitive to distinguish between right and wrong, is in a great measure destroyed. They are not quick to recognize the guiding voice of the Holy Spirit, or to discern the devices of Satan. Too often in time of danger they fall under temptation, and are led away from God. The end of their pleasure-loving life is ruin for this world and for the world to come.

(13) WHAT SOLEMN WARNING IS GIVEN AGAINST WORLDLY LUSTS?

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**1 Timothy 6:9**

Cares, riches, pleasures, all are used by Satan in playing the game of life for the human soul. The warning is given, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:15, 16. He who reads the hearts of men as an open book says, "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness and cares of this life."

Among the Thorns

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Luke 21:34. And the apostle Paul by the Holy Spirit writes, "They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil; which, while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

*It is my prayer that, by the sanctifying power of Christ, the attributes of Satan will be expelled from my soul.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I choose to follow Christ and pray for wisdom not to allow the love of earthly riches and pleasures of this life to become barriers to my relationship with Him.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I pray for wisdom to train my children in a heavenly pattern. It is my desire to surround them with influences that lead to peace, happiness, and the correct views of life.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

**Study Notes / Prayer Requests / Answered Prayers:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# The Preparation and Harvest of Good Soil



## Lesson 4

(1) WHAT DETERMINES THE FERTILITY OF THE SOIL?

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***Deuteronomy 30:17***

Throughout the parable of the sower, Christ represents the different results of the sowing as depending upon the soil. In every case the sower and the seed are the same. Thus He teaches that if the word of God fails of accomplishing

its work in our hearts and lives, the reason is to be found in ourselves. But the result is not beyond our control. True, we cannot change ourselves; but the power of choice is ours, and it rests with us to determine what we will become. The wayside, the stony-ground, the thorny-ground hearers need not remain such. The Spirit of God is ever seeking to break the spell of infatuation that holds men absorbed in worldly things, and to awaken a desire for the imperishable treasure. It is by resisting the Spirit that men become inattentive to or neglectful of God's word. They are themselves responsible

## The Preparation and Harvest of Good Soil

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for the hardness of heart that prevents the good seed from taking root, and for the evil growths that check its development.

(2) IF WE SUBMIT, WHAT TASK CAN CHRIST ACCOMPLISH IN THE GARDEN OF OUR HEARTS?

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*Jeremiah 4:3*

The garden of the heart must be cultivated. The soil must be broken up by deep repentance for sin. Poisonous, Satanic plants must be uprooted. The soil once overgrown by thorns can be reclaimed only by diligent labor. So the evil tendencies of the natural heart can be overcome only by earnest effort in the name and strength of Jesus. The Lord bids us by His prophet, "Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns." "Sow to yourselves in righteousness; reap in mercy." Jer. 4:3; Hosea 10:12. This work He desires to accomplish for us, and He asks us to cooperate with Him.

(3) AS SOWERS FOR CHRIST, HOW CAN WE BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN REACHING HARDENED HEARTS?

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*Isaiah 58:10*

The sowers of the seed have a work to do in preparing hearts to receive the gospel. In the ministry of the word there is too much sermonizing, and too

little of real heart-to-heart work. There is need of personal labor for the souls of the lost. In Christlike sympathy we should come close to men individually, and seek to awaken their interest in the great things of eternal life. Their hearts may be as hard as the beaten highway, and apparently it may be a useless effort to present the Saviour to them; but while logic may fail to move, and argument be powerless to convince, the love of Christ, revealed in personal ministry, may soften the stony heart, so that the seed of truth can take root.

(4) WHAT BASIC PRINCIPLE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SHOULD WE AS SOWERS TEACH AS WE SHARE THE GOSPEL?

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*Galatians 2:20*

So the sowers have something to do that the seed may not be choked with thorns or perish because of shallowness of soil. At the very outset of the Christian life every believer should be taught its foundation principles. He should be taught that he is not merely to be saved by Christ's sacrifice, but that he is to make the life of Christ his life and the character of Christ his character. Let all be taught that they are to bear burdens and to deny natural inclination. Let them learn the blessedness of working for Christ, following Him in self-denial, and enduring hardness as good soldiers. Let them learn to trust His love and to cast on Him their cares. Let them taste the joy of winning souls for Him. In their love and interest for the lost, they

will lose sight of self. The pleasures of the world will lose their power to attract and its burdens to dishearten. The plowshare of truth will do its work. It will break up the fallow ground. It will not merely cut off the tops of the thorns, but will take them out by the roots.

(5) WHAT WILL THE SEEDS SOWN IN GOOD GROUND YIELD?

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**Mark 4:8**

The sower is not always to meet with disappointment. Of the seed that fell into good ground the Saviour said, This "is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." "That on the good ground are they, which, in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."

(6) WHOM DID CHRIST COME TO CALL TO REPENTANCE?

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**Mark 2:17**

The "honest and good heart" of which the parable speaks, is not a heart without sin; for the gospel is to be preached to the lost. Christ said, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." He has an honest heart who yields to the conviction of the Holy Spirit. He confesses his guilt, and feels his need

of the mercy and love of God. He has a sincere desire to know the truth, that he may obey it. The good heart is a believing heart, one that has faith in the word of God. Without faith it is impossible to receive the word. "He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Heb. 11:6.

(7) WHAT EFFORT MUST THE OWNER OF THE SOIL MAKE BEFORE THE SEED OF THE GOSPEL CAN MATURE?

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**Matthew 13:23**

The Pharisees of Christ's day closed their eyes lest they should see, and their ears lest they should hear; therefore the truth could not reach their hearts. They were to suffer retribution for their willful ignorance and self-imposed blindness. But Christ taught His disciples that they were to open their minds to instruction, and be ready to believe. He pronounced a blessing upon them because they saw and heard with eyes and ears that believed.

(8) IN WHAT MANNER SHOULD THE SEED BE RECEIVED?

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**1 Thessalonians 2:13**

The good-ground hearer receives the word "not as the word of men, but as

## The Preparation and Harvest of Good Soil

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it is in truth, the word of God.” Only he who receives the Scriptures as the voice of God speaking to himself is a true learner. He trembles at the word; for to him it is a living reality. He opens his understanding and his heart to receive it. Such hearers were Cornelius and his friends, who said to the apostle Peter, “Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.” Acts 10:33.

(9) IN WHOM DOES THE KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM OF TRUTH FIND FERTILE SOIL?

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### *Psalms 19:7*

A knowledge of the truth depends not so much upon strength of intellect as upon pureness of purpose, the simplicity of an earnest, dependent faith. To those who in humility of heart seek for divine guidance, angels of God draw near. The Holy Spirit is given to open to them the rich treasures of the truth.

The good-ground hearers, having heard the word, keep it. Satan with all his agencies of evil is not able to catch it away.

(10) AS WE COMMUNE WITH GOD THROUGH BIBLE STUDY, HOW WILL THE HIGHEST PERCEPTION OF TRUTH BE GAINED?

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### *1 Timothy 4:15*

Merely to hear or to read the word is not enough. He who desires to be profited by the Scriptures must meditate upon the truth that has been presented to him. By earnest attention and prayerful thought he must learn the meaning of the words of truth, and drink deep of the spirit of the holy oracles.

God bids us fill the mind with great thoughts, pure thoughts. He desires us to meditate upon His love and mercy, to study His wonderful work in the great plan of redemption. Then clearer and still clearer will be our perception of truth, higher, holier, our desire for purity of heart and clearness of thought. The soul dwelling in the pure atmosphere of holy thought will be transformed by communion with God through the study of Scriptures.

(11) WHAT WILL RESULT FROM MEDITATION ON GOD’S WORD?

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### *Luke 8:15*

“And bring forth fruit.” Those who, having heard the word, keep it, will bring forth fruit in obedience. The word of God, received into the soul, will be manifest in good works. Its results will be seen in a Christlike character and life. Christ said of Himself, “I delight to do Thy will, O My God; yea, Thy law is within My heart.” Psalm 40:8. “I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent Me.” John 5:30. And the Scripture says, “He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.” 1 John 2:6.

(12) WHAT IS THE PRAYER OF A “GOOD-GROUND” HEARER?

(14) WHAT DEVELOPS THE FRUIT OF "PATIENCE" THAT IS SO VITAL IN CHRISTIAN GROWTH?

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***Psalms 119:33***

The word of God often comes in collision with man's hereditary and cultivated traits of character and his habits of life. But the good-ground hearer, in receiving the word, accepts all its conditions and requirements. His habits, customs, and practices are brought into submission to God's word. In his view the commands of finite, erring man sink into insignificance beside the word of the infinite God. With the whole heart, with undivided purpose, he is seeking the life eternal, and at the cost of loss, persecution, or death itself, he will obey the truth.

***Romans 5:3***

Through conflict the spiritual life is strengthened. Trials well borne will develop steadfastness of character and precious spiritual graces. The perfect fruit of faith, meekness, and love often matures best amid storm clouds and darkness.

(15) WHAT IS OUR PART IN THE PROCESS OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH?

(13) FOR A GODLY LIFE TO BE FRUITFUL WHAT IS ESSENTIAL?

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***Luke 8:15***

And he brings forth fruit "with patience." None who receive God's word are exempt from difficulty and trial; but when affliction comes, the true Christian does not become restless, distrustful, or despondent. Though we can not see the definite outcome of affairs, or discern the purpose of God's providences, we are not to cast away our confidence. Remembering the tender mercies of the Lord, we should cast our care upon Him, and with patience wait for His salvation.

***Hebrews 10:22***

"The husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain." James 5:7. So the Christian is to wait with patience for the fruition in his life of the word of God. Often when we pray for the graces of the Spirit, God works to answer our prayers by placing us in circumstances to develop these fruits; but we do not understand His purpose, and wonder, and are dismayed. Yet none can develop these graces except through the process of growth and fruit bearing. Our part is to receive God's word and to hold

## The Preparation and Harvest of Good Soil

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it fast, yielding ourselves fully to its control, and its purpose in us will be accomplished.

(16) IF WE LOVE CHRIST AND RECEIVE HIS WORD IN GOOD GROUND, WHAT WILL RESULT?

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### *Matthew 13:23*

“If a man love Me,” Christ said, “he will keep My words; and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” John 14:23. The spell of a stronger, a perfect mind will be over us; for we have a living connection with the source of all-enduring strength. In our divine life we shall be brought into captivity to Jesus Christ. We shall no longer live the common life of selfishness, but Christ will live in us. His character will be reproduced in our nature. Thus shall we bring forth the fruits of the Holy Spirit -”some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.”

*I long for open ears that hear the Holy Spirit speak to my heart and make it fertile for the fruit of repentance.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*It is encouraging to me that Christ came to sow seeds in the hearts of sinners; not saints. It is my prayer that my heart will be “good ground.”*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I am thankful that truth contained in the testimony of God’s Word is available to all who diligently seek it. I am thankful it makes wise even the simple.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I choose to meditate upon, and accept God’s Word as truth. By this communion with the Lord I am looking forward to the fruit He has promised it will bring.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I pray that as I grow in Christ I may be a sower of His seed. I desire to share the fruit of Christlike sympathy by personal ministry to others.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I pray for the patience to “hold fast” in faith as I encounter the tribulations of life.*

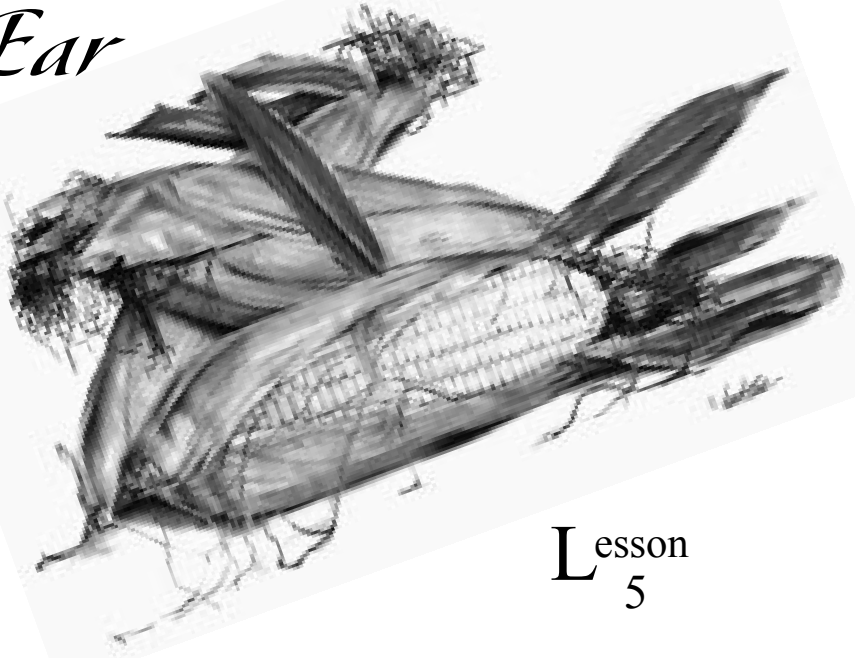
**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*May my life be a testimony to my friends, family, and neighbors that demonstrates seed sown in fertile soil that produces fruit a hundred fold.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**



# First the Blade, Then the Ear



## Lesson 5

This lesson is based on Mark 4:26-29.

The parable of the sower excited much questioning. Some of the hearers gathered from it that Christ was not to establish an earthly kingdom, and many were curious and perplexed. Seeing their perplexity, Christ used other illustrations, still seeking to turn their thoughts from the hope of a worldly kingdom to the work of God's grace in the soul.

(1) WHO DOES THE SOWER AND REAPER OF THIS PARABLE REPRESENT?

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**Mark 4:26**

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**Mark 4:29**

The husbandman who "putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come," can be no other than Christ. It is He who at the last great day will reap the harvest of the earth. But the sower of the seed represents those who labor in Christ's stead. The seed is said to "spring and

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## First the Blade, then the Ear

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grow up, he knoweth not how," and this is not true of the Son of God. Christ does not sleep over His charge, but watches it day and night. He is not ignorant of how the seed grows.

(2) WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS SOWERS?

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*Ecclesiastes 11:6*

The parable of the seed reveals that God is at work in nature. The seed has in itself a germinating principle, a principle that God Himself has implanted; yet if left to itself the seed would have no power to spring up. Man has his part to act in promoting the growth of the grain. He must prepare and enrich the soil and cast in the seed. He must till the fields. But there is a point beyond which he can accomplish nothing. No strength or wisdom of man can bring forth from the seed the living plant. Let man put forth his efforts to the utmost limit, he must still depend upon One who has connected the sowing and the reaping by wonderful links of His own omnipotent power.

(3) WHO PROVIDES THE ELEMENTS AND POWER OF LIFE FOR GROWTH OF PHYSICAL SEEDS?

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*Genesis 1:11*

There is life in the seed, there is power in the soil; but unless an infinite power is exercised day and

night, the seed will yield no returns. The showers of rain must be sent to give moisture to the thirsty fields, the sun must impart heat, electricity must be conveyed to the buried seed. The life which the Creator has implanted, He alone can call forth. Every seed grows, every plant develops, by the power of God.

(4) WHO PROVIDES THE NECESSARY ELEMENTS AND POWER OF LIFE FOR GROWTH OF SPIRITUAL SEEDS?

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*Isaiah 61:11*

*Hosea 14:1, 5*

As in the natural, so in the spiritual sowing; the teacher of truth must seek to prepare the soil of the heart; he must sow the seed; but the power that alone can produce life is from God. There is a point beyond which human effort is in vain. While we are to preach the word, we can not impart the power that will quicken the soul, and cause righteousness and praise to spring forth. In the preaching of the word there must be the working of an agency beyond any human power. Only through the divine Spirit will the word be living and powerful to renew the soul unto eternal life. This is what Christ tried to impress upon His disciples. He taught that it was nothing they possessed in themselves which would give success to their labors, but that it is the miracle-

working power of God which gives efficiency to His own word.

(5) WHAT PRINCIPLE IS THE HARVEST OF OUR SEED SOWING BASED UPON?

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***Psalms 4:5***

The work of the sower is a work of faith. The mystery of the germination and growth of the seed he cannot understand. But he has confidence in the agencies by which God causes vegetation to flourish. In casting his seed into the ground, he is apparently throwing away the precious grain that might furnish bread for his family. But he is only giving up a present good for a larger return. He casts the seed away, expecting to gather it manyfold in an abundant harvest. So Christ's servants are to labor, expecting a harvest from the seed they sow.

(6) BASED ON FAITH, WHAT PROMISE CAN THE SOWERS OF GOD'S WORD CLAIM?

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***Psalms 126:6***

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***Isaiah 55:11***

The good seed may for a time lie unnoticed in a cold, selfish, worldly heart, giving no evidence that it has taken root; but afterward, as the Spirit of God breathes on the soul, the hidden seed springs up, and at last bears fruit to the glory of God. In our lifework we know not which shall prosper, this or that. This is not a question for us to settle. We are to do our work, and leave the results with God. "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand." Eccl. 11:6. God's great covenant declares that "while the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest . . . shall not cease." Gen. 8:22. In the confidence of this promise the husbandman tills and sows. Not less confidently are we in the spiritual sowing to labor, trusting His assurance, "So shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth; it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

(7) WITH WHAT CAN THE SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE BE COMPARED?

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***Isaiah 53:2***

The germination of the seed represents the beginning of spiritual life, and the development of the plant is a beautiful figure of Christian growth. As in nature, so in grace; there can be no life without growth. The plant must either grow or die. As its growth is silent and

imperceptible, but continuous, so is the development of the Christian life. At every stage of development our life may be perfect; yet if God's purpose for us is fulfilled, there will be continual advancement. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime. As our opportunities multiply, our experience will enlarge, and our knowledge increase. We shall become strong to bear responsibility, and our maturity will be in proportion to our privileges.

(8) BY WHAT SOURCE IS THE WORK OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH ACCOMPLISHED?

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***Zechariah 4:6***

The plant grows by receiving that which God has provided to sustain its life. It sends down its roots into the earth. It drinks in the sunshine, the dew, and the rain. It receives the life-giving properties from the air. So the Christian is to grow by cooperating with the divine agencies. Feeling our helplessness, we are to improve all the opportunities granted us to gain a fuller experience. As the plant takes root in the soil, so we are to take deep root in Christ. As the plant receives the sunshine, the dew, and the rain, we are to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit. The work is to be done "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." If we keep our minds stayed upon Christ, He will come unto us "as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth." Hosea 6:3. As the Sun of Righteousness, He will arise upon us "with healing in His

wings." Malachi 4:2. We shall "grow as the lily." We shall "revive as the corn, and grow as the vine." Hosea 14:5, 7. By constantly relying upon Christ as our personal Saviour, we shall grow up into Him in all things who is our head.

(9) WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE IN THE SOWING OF SPIRITUAL SEEDS?

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***Mark 4:8***

The wheat develops "first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear." The object of the husbandman in the sowing of the seed and the culture of the growing plant is the production of grain. He desires bread for the hungry, and seed for future harvests. So the divine Husbandman looks for a harvest as the reward of His labor and sacrifice. Christ is seeking to reproduce Himself in the hearts of men; and He does this through those who believe in Him. The object of the Christian life is fruit bearing—the reproduction of Christ's character in the believer, that it may be reproduced in others.

(10) FOR WHOM DOES THE PLANT PRODUCE FRUIT?

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***Isaiah 55:10***

The plant does not germinate, grow, or bring forth fruit for itself, but to "give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater." So no man is to live unto himself. The Christian is in the world

as a representative of Christ, for the salvation of other souls.

(11) WHAT IS THE KEY TO FRUITFULNESS?

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**John 15:5**

There can be no growth or fruitfulness in the life that is centered in self. If you have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, you are to forget yourself, and try to help others. Talk of the love of Christ, tell of His goodness. Do every duty that presents itself. Carry the burden of souls upon your heart, and by every means in your power seek to save the lost. As you receive the Spirit of Christ—the Spirit of unselfish love and labor for others—you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen, your love be made perfect. More and more you will reflect the likeness of Christ in all that is pure, noble, and lovely.

(12) WHAT ARE THE FRUITS THAT CHRIST WANTS TO SEE MANIFESTED IN HIS PEOPLE?

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**Galatians 5:22, 23**

This fruit can never perish, but will produce after its kind a harvest unto eternal life.

“When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle,

because the harvest is come.” Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.

It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, (2 Peter 3:12, margin). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.

*I see how the germination of the seed represents our spiritual life, and how the development of the plant is a beautiful comparison to Christian growth.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I realize that Christ represents the Husbandman and His purpose in the sowing of seeds is so that fruit may be harvested in our lives.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*The fruits Christ wishes to harvest in each of us are the fruits of the Spirit and it is my prayer to always abide in Christ so that these fruits will be bountiful in my life.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**



# The Lessons of the Tares



## Lesson 6

This lesson is based on the parable in Matthew 13:24-30; 37-43.

“Another parable put He forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.”

(1) IN THIS PARABLE, WHERE WERE THE TARES SOWN?

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**Matthew 13:38**

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**Matthew 13:25**

“The field,” Christ said, “is the world.” But we must understand this as signifying the church of Christ in the world. The parable is a description of

## The Lesson of the Tares

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that which pertains to the kingdom of God, His work of salvation of men; and this work is accomplished through the church. True, the Holy Spirit has gone out into all the world; everywhere it is moving upon the hearts of men; but it is in the church that we are to grow and ripen for the garner of God.

(2) LIST THE FIVE CHARACTERS IN THIS PARABLE AND WHAT THEY REPRESENT.

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### *Matthew 13:37-39*

“He that sowed the good seed is the Son of man. . . . The good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one.” The good seed represents those who are born of the word of God, the truth. The tares represent a class who are the fruit or embodiment of error, of false principles. “The enemy that sowed them is the devil.” Neither God nor His angels ever sowed a seed that would produce a tare. The tares are always sown by Satan, the enemy of God and man.

(3) WHAT IS THE RESULT OF FALSE CHRISTIANITY?

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### *Ecclesiastes 10:1*

In the East, men sometimes took revenge upon an enemy by strewing his newly sown fields with the seeds of some noxious weed that, while growing, closely resembled wheat. Springing up with the wheat, it injured the crop and brought trouble and loss to the owner of the field. So it is from enmity to Christ that Satan scatters his evil seed among the good grain of the kingdom. The fruit of his sowing he attributes to the Son of God. By bringing into the church those who bear Christ’s name while they deny His character, the wicked one causes that God shall be dishonored, the work of salvation misrepresented, and souls imperiled.

(4) HOW SHOULD THE CHURCH TREAT THE MEMBERS WHO APPEAR TO BE FALSE BELIEVERS?

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### *Matthew 13:29, 30*

Christ’s servants are grieved as they see true and false believers mingled in the church. They long to do something to cleanse the church. Like the servants of the householder, they are ready to uproot the tares. But Christ says to them, “Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest.”

(5) WHY SHOULD CHRIST AND NOT MORTALS BE THE JUDGE OF A MAN’S CHARACTER?

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**1 Samuel 16:7**

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**2 Chronicles 6:30**

Christ has plainly taught that those who persist in open sin must be separated from the church, but He has not committed to us the work of judging character and motive. He knows our nature too well to entrust this work to us. Should we try to uproot from the church those whom we suppose to be spurious Christians, we should be sure to make mistakes. Often we regard as hopeless subjects the very ones whom Christ is drawing to Himself. Were we to deal with these souls according to our imperfect judgment, it would perhaps extinguish their last hope. Many who think themselves Christians will at last be found wanting. Many will be in heaven who their neighbors supposed would never enter there. Man judges from appearance, but God judges the heart. The tares and the wheat are to grow together until the harvest; and the harvest is the end of probationary time.

**(6) WHAT GODLY TRAITS OF CHARACTER ARE GIVEN FOR AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW?**

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**Romans 15:5**

There is in the Saviour's words another lesson, a lesson of wonderful forbearance and tender love. As the tares have their roots closely intertwined with those of the good grain, so false brethren in the church may be closely linked with true disciples. The real character of these pretended believers is not fully manifested. Were they to be separated from the church, others might be caused to stumble, who but for this would have remained steadfast.

The teaching of this parable is illustrated in God's own dealing with men and angels. Satan is a deceiver. When he sinned in heaven, even the loyal angels did not fully discern his character. This was why God did not at once destroy Satan. Had He done so, the holy angels would not have perceived the justice and love of God. A doubt of God's goodness would have been as evil seed that would yield the bitter fruit of sin and woe. Therefore the author of evil was spared, fully to develop his character.

Through long ages God has borne the anguish of beholding the work of evil, He has given the infinite Gift of Calvary, rather than leave any to be deceived by the misrepresentations of the wicked one; for the tares could not be plucked up without danger of uprooting the precious grain. And shall we not be as forbearing toward our fellow men as the Lord of heaven and earth is toward Satan?

**(7) WHAT DID JESUS CALL THESE FALSE REPRESENTATIVES OF CHRISTIANITY?**

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**Matthew 15:7**

## The Lesson of the Tares

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The world has no right to doubt the truth of Christianity because there are unworthy members in the church, nor should Christians become disheartened because of these false brethren. How was it with the early church? Ananias and Sapphira joined themselves to the disciples. Simon Magus was baptized. Demas, who forsook Paul, had been counted a believer. Judas Iscariot was numbered with the apostles. The Redeemer does not want to lose one soul; His experience with Judas is recorded to show His long patience with perverse human nature; and He bids us bear with it as He has borne. He has said that false brethren will be found in the church till the close of time.

Notwithstanding Christ's warning, men have sought to uproot the tares. To punish those who were supposed to be evildoers, the church has had recourse to the civil power. Those who differed from the established doctrines have been imprisoned, put to torture and to death, at the instigation of men who claimed to be acting under the sanction of Christ. But it is the spirit of Satan, not the Spirit of Christ, that inspires such acts. This is Satan's own method of bringing the world under his dominion. God has been misrepresented through the church by this way of dealing with those supposed to be heretics.

Not judgment and condemnation of others, but humility and distrust of self, is the teaching of Christ's parable. Not all that is sown in the field is good grain. The fact that men are in the church does not prove them Christians.

(8) WHEN WILL THE HARVEST OCCUR WHICH WILL DISTINGUISH THE TARES FROM THE WHEAT?

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### *Matthew 13:39*

The tares closely resembled the wheat while the blades were green; but when the field was white for the harvest, the worthless weeds bore no likeness to the wheat that bowed under the weight of its full, ripe heads. Sinners who make a pretension of piety mingle for a time with the true followers of Christ, and the semblance of Christianity is calculated to deceive many; but in the harvest of the world there will be no likeness between good and evil. Then those who have joined the church, but who have not joined Christ, will be manifest.

(9) AT WHAT EVENT WILL THE SEPARATION OF THE WHEAT FROM THE TARES OCCUR?

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### *Malachi 3:18*

The tares are permitted to grow among the wheat, to have all the advantage of sun and shower; but in the time of harvest ye shall "return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not." Christ Himself will decide who are worthy to dwell with the family of heaven. He will judge every man according to his words and his works. Profession is as nothing in the scale. It is character that decides destiny.

(10) WHAT WILL BE THE FATE OF THE "TARES"?

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**Matthew 13:42**

The Saviour does not point forward to a time when all the tares become wheat. The wheat and tares grow together until the harvest, the end of the world. Then the tares are bound in bundles to be burned, and the wheat is gathered into the garner of God. "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father." Then "the Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

*From this parable I realize Satan has his representatives in the church who claim to be Christians.*

**Circle: Yes    Undecided**

*I pray for wisdom of discernment to recognize and avoid these negative influences.*

**Circle: Yes    Undecided**

*I realize Christ is the Judge and He will separate the "tares" from the "wheat" at the harvest.*

**Circle: Yes    Undecided**

*I pray that, by God's grace and mercy, I will not be counted among the "tares" when He comes for the harvest.*

**Circle: Yes    Undecided**

**Study Notes / Prayer Requests / Answered Prayers:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# Like a Grain of Mustard Seed



## Lesson 7

This lesson is based on the parable in Matthew 13:31,32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18,19.

(1) TO WHAT DID CHRIST COMPARE THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?

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**Luke 13:18, 19**

In the multitude that listened to Christ's teaching there were many Pharisees. These noted contemptuously how few of His hearers acknowledged Him as the Messiah. And they questioned with themselves how this unpretending

teacher could exalt Israel to universal dominion. Without riches, power, or honor, how was He to establish the new kingdom? Christ read their thoughts and answered them: "Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?" In earthly governments there was nothing that could serve for a similitude. No civil society could afford Him a symbol. "It is like a grain of mustard seed," He said, "which, when it is sown upon the earth, though it be less than all the seeds that are upon the earth, yet when it is sown, groweth up, and becometh greater than all the herbs, and putteth out great branches; so that the birds of the heaven can lodge under the shadow thereof."

(2) WHAT PRINCIPLE IS CHRIST'S KINGDOM AND HIS WORD BASED UPON?

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*John 8:31, 32*

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*1 John 2:29*

The germ in the seed grows by the unfolding of the life-principle which God has implanted. Its development depends upon no human power. So it is with the kingdom of Christ. It is a new creation. Its principles of development are the opposite of those that rule the kingdoms of this world. Earthly governments prevail by physical force; they maintain their dominion by war; but the founder of the new kingdom is the Prince of Peace. The Holy Spirit represents worldly kingdoms under the symbol of fierce beasts of prey; but Christ is "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." In His plan of government there is no employment of brute force to compel the conscience. The Jews looked for the kingdom of God to be established in the same way as the kingdoms of the world. To promote righteousness they resorted to external measures. They devised methods and plans. But Christ implants a principle. By implanting truth and righteousness, He counter works error and sin.

(3) WHAT WAS THE MAGNITUDE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH AT ITS INCEPTION?

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*Mark 4:30, 31*

As Jesus spoke this parable, the mustard plant could be seen far and near, lifting itself above the grass and grain, and waving its branches lightly in the air. Birds flitted from twig to twig, and sang amid the leafy foliage. Yet the seed from which sprang this giant plant was among the least of all seeds. At first it sent up a tender shoot, but it was of strong vitality, and grew and flourished until it reached its present great size. So the kingdom of Christ in its beginning seemed humble and insignificant. Compared with earthly kingdoms it appeared to be the least of all. By the rulers of this world Christ's claim to be a king was ridiculed. Yet in the mighty truths committed to His followers the kingdom of the gospel possessed a divine life. And how rapid was its growth, how widespread its influence! When Christ spoke this parable, there were only a few Galilean peasants to represent the new kingdom. Their poverty, the fewness of their numbers, were urged over and over again as a reason why men should not connect themselves with these simpleminded fishermen who followed Jesus. But the mustard seed was to grow and spread forth its branches throughout the world. When the earthly kingdoms whose glory then filled the hearts of men should perish, the kingdom of Christ would remain, a mighty and far-reaching power.

(4) WHAT DESCRIPTION IN THIS VERSE CAN BE USED AS A COMPARISON TO GROWTH AND THE WORK OF GRACE IN THE HEART?

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## Like a Grain of Mustard Seed

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### *1 Peter 2:2*

So the work of grace in the heart is small in its beginning. A word is spoken, a ray of light is shed into the soul, an influence is exerted that is the beginning of the new life; and who can measure its results?

(5) WHAT WAS PAUL'S TESTIMONY AND THE TESTIMONY OF THE FIRST BEARERS OF THE GOSPEL THROUGHOUT HISTORY?

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### *Romans 1:16*

Not only is the growth of Christ's kingdom illustrated by the parable of the mustard seed, but in every stage of its growth the experience represented in the parable is repeated. For His church in every generation God has a special truth and a special work. The truth that is hid from the worldly wise and prudent is revealed to the childlike and humble. It calls for self-sacrifice. It has battles to fight and victories to win. At the outset its advocates are few. By the great men of the world and by a world-conforming church, they are opposed and despised. See John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, standing alone to rebuke the pride and formalism of the Jewish nation. See the first bearers of the gospel into Europe. How obscure, how hopeless, seemed the mission of Paul and Silas, the two tent makers, as they with

their companions took ship at Troas for Philippi. See "Paul the aged," in chains, preaching Christ in the stronghold of the Caesars. See the little communities of slaves and peasants in conflict with the heathenism of imperial Rome. See Martin Luther withstanding that mighty church which is the masterpiece of the world's wisdom. See him holding fast God's word against emperor and pope, declaring, "Here I take my stand; I can not do otherwise. God be my help." See John Wesley preaching Christ and His righteousness in the midst of formalism, sensualism, and infidelity. See one burdened with the woes of the heathen world, pleading for the privilege of carrying to them Christ's message of love. Hear the response of ecclesiasticism: "Sit down, young man. When God wants to convert the heathen, He will do it without your help or mine."

(6) THROUGH WHOM WILL SPIRITUAL LIGHT BE REVEALED IN THE LAST DAYS?

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### *Acts 2:17*

The great leaders of religious thought in this generation sound the praises and build the monuments of those who planted the seed of truth centuries ago. Do not many turn from this work to trample down the growth springing from the same seed today? The old cry is repeated, "We know that God spake

unto Moses; as for this fellow [Christ in the messenger He sends], we know not from whence he is." John 9:29. As in earlier ages, the special truths for this time are found, not with the ecclesiastical authorities, but with men and women who are not too learned or too wise to believe the word of God.

(7) WHO DOES GOD CALL TO SHARE THIS SPIRITUAL LIGHT?

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*1 Corinthians 1:26*

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called; but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty. And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are" 1 Cor. 2:26; "that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of Go" 1 Cor. 2:5.

(8) WHO WILL RECEIVE THIS LAST MESSAGE OF WARNING?

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*Revelation 14:6*

And in this last generation the parable of the mustard seed is to reach a signal

and triumphant fulfillment. The little seed will become a tree. The last message of warning and mercy is to go to "every nation and kindred and tongue" (Rev. 14:6-14), "to take out of them a people for His name" (Acts 15:14; Rev. 18:1). And the earth shall be lightened with His glory.

*I am glad the Kingdom of God is securely founded on the principles of truth and righteousness.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*To hear and see the evidence of growth and development of God's kingdom from secular and Biblical history sources gives me confidence in the plan of salvation.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I am thankful that the blessing of sharing the gospel is given to "men and women who are not too learned or wise to believe the Word of God."*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I am looking forward to the day of the triumphant fulfillment of His kingdom; the day when the message of the gospel reaches "every nation and kindred and tongue of people." Rev. 14:6.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

# Seeds of Wisdom



## Lesson 8

(1) WHAT VALUABLE LESSONS ARE TAUGHT IN THE PARABLES OF THE SEEDS?

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*Matthew 13:11*

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*Matthew 13:35*

From the work of seed sowing and the growth of the plant from the seed, precious lessons may be taught in the family and the school. Let the children and youth learn to recognize in natural things the working of divine agencies, and they will be enabled to grasp by faith unseen benefits. As they come to understand the wonderful work of God in supplying the wants of His great family, and how we are to cooperate with Him, they will have more faith in God, and will realize more of His power in their own daily life.

(2) WHO CREATES THE SEED AND GIVES IT THE POWER OF GROWTH?



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**Genesis 1:11**

God created the seed, as He created the earth, by His word. By His word He gave it power to grow and multiply. He said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth; and it was so. . . : And God saw that it was good." Gen. 1:11, 12. It is that word which still causes the seed to grow. Every seed that sends up its green blade to the sunlight declares the wonderworking power of that word uttered by Him who "spake, and it was"; who "commanded, and it stood fast." Ps. 33:9.

(3) WHO, IN THE SAME MANNER, CREATED US AND PROVIDES FOR OUR NEEDS?

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**Matthew 6:30**

Christ taught His disciples to pray "Give us this day our daily bread." And pointing to the flowers He gave them the assurance, "If God so clothe the grass of the field, . . . shall He not much more clothe you?" Matt. 6:11, 30. Christ is constantly working to answer this prayer, and to make good this assurance. There is an invisible power constantly at work as man's servant to feed and to clothe him. Many agencies our Lord employs to make the seed,

apparently thrown away, a living plant. And He supplies in due proportion all that is required to perfect the harvest. In the beautiful words of the psalmist: "Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it; Thou greatly enrichest it; The river of God is full of water; Thou providest them corn when Thou hast so prepared the earth. Thou waterest her furrows abundantly; Thou settlest the ridges thereof; Thou makest it soft with showers; Thou blessest the springing thereof. Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness; And Thy paths drop fatness." Ps. 65:9-11, R.V.

(4) WHOSE COMMANDS DO THE ELEMENTS OF NATURE OBEY?

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**Psalms 33:8, 9**

The material world is under God's control. The laws of nature are obeyed by nature. Everything speaks and acts the will of the Creator. Cloud and sunshine, dew and rain, wind and storm, all are under the supervision of God, and yield implicit obedience to His command. It is in obedience to the law of God that the spire of grain bursts through the ground, "first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear." Mark 4:28. These the Lord develops in their proper season because they do not resist His working. And can it be that man, made in the image of God, endowed with reason and speech, shall alone be unappreciative of His gifts and disobedient to His will? Shall rational beings alone cause confusion in our world?

(5) WHAT IS OUR PART TO ACT TO RECEIVE PHYSICAL SUSTENANCE?

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**Genesis 3:19**

In everything that tends to the sustenance of man is seen the concurrence of divine and human effort. There can be no reaping unless the human hand acts its part in the sowing of the seed. But without the agencies which God provides in giving sunshine and showers, dew and clouds, there would be no increase. Thus it is in every business pursuit, in every department of study and science. Thus it is in spiritual things, in the formation of the character, and in every line of Christian work. We have a part to act, but we must have the power of divinity to unite with us, or our efforts will be in vain.

(6) HOW DOES THIS VERSE DESCRIBE OUR WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IN PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL MATTERS?

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**1 Corinthians 3:9**

Whenever man accomplishes any-thing, whether in spiritual or in temporal lines, he should bear in mind that he does it through cooperation with his Maker. There is great necessity for us to realize our dependence on God. Too much confidence is placed in man, too much

reliance on human inventions. There is too little confidence in the power which God stands ready to give. "We are laborers together with God." 1 Cor. 3:9. Immeasurably inferior is the part which the human agent sustains; but if he is linked with the divinity of Christ, he can do all things through the strength that Christ imparts.

(7) HOW DO THESE VERSES DESCRIBE THE DIVINE ORDER OF GROWTH APPLICABLE IN SPIRITUAL TRAINING?

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**Mark 4:28**

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**Luke 2:52**

The gradual development of the plant from the seed is an object lesson in child training. There is "first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear." He who gave this parable created the tiny seed, gave it its vital properties, and ordained the laws that govern its growth. And the truths which the parable teaches were made a living reality in His own life. In both His physical and His spiritual nature He followed the divine order of growth illustrated by the plant, as He wishes all youth to do. Although He was the

Majesty of heaven, the King of glory, He became a babe in Bethlehem, and for a time represented the helpless infant in its mother's care. In childhood He did the works of an obedient child. He spoke and acted with the wisdom of a child and not of a man, honoring His parents and carrying out their wishes in helpful ways, according to the ability of a child. But at each stage of His development He was perfect, with the simple, natural grace of a sinless life. The sacred record says of His childhood, "The child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him." And of His youth it is recorded, "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Luke 2:40, 52.

The work of parents and teachers is here suggested. They should aim so to cultivate the tendencies of the youth that at each stage of their life they may represent the natural beauty appropriate to that period, unfolding naturally, as do the plants in the garden.

**(8) WHAT THREE TRAITS SHOULD WE BE CAREFUL NOT TO FOSTER IN THE HEARTS OF OUR CHILDREN?**

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**1 John 2:16**

Those children are most attractive who are natural, unaffected. It is not wise to give them special notice, and repeat their clever sayings before them. Vanity should not be encouraged by praising their looks, their words,

or their actions. Nor should they be dressed in an expensive or showy manner. This encourages pride in them, and awakens envy in the hearts of their companions.

**(9) WHAT BIBLE PROMISE MAY TEACHERS AND PARENTS CLAIM AS THEY MOLD THE CHARACTER OF THE CHILDREN IN THEIR CARE?**

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**Proverbs 22:6**

The little ones should be educated in childlike simplicity. They should be trained to be content with the small, helpful duties and the pleasures and experiences natural to their years. Childhood answers to the blade in the parable, and the blade has a beauty peculiarly its own. The children should not be forced into a precocious maturity but should retain as long as possible the freshness and grace of their early years.

The little children may be Christians, having an experience in accordance with their years. This is all that God expects of them. They need to be educated in spiritual things; and parents should give them every advantage that they may form characters after the similitude of the character of Christ.

**(10) WHAT LAW OF NATURE IS ALSO APPLICABLE TO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT?**

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**Galatians 6:7**

In the laws of God in nature, effect follows cause with unerring certainty. The reaping will testify as to what the sowing has been. The slothful worker is condemned by his work. The harvest bears witness against him. So in spiritual things: the faithfulness of every worker is measured by the results of his work. The character of his work, whether diligent or slothful, is revealed by the harvest. It is thus that his destiny for eternity is decided.

Every seed sown produces a harvest of its kind. So it is in human life. We all need to sow the seeds of compassion, sympathy, and love; for we shall reap what we sow. Every characteristic of selfishness, self-love, self-esteem, every act of self-indulgence, will bring forth a like harvest. He who lives for self is sowing to the flesh, and of the flesh he will reap corruption.

(11) WHAT IS THE FIRST STEP LEADING TO SPIRITUAL DESTRUCTION?

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**Acts 7:51; 1 Thessalonians 5:19**

God destroys no man. Everyone who is destroyed will have destroyed himself. Everyone who stifles the admonitions of conscience is sowing the seeds of unbelief, and these will produce a sure harvest. By rejecting the first warning from God, Pharaoh of old sowed the seeds of obstinacy, and he reaped obstinacy. God did not compel him to disbelieve. The seed of unbelief which

he sowed produced a harvest of its kind. Thus his resistance continued, until he looked upon his devastated land, upon the cold, dead form of his firstborn, and the firstborn of all in his house and of all the families in his kingdom, until the waters of the sea closed over his horses and his chariots and his men of war. His history is a fearful illustration of the truth of the words that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 6:7. Did men but realize this, they would be careful what seed they sow.

(12) WHAT EXAMPLE GIVEN IN THIS VERSE DESCRIBES HOW THE FRUIT OF OUR ACTIONS AFFECT OTHERS?

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**1 Corinthians 5:6**

As the seed sown produces a harvest, and this in turn is sown, the harvest is multiplied. In our relation to others, this law holds true. Every act, every word, is a seed that will bear fruit. Every deed of thoughtful kindness, of obedience, or of self-denial, will reproduce itself in others, and through them in still others. So every act of envy, malice, or dissension is a seed that will spring up in a "root of bitterness" (Heb. 12:15), whereby many shall be defiled. And how much larger number will the "many" poison. Thus the sowing of good and evil goes on for time and for eternity.

(13) WHAT IMPORTANT LESSON IS TAUGHT IN THE PARABLES OF THE SEEDS?

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**2 Corinthians 9:6**

Liberality both in spiritual and in temporal things is taught in the lesson of seed sowing. The Lord says, "Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters." Isa. 32:20. "This I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." 2 Cor. 9:6. To sow beside all waters means a continual imparting of God's gifts. It means giving wherever the cause of God or the needs of humanity demand our aid. This will not tend to poverty. "He which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." The sower multiplies his seed by casting it away. So it is with those who are faithful in distributing God's gifts. By imparting they increase their blessings. God has promised them a sufficiency that they may continue to give. "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom." Luke 6:38.

And more than this is wrapped up in the sowing and the reaping. As we distribute God's temporal blessings, the evidence of our love and sympathy awakens in the receiver gratitude and thanksgiving to God. The soil of the heart is prepared to receive the seeds of spiritual truth. And He who ministers seed to the sower will cause the seed to germinate and bear fruit unto eternal life.

(14) WHAT PRINCIPLE OF SEED SOWING CORRELATES WITH CHRIST'S EFFORTS TO SAVE US?

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**John 12:24**

By the casting of the grain into the soil, Christ represents the sacrifice of Himself for our redemption. "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die," He says, "it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." John 12:24. So the death of Christ will result in fruit for the kingdom of God. In accordance with the law of the vegetable kingdom, life will be the result of His death.

(15) WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT WHEN WE GIVE OUR LIFE IN SERVICE TO CHRIST?

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**John 12:25, 26**

And all who would bring forth fruit as workers together with Christ must first fall into the ground and die. The life must be cast into the furrow of the world's need. Self-love, self-interest, must perish. But the law of self-sacrifice is the law of self-preservation. The seed buried in the ground produces fruit, and in turn this is planted. Thus the husbandman preserves his grain by casting it away. So in human life, to give is to live. The life that will be preserved is the life that is freely given in service to God

and man. Those who for Christ's sake sacrifice their life in this world, will keep it unto life eternal.

(16) WHEN WILL LIFE SOWN IN CHRIST BE RAISED INTO NEW LIFE?

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***1 Corinthians 15:42, 43***

The seed dies to spring forth into new life, and in this we are taught the lesson of the resurrection. All who love God will live again in the Eden above. Of the human body laid away to molder in the grave God has said, "It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption; it is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power."

(17) WHAT TASK GIVEN BY GOD IS BENEFICIAL FOR OUR PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT?

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***Genesis 3:23***

Such are a few of the many lessons taught by nature's living parable of the sower and the seed. As parents and teachers try to teach these lessons, the work should be made practical. Let the children themselves prepare the soil and sow the seed. As they work, the parent or teacher can explain the garden of the heart with the good or bad seed sown there, and that as the garden must be prepared for the natural seed,

so the heart must be prepared for the seed of truth. As the seed is cast into the ground, they can teach the lesson of Christ's death; and as the blade springs up, they can teach the lesson of the truth of the resurrection. As the plants grow, the correspondence between the natural and the spiritual sowing may be continued.

The youth should be instructed in a similar way. They should be taught to till the soil. It would be well if there were, connected with every school, lands for cultivation. Such lands should be regarded as God's own schoolroom. The things of nature should be looked upon as a lesson book which His children are to study, and from which they may obtain knowledge as to the culture of the soul.

(18) WHAT DOES UNTILLED LAND AND HARDENED SOIL OF THE HEART HAVE IN COMMON?

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***Proverbs 24:31***

In tilling the soil, in disciplining and subduing the land, lessons may constantly be learned. No one would think of settling upon a raw piece of land, expecting it at once to yield a harvest. Earnestness, diligence, and persevering labor are to be put forth in treating the soil preparatory to sowing the seed. So it is in the spiritual work in the human heart. Those who would be benefited by the tilling of the soil must go forth with the word of God in their hearts. They will then find the fallow ground of the heart broken by

the softening, subduing influence of the Holy Spirit. Unless hard work is bestowed on the soil, it will not yield a harvest. So with the soil of the heart: the Spirit of God must work upon it to refine and discipline it before it can bring forth fruit to the glory of God.

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The soil will not produce its riches when worked by impulse. It needs thoughtful, daily attention. It must be plowed often and deep, with a view to keeping out the weeds that take nourishment from the good seed planted. Thus those who plow and sow prepare for the harvest. None need stand in the field amid the sad wreck of their hopes.

**Philippians 2:13**

He who causes the seed to spring up, who tends it day and night, who gives it power to develop, is the Author of our being, the King of heaven, and He exercises still greater care and interest in behalf of His children. While the human sower is planting the seed to sustain our earthly life, the Divine Sower will plant in the soul the seed that will bring forth fruit unto life everlasting.

(19) WHAT EFFORT CAN WE MAKE TO KEEP OUR HEARTS FERTILE TO THE WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

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**Proverbs 18:15**

The blessing of the Lord will rest upon those thus work the land, learning spiritual lessons from nature. In cultivating the soil the worker knows little what treasures will open up before him. While he is not to despise the instruction he may gather from minds that have had an experience, and from the information that intelligent men may impart, he should gather lessons for himself. This is a part of his training. The cultivation of the soil will prove an education to the soul.

(20) IF OUR HEARTS ARE FERTILE TO THE GOSPEL SEED, WHO WILL BRING FORTH THE FRUIT IN OUR LIVES?

*I have been blessed by seeking spiritual wisdom in God's Word given in the parables of the seeds.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

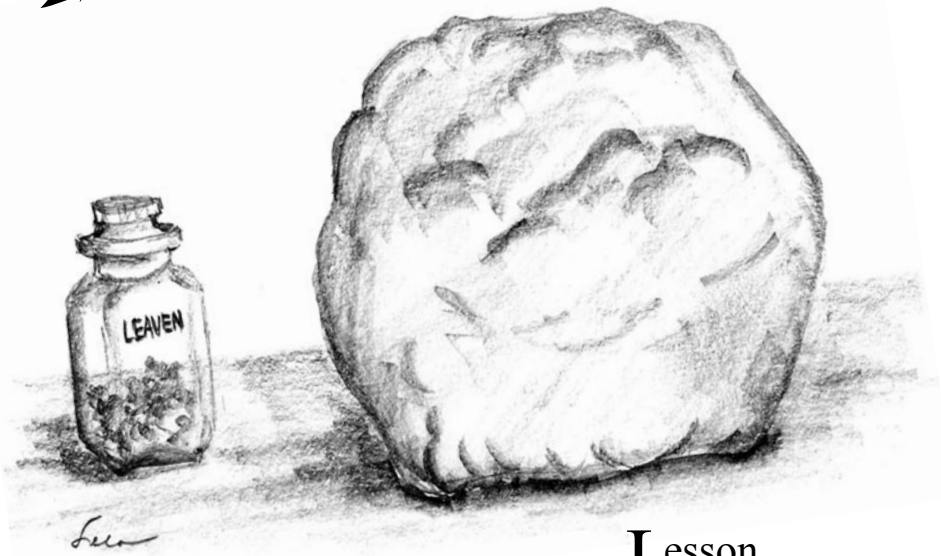
*I realize the "Sower" is Jesus. The "seed" is the Word of God and its gospel message. My heart is the soil and its fertility to the "seed" is based on my willingness to accept it.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I realize growth comes only by God's touch. I open the soil of my heart and pray the "seed" bears much fruit.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

# Like Unto Leaven



## Lesson 9

This lesson is based on Matthew 13: 33 and Luke 13:20,21.

(1) WITH WHOM DID CHRIST SHARE THIS LIFE CHANGING PARABLE THAT DAY?

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**Matthew 13:2**

Many educated and influential men had come to hear the Prophet of Galilee. Some of these looked with curious interest upon the multitude that had gathered about Christ as He taught by the sea. In this great throng all classes

of society were represented. There were the poor, the illiterate, the ragged beggar, the robber with the seal of guilt upon his face, the maimed, the dissipated, the merchant and the man of leisure, high and low, rich and poor, all crowding upon one another for a place to stand and hear the words of Christ. As these cultured men gazed upon the strange assembly, they asked themselves, "Is the kingdom of God composed of such material as this?"

(2) WHAT DID THE LEAVEN IN THIS PARABLE REPRESENT?

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**Matthew 13:33**



Among the Jews leaven was sometimes used as an emblem of sin. At the time of the Passover the people were directed to remove all the leaven from their houses as they were to put away sin from their hearts. Christ warned His disciples, "Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy." Luke 12:1. And the apostle Paul speaks of the "leaven of malice and wickedness." I Corinthians 5:8. But in the Saviour's parable, leaven is used to represent the kingdom of heaven. It illustrates the quickening, assimilating power of the grace of God.

(3) TO WHOM DOES GOD OFFER THE LEAVEN OF GRACE?

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**John 12:32; Revelation 3:20**

None are so vile, none have fallen so low, as to be beyond the working of this power. In all who will submit themselves to the Holy Spirit a new principle of life is to be implanted; the lost image of God is to be restored in humanity.

(4) ONLY BY WHO'S POWER CAN A POSITIVE TRANSFORMATION BE BROUGHT INTO OUR LIVES?

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**Romans 8:13, 14**

But man cannot transform himself by the exercise of his will. He possesses no power by which this change can be effected. The leaven—something wholly from without—must be put into the meal before the desired change can be

wrought in it. So the grace of God must be received by the sinner before he can be fitted for the kingdom of glory. All the culture and education which the world can give will fail of making a degraded child of sin a child of heaven. The renewing energy must come from God. The change can be made only by the Holy Spirit. All who would be saved, high or low, rich or poor, must submit to the working of this power.

(5) WHERE MUST TRANSFORMATION OCCUR IF WE ARE TO BE IN HARMONY WITH GOD?

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**Psalms 37:31**

As the leaven, when mingled with the meal, works from within outward, so it is by the renewing of the heart that the grace of God works to transform the life. No mere external change is sufficient to bring us into harmony with God. There are many who try to reform by correcting this or that bad habit, and they hope in this way to become Christians, but they are beginning in the wrong place. Our first work is with the heart.

A profession of faith and the possession of truth in the soul are two different things. The mere knowledge of truth is not enough. We may possess this, but the tenor of our thoughts may not be changed. The heart must be converted and sanctified.

(6) WHEN THIS TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE AND HIS LAW IS WRITTEN IN OUR HEARTS, WHAT WILL BE THE MOTIVATING PRINCIPLE FOR OBEDIENCE?

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**John 14:15**

The man who attempts to keep the commandments of God from a sense of obligation merely—because he is required to do so—will never enter into the joy of obedience. He does not obey. When the requirements of God are accounted a burden because they cut across human inclination, we may know that the life is not a Christian life. True obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God. The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is right—because right doing is pleasing to God.

(7) HOW DID CHRIST DESCRIBE THE TRANSFORMING CONVERSION OF THE HEART THROUGH FAITH?

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**John 3:5, 7**

The great truth of the conversion of the heart by the Holy Spirit is presented in Christ's words to Nicodemus. "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. . . That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." The apostle

Paul, writing by the Holy Spirit, says, "God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:4-8.

(8) AS THE LORD SILENTLY TRANSFORMS OUR HEART, WHAT CHARACTER TRAIT BECOMES EVIDENT AND IS GREAT IN GOD'S SIGHT?

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**1 Peter 3:4**

The leaven hidden in the flour works invisibly to bring the whole mass under its leavening process; so the leaven of truth works secretly, silently, steadily, to transform the soul. The natural inclinations are softened and subdued. New thoughts, new feelings, new motives, are implanted. A new standard of character is set up—the life of Christ. The mind is changed; the faculties are roused to action in new lines. Man is not endowed with new faculties, but the faculties he has are sanctified. The conscience is awakened. We are endowed with traits of character that enable us to do service for God.

(9) WHAT MUST ACCOMPANY REPENTANCE FOR TRANSFORMATION OF CHARACTER TO TAKE PLACE?

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**Acts 3:19**

Often the question arises, Why, then, are there so many, claiming to believe God's word, in whom there is not seen a reformation in words, in spirit, and in character? Why are there so many who cannot bear opposition to their purposes and plans, who manifest an unholy temper, and whose words are harsh, overbearing, and passionate? There is seen in their lives the same love of self, the same selfish indulgence, the same temper and hasty speech, that is seen in the life of the worldling. There is the same sensitive pride, the same yielding to natural inclination, the same perversity of character, as if the truth were wholly unknown to them. The reason is that they are not converted. They have not hidden the leaven of truth in the heart. It has not had opportunity to do its work. Their natural and cultivated tendencies to evil have not been submitted to its transforming power. Their lives reveal the absence of the grace of Christ, an unbelief in His power to transform the character.

**(10) WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF TRUE CHARACTER TRANSFORMATION?**

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**John 17:17; Romans 10:17**

The Scriptures are the great agency in the transformation of character. Christ prayed, "Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth." If studied and obeyed, the word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy

attribute. The Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin, and the faith that springs up in the heart works by love to Christ, conforming us in body, soul, and spirit to His own image. Then God can use us to do His will. The power given us works from within outwardly, leading us to communicate to others the truth that has been communicated to us.

**(11) HOW CAN THE LEAVEN OF TRUTH FOUND IN GOD'S WORD GUIDE OUR DAILY LIVES?**

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**Romans 1:16, 17**

The truths of the word of God meet man's great practical necessity—the conversion of the soul through faith. These grand principles are not to be thought too pure and holy to be brought into the daily life. They are truths which reach to heaven and compass eternity, yet their vital influence is to be woven into human experience. They are to permeate all the great things and all the little things of life.

**(12) WHAT WILL BE THE FRUIT OF OUR CHARACTER AS WE WALK BY FAITH?**

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**Galatians 5:22**

Received into the heart, the leaven of truth will regulate the desires, purify the

thoughts, and sweeten the disposition. It quickens the faculties of the mind and the energies of the soul. It enlarges the capacity for feeling, for loving.

(13) WHAT PRINCIPLE DOES THE INTERNALIZED LEAVEN OF TRUTH DEMONSTRATE BEFORE THE WORLD WHICH IT CANNOT COMPREHEND?

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*Matthew 6:33*

The world regards as a mystery the man who is imbued with this principle. The selfish, money-loving man lives only to secure for himself the riches, honors, and pleasures of this world. He loses the eternal world from his reckoning. But with the follower of Christ these things will not be all-absorbing. For Christ's sake he will labor and deny self, that he may aid in the great work of saving souls who are without Christ and without hope in the world. Such a man the world cannot understand; for he is keeping in view eternal realities. The love of Christ with its redeeming power has come into the heart. This love masters every other motive, and raises its possessor above the corrupting influence of the world.

(14) HOW DOES THE LEAVEN OF TRUTH AFFECT OUR ASSOCIATIONS WITH OTHERS?

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*1 Corinthians 10:24*

The word of God is to have a sanctifying effect on our association with every member of the human family. The leaven of truth will not produce the spirit of rivalry, the love of ambition, the desire to be first. True, heaven-born love is not selfish and changeable. It is not dependent on human praise. The heart of him who receives the grace of God overflows with love for God and for those for whom Christ died. Self is not struggling for recognition. He does not love others because they love and please him, because they appreciate his merits, but because they are Christ's purchased possession. If his motives, words, or actions are misunderstood or misrepresented, he takes no offense, but pursues the even tenor of his way. He is kind and thoughtful, humble in his opinion of himself, yet full of hope, always trusting in the mercy and love of God.

(15) HOW WILL THE LEAVEN OF TRUTH IN OUR HEART DEMONSTRATE ITSELF IN OUR CONDUCT TOWARD OTHERS?

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*1 Peter 1:14-16*

The grace of Christ is to control the temper and the voice. Its working will be seen in politeness and tender regard shown by brother for brother, in kind, encouraging words. An angel presence is in the home. The life breathes a sweet perfume, which ascends to God as holy incense. Love is manifested in kindness, gentleness, forbearance, and long-suffering.

The countenance is changed. Christ abiding in the heart shines out in the faces of those who love Him and keep His commandments. Truth is written there. The sweet peace of heaven is revealed. There is expressed a habitual gentleness, a more than human love.

(16) HOW DOES HEAVEN RESPOND WHEN A SINNER SURRENDERS ALL TO THE TRANSFORMING GRACE OF CHRIST?

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**Luke 15:7**

The leaven of truth works a change in the whole man, making the coarse refined, the rough gentle, the selfish generous. By it the impure are cleansed, washed in the blood of the Lamb. Through its life-giving power it brings all there is of mind and soul and strength into harmony with the divine life. Man with his human nature becomes a partaker of divinity. Christ is honored in excellence and perfection of character. As these changes are effected, angels break forth in rapturous song, and God and Christ rejoice over souls fashioned after the divine similitude.

*From this parable that Christ taught I realize the leaven represents the kingdom of heaven and the quickening, assimilating power of the grace of God.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I realize that without this source I am powerless to change the wickedness of my heart and that renewal must be imparted by the Holy Spirit.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I pray that the assimilating power of the leaven of grace is found in my heart. I desire for the leaven of God's Spirit to permeate every part of my*

*life and become the center of my daily experiences.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

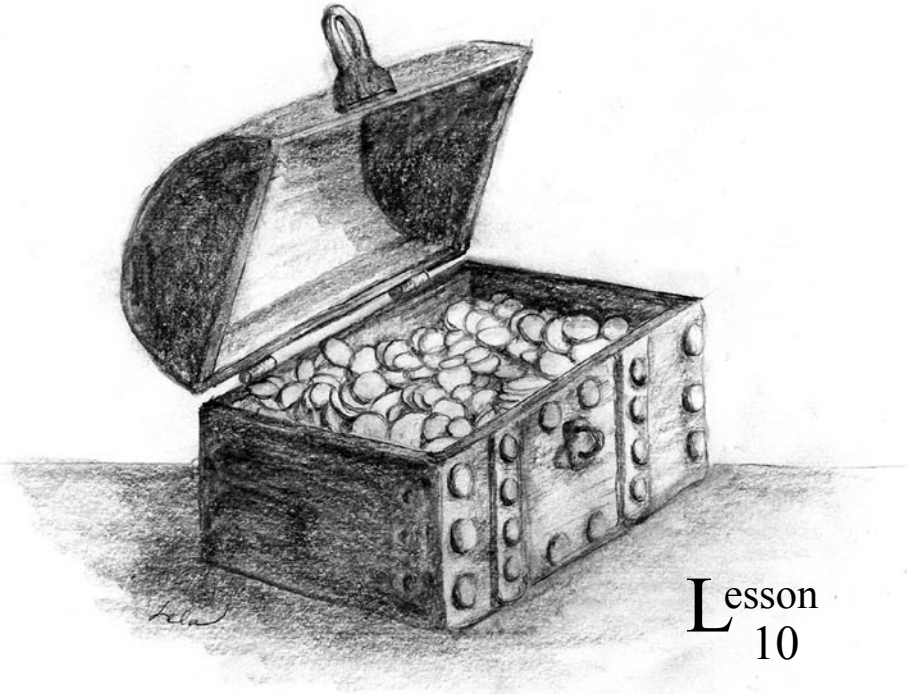
*My heart is touched knowing that all of heaven rejoices when I surrender all to the transforming grace of Christ.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I pray for a love of righteousness that comes as a results of conversion of the heart. May this leaven of love in my heart be reflected by true obedience and the fruits of the Spirit revealed in my life.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

# Hidden Treasure



## Lesson 10

Lesson is based on Matthew 13:44.

(1) WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN COMPARED TO IN THIS PARABLE?

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**Matthew 13:44**

In ancient times it was customary for men to hide their treasures in the earth. Thefts and robberies were frequent. And whenever there was a

change in the ruling power, those who had large possessions were liable to be put under heavy tribute. Moreover the country was in constant danger of invasion by marauding armies. As a consequence, the rich endeavored to preserve their wealth by concealing it, and the earth was looked upon as a safe hiding place. But often the place of concealment was forgotten; death might claim the owner, imprisonment or exile might separate him from his treasure, and the wealth he had taken such pains to preserve was left for the fortunate finder. In Christ's day it was not uncommon to discover in neglected land old coins and ornaments of gold and silver.

A man hires land to cultivate, and as the oxen plow the soil, buried treasure is unearthed. As the man discovers this treasure, he sees that a fortune is within his reach. Restoring the gold to its hiding place, he returns to his home and sells all that he has, in order to purchase the field containing the treasure. His family and his neighbors think that he is acting like a madman. Looking on the field, they see no value in the neglected soil. But the man knows what he is doing; and when he has a title to the field, he searches every part of it to find the treasure that he has secured.

(2) WHAT IS THE SOURCE THAT POINTS FALLEN MANKIND TO THE HEAVENLY TREASURE?

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**2 Timothy 3:15; John 17:17**

This parable illustrates the value of the heavenly treasure, and the effort that should be made to secure it. The finder of the treasure in the field was ready to part with all that he had, ready to put forth untiring labor, in order to secure the hidden riches. So the finder of heavenly treasure will count no labor too great and no sacrifice too dear, in order to gain the treasures of truth.

In the parable the field containing the treasure represents the Holy Scriptures. And the gospel is the treasure. The earth itself is not so interlaced with golden veins and filled with precious things as is the word of God.

(3) WHY IS THE VALUE OF THIS TREASURE NOT EVIDENT TO EVERYONE?

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**Mark 4:19; 2 Corinthians 4:3, 4**

The treasures of the gospel are said to be hidden. By those who are wise in their own estimation, who are puffed up by the teaching of vain philosophy, the beauty and power and mystery of the plan of redemption are not perceived. Many have eyes, but they see not; they have ears, but they hear not; they have intellect, but they discern not the hidden treasure.

A man might pass over the place where treasure had been concealed. In dire necessity he might sit down to rest at the foot of a tree, not knowing of the riches hidden at its roots. So it was with the Jews. As a golden treasure, truth had been intrusted to the Hebrew people. The Jewish economy, bearing the signature of Heaven, had been instituted by Christ Himself. In types and symbols the great truths of redemption were veiled. Yet when Christ came, the Jews did not recognize Him to whom all these symbols pointed. They had the word of God in their hands; but the traditions which had been handed down from generation to generation, and the human interpretation of the Scriptures, hid from them the truth as it is in Jesus. The spiritual import of the sacred writings was lost. The treasure house of all knowledge was open to them, but they knew it not.

(4) WHY IS TRUTH PERCEIVED BY SOME AND NOT BY OTHERS?

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***1 Corinthians 2:14***

God does not conceal His truth from men. By their own course of action they make it obscure to themselves. Christ gave the Jewish people abundant evidence that He was the Messiah; but His teaching called for a decided change in their lives. They saw that if they received Christ, they must give up their cherished maxims and traditions, their selfish, ungodly practices. It required a sacrifice to receive changeless, eternal truth. Therefore they would not admit the most conclusive evidence that God could give to establish faith in Christ. They professed to believe the Old Testament Scriptures, yet they refused to accept the testimony contained therein concerning Christ's life and character. They were afraid of being convinced lest they should be converted and be compelled to give up their preconceived opinions. The treasure of the gospel, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, was among them, but they rejected the greatest gift that Heaven could bestow.

**(5) WHY DID MANY THAT WERE CONVICTED THAT JESUS IS THE SAVIOUR AND SON OF GOD STILL ULTIMATELY REJECT HIM?**

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***John 12:42, 43***

*Among the rulers there were many that were convinced; they believed Jesus to be the Son of God; but it was not in*

harmony with their ambitious desires to confess Him. They had not the faith that would have secured for them the heavenly treasure. They were seeking worldly treasure.

**(6) WHAT IS CHRIST'S WARNING TO THOSE WHO SEEK TO GAIN THE WORLD OVER HEAVENLY TREASURES?**

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***Matthew 6:21***

And today men are eagerly seeking for earthly treasure. Their minds are filled with selfish, ambitious thoughts. For the sake of gaining worldly riches, honor, or power, they place the maxims, traditions, and requirements of men above the requirements of God. From them the treasures of His word are hidden.

“If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”  
2 Cor.4:3, 4.

**(7) WHAT IS THE DANGEROUS RAMIFICATIONS OF SEEKING WORLDLY GAIN?**

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***Matthew 16:26***

The Saviour saw that men were absorbed in getting gain, and were losing sight of eternal realities. He undertook to correct this evil. He sought to break the infatuating spell that was paralyzing



the soul. Lifting up His voice He cried, "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" He presents before fallen humanity the nobler world they have lost sight of, that they may behold eternal realities. He takes them to the threshold of the Infinite, flushed with the indescribable glory of God, and shows them the treasure there.

**(8) WHAT IS THE TRUE WORTH OF THE TREASURE OF WISDOM THAT THE GOSPEL IMPARTS?**

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***Job 28:13-19***

The value of this treasure is above gold or silver. The riches of earth's mines cannot compare with it.

This is the treasure that is found in the Scriptures. The Bible is God's great lesson book, His great educator. The foundation of all true science is contained in the Bible. Every branch of knowledge may be found by searching the word of God. And above all else it contains the science of all sciences, the science of salvation. The Bible is the mine of the unsearchable riches of Christ.

**(9) WHAT IS THE SOURCE THAT LIGHTS OUR PATH WITH THE HIGHEST FORM OF EDUCATION?**

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***Psalms 119:103-105; Proverbs 6:23***

The true higher education is gained by studying and obeying the word of

God. But when God's word is laid aside for books that do not lead to God and the kingdom of heaven, the education acquired is a perversion of the name.

**(10) WHERE IS THE SECOND SOURCE FROM WHICH LESSONS OF HEAVENLY AND ETERNAL TRUTHS CAN BE OBTAINED?**

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***Psalms 19:1; Isaiah 40:26***

There are wonderful truths in nature. The earth, the sea, and the sky are full of truth. They are our teachers. Nature utters her voice in lessons of heavenly wisdom and eternal truth. But fallen man will not understand. Sin has obscured his vision, and he cannot of himself interpret nature without placing it above God. Correct lessons cannot impress the minds of those who reject the word of God. The teaching of nature is by them so perverted that it turns the mind away from the Creator.

**(11) HOW DO THOSE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT REGARD THE GAIN OF SPIRITUAL WISDOM?**

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***Proverbs 3:13, 14***

By many, man's wisdom is thought to be higher than the wisdom of the divine Teacher, and God's lesson book is looked upon as old-fashioned, stale, and uninteresting. But by those who have been vivified by the Holy Spirit it is not so regarded. They see the priceless treasure, and would sell all to buy the field that contains it. Instead

of books containing the suppositions of reputedly great authors, they choose the word of Him who is the greatest author and the greatest teacher the world has ever known, who gave His life for us, that through Him we might have everlasting life.

(12) WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF SECULAR BASED EDUCATIONAL THEORIES?

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**Proverbs 14:12**

Satan works on human minds, leading them to think that there is wonderful knowledge to be gained apart from God. By deceptive reasoning he led Adam and Eve to doubt God's word, and to supply its place with a theory that led to disobedience. And his sophistry is doing today what it did in Eden. Teachers who mingle the sentiments of infidel authors with the education they are giving, plant in the minds of youth thoughts that will lead to distrust of God and transgression of His law. Little do they know what they are doing. Little do they realize what will be the result of their work.

(13) WHAT EFFECT DOES POOR CHOICES IN FOOD AND DRINK HAVE ON OUR BODY AND THEREFORE OUR ABILITY TO LEARN?

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**Daniel 1:8**

(14) HOW DID GOD BLESS THE FOUR HEBREWS THAT CHOSE

TO OBEY GOD'S LAWS THAT GOVERN OUR WELL-BEING?

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**Daniel 1:19, 20**

A student may go through all the grades of the schools and colleges of today. He may devote all his powers to acquiring knowledge. But unless he has a knowledge of God, unless he obeys the laws that govern his being, he will destroy himself. By wrong habits he loses his power of self-appreciation. He loses self-control. He cannot reason correctly about matters that concern him most closely. He is reckless and irrational in his treatment of mind and body. By wrong habits he makes of himself a wreck. Happiness he cannot have; for his neglect to cultivate pure, healthful principles places him under the control of habits that ruin his peace. His years of taxing study are lost, for he has destroyed himself. He has misused his physical and mental powers, and the temple of the body is in ruins. He is ruined for this life and for the life to come. By acquiring earthly knowledge he thought to gain a treasure, but by laying his Bible aside he sacrificed a treasure worth everything else.

(15) HOW CAN WE UNCOVER THE TREASURES IN GOD'S WORD?

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**2 Timothy 2:15**

The word of God is to be our study. We are to educate our children in the truths found therein. It is an inexhaustible treasure; but men fail to find this treasure because they do not search

until it is within their possession. Very many are content with a supposition in regard to the truth. They are content with a surface work, taking for granted that they have all that is essential. They take the sayings of others for truth, being too indolent to put themselves to diligent, earnest labor, represented in the word as digging for hidden treasure. But man's inventions are not only unreliable, they are dangerous; for they place man where God should be. They place the sayings of men where a "Thus saith the Lord" should be.

**(16) HOW DO THESE SCRIPTURES DEFINE TRUTH?**

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***John 14:6***

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***John 17:17***

Christ is the truth. His words are truth, and they have a deeper significance than appears on the surface. All the sayings of Christ have a value beyond their unpretending appearance. Minds that are quickened by the Holy Spirit will discern the value of these sayings. They will discern the precious gems of truth, though these may be buried treasures.

**(17) IN OUR SEARCH FOR THE TREASURE OF TRUTH WHAT ARE WE CAUTIONED TO AVOID?**

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***2 Peter 3:16***

Human theories and speculations will never lead to an understanding to God's word. Those who suppose that they understand philosophy think that their explanations are necessary to unlock the treasures of knowledge and to prevent heresies from coming into the church. But it is these explanations that have brought in false theories and heresies. Men have made desperate efforts to explain what they thought to be intricate scriptures; but too often their efforts have only darkened that which they tried to make clear.

The priests and Pharisees thought they were doing great things as teachers by putting their own interpretation upon the word of God, but Christ said of them, "Ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God." Mark 12:24. He charged them with the guilt of "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Mark 7:7. Though they were the teachers of the oracles of God, though they were supposed to understand His word, they were not doers of the word. Satan had blinded their eyes that they should not see its true import.

This is the work of many in our day. Many churches are guilty of this sin. There is danger, great danger, that the supposed wise men of today will repeat the experience of the Jewish teachers. They falsely interpret the divine oracles, and souls are brought into perplexity and shrouded in darkness because of their misconception of divine truth.

**(18) WHAT SHOULD NOT BE PLACED ABOVE THE WORD OF GOD?**

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***Mark 7:9***

## Hidden Treasure

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The Scriptures need not be read by the dim light of tradition or human speculation. As well might we try to give light to the sun with a torch as to explain the Scriptures by human tradition or imagination. God's holy word needs not the torchlight glimmer of earth to make its glories distinguishable. It is light in itself—the glory of God revealed, and beside it every other light is dim.

(19) WHAT TYPE OF TREASURE HUNT WILL FIND SUCCESS?

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*Jeremiah 29:13*

But there must be earnest study and close investigation. Sharp, clear perceptions of truth will never be the reward of indolence. No earthy blessing can be obtained without earnest, patient, persevering effort. If men attain success in business, they must have a will to do and a faith to look for results. And we cannot expect to gain spiritual knowledge without earnest toil. Those who desire to find the treasures of truth must dig for them as the miner digs for the treasure hidden in the earth. No halfhearted, indifferent work will avail. It is essential for old and young, not only to read God's word, but to study it with wholehearted earnestness, praying and searching for truth as for hidden treasure. Those who do this will be rewarded, for Christ will quicken the understanding.

Our salvation depends on a knowledge of the truth contained in the Scriptures. It is God's will that we should possess this. Search, O search the precious Bible with hungry hearts. Explore God's

word as the miner explores the earth to find veins of gold. Never give up the search until you have ascertained your relation to God and His will in regard to you. Christ declared, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it." John 14:13, 14.

Men of piety and talent catch views of eternal realities, but often they fail of understanding, because the things that are seen eclipse the glory of the unseen. He who would seek successfully for the hidden treasure must rise to higher pursuits than the things of this world. His affections and all His capabilities must be consecrated to the search.

(20) WHAT CAN WE DO ON OUR PART THAT AFFECTS OUR ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND THE TREASURES FOUND IN GOD'S WORD?

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*Psalms 111:10*

Disobedience has closed the door to a vast amount of knowledge that might have been gained from the Scriptures. Understanding means obedience to God's commandments. The Scriptures are not to be adapted to meet the prejudice and jealousy of men. They can be understood only by those who are humbly seeking for a knowledge of the truth that they may obey it.

(21) WHAT CHARACTERISTIC DID THE PEOPLE AT BEREА DEMONSTRATE THAT IS ESSENTIAL TO SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING AND GROWTH?

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**Acts 17:10, 11**

Do you ask, What shall I do to be saved? You must lay your preconceived opinions, your hereditary and cultivated ideas, at the door of investigation. If you search the Scriptures to vindicate your own opinions, you will never reach the truth. Search in order to learn what the Lord says. If conviction comes as you search, if you see that your cherished opinions are not in harmony with the truth, do not misinterpret the truth in order to suit your own belief, but accept the light given. Open mind and heart that you may behold wondrous things out of God's word.

**(22) WHAT IMPORTANT FACTOR MUST BE PRESENT BEFORE TRUTH CAN TRANSFORM THE HEART?**

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**Hebrews 11:6**

Faith in Christ as the world's Redeemer calls for an acknowledgment of the enlightened intellect controlled by a heart that can discern and appreciate the heavenly treasure. This faith is inseparable from repentance and transformation of character. To have faith means to find and accept the gospel treasure, with all the obligations which it imposes.

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. He may conjecture and imagine, but without the eye of faith he cannot see the treasure. Christ gave His life to secure for us this inestimable treasure;

but without regeneration through faith in His blood, there is no remission of sins, no treasure for any perishing soul.

**(23) WHAT POWER TEACHES US AND IMPARTS THE ABILITY TO DISCERN TRUTH?**

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**John 14:26**

We need the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit in order to discern the truths in God's word. The lovely things of the natural world are not seen until the sun, dispelling the darkness, floods them with its light. So the treasures in the word of God are not appreciated until they are revealed by the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness.

The Holy Spirit, sent from heaven by the benevolence of infinite love, takes the things of God and reveals them to every soul that has an implicit faith in Christ. By His power the vital truths upon which the salvation of the soul depends are impressed upon the mind, and the way of life is made so plain that none need err therein. As we study the Scriptures, we should pray for the light of God's Holy Spirit to shine upon the word, that we may see and appreciate its treasures.

**(24) WHY IS THERE NO LIMIT ON THE TREASURE OF SPIRITUAL TRUTHS THAT GOD CAN REVEAL TO US?**

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**Isaiah 55:8, 9; Ecclesiastes 3:11**

## Hidden Treasure

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Let none think that there is no more knowledge for them to gain. The depth of human intellect may be measured; the works of human authors may be mastered; but the highest, deepest, broadest flight of the imagination cannot find out God. There is infinity beyond all that we can comprehend. We have seen only the glimmering of divine glory and of the infinitude of knowledge and wisdom; we have, as it were, been working on the surface of the mine, when rich golden ore is beneath the surface, to reward the one who will dig for it. The shaft must be sunk deeper and yet deeper in the mine, and the result will be glorious treasure. Through a correct faith, divine knowledge will become human knowledge.

(25) IN WHAT ATTITUDE MUST WE SEARCH GOD'S WORD TO FIND THE GREATEST REWARD?

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### *Matthew 18:3*

No one can search the Scriptures in the spirit of Christ without being rewarded. When man is willing to be instructed as a little child, when he submits wholly to God, he will find the truth in His word. If men would be obedient, they would understand the plan of God's government. The heavenly world would open its chambers of grace and glory for exploration. Human beings would be altogether different from what they now are, for by exploring the mines of truth men would be ennobled. The mystery of redemption, the incarnation of Christ, His atoning sacrifice, would not be as they are now, vague in our minds. They would be not only better

understood, but altogether more highly appreciated.

(26) HOW MUST WE SEEK THE EXPERIMENTAL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD THAT ULTIMATELY LEADS TO LIFE ETERNAL?

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### *Proverbs 2:2-4*

In His prayer to the Father, Christ gave to the world a lesson which should be graven on mind and soul. "This is life eternal," He said, "that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." John 17:3. This is true education. It imparts power. The experimental knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent, transforms man into the image of God. It gives to man the mastery of himself, bringing every impulse and passion of the lower nature under the control of the higher powers of the mind. It makes its possessor a son of God and an heir of heaven. It brings him into communion with the mind of the Infinite, and opens to him the rich treasures of the universe.

(27) WHAT GREAT PROMISE MAY WE CLAIM?

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### *Proverbs 2:5*

*The knowledge of God* is the knowledge which is obtained by searching the word of God. And this treasure may be found by every soul who will give all to obtain it.

*I am grateful to my Heavenly Father for making such unmeasurable treasures of wisdom available to me in His Word.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I ask for conviction to seek the highest education available to man—the spiritual treasures of wisdom and knowledge in God's Word. Help me to hunger for it and seek it as gold and with the faith and trust as a child.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I pray for God to send me His Holy Spirit to help me to turn from seeking selfish pleasures of this world and to guide me with an open mind into all truth.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*With a heart filled with love for my Saviour, I pray for the strength and conviction to follow the spiritual light given to me. May I reflect His love demonstrated by full surrender and obedience.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*Study Notes / Prayer Requests / Answered Prayers:* \_\_\_\_\_

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# The Pearl



## Lesson 11

Lesson based on Matthew 13: 45,46.

(1) WHAT IS HID IN CHRIST,  
THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE?

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### **Colossians 2:3**

The blessings of redeeming love our Savior compared to a precious pearl. He illustrated His lesson by the parable of the merchantman seeking goodly pearls “who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.” Christ

Himself is the pearl of great price. In Him is gathered all the glory of the Father, the fullness of the Godhead. He is the brightness of the Father’s glory and the express image of His person. The glory of the attributes of God is expressed in His character. Every page of the Holy Scriptures shines with His light. The righteousness of Christ, as a pure, white pearl, has no defect, no stain. No work of man can improve the great and precious gift of God. It is without a flaw. In Christ are “hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” He is “made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.” 1 Cor. 1:30. All that can satisfy the needs and longings of the



human soul, for this world and for the world to come, is found in Christ. Our Redeemer is the pearl so precious that in comparison all things else may be accounted loss.

(2) HOW WAS CHRIST, THE PRICELESS TREASURE, ACCEPTED BY THE SPIRITUAL MAJORITY OF HIS TIME?

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*John 1:11; John 1:5*

(3) WHO IN THIS PARABLE REPRESENTS THE CLASS WHO DID ACCEPT HIM?

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*Matthew 13:45, 46*

But not all were found indifferent to the gift of heaven. The merchantman in the parable represents a class who were sincerely desiring truth. In different nations there were earnest and thoughtful men who had sought in literature and science and the religions of the heathen world for that which they could receive as the soul's treasure. Among the Jews there were those who were seeking for that which they had not. Dissatisfied with a formal religion, they longed for that which was spiritual and uplifting. Christ's chosen disciples belonged to the latter class, Cornelius and the Ethiopian eunuch to the former. They had been longing and praying for light from heaven; and when Christ was revealed to them, they received Him with gladness.

(4) HOW MAY WE OBTAIN THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE?

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**1 Samuel 12:24**

In the parable the pearl is not represented as a gift. The merchantman bought it at the price of all that he had. Many question the meaning of this, since Christ is represented in the Scriptures as a gift. He is a gift, but only to those who give themselves, soul, body, and spirit, to Him without reserve. We are to give ourselves to Christ, to live a life of willing obedience to all His requirements. All that we are, all the talents and capabilities we possess, are the Lord's, to be consecrated to His service. When we thus give ourselves wholly to Him, Christ, with all the treasures of heaven, gives Himself to us. We obtain the pearl of great price.

(5) TO WHOM IS THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE OFFERED?

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**2 Peter 3:9**

Salvation is a free gift, and yet it is to be bought and sold. In the market of which divine mercy has the management, the precious pearl is represented as being bought without money and without price. In this market all may obtain the goods of heaven. The treasury of the jewels of truth is open to all. "Behold, I have set before thee an open door," the Lord declares, "and no man can shut it." No sword guards the way through this door. Voices from within and at the door say, Come. The Saviour's voice earnestly and lovingly invites us: "I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried

## The Pearl

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in the fire, that thou mayest be rich.”  
Revelation 3:8, 18.

The gospel of Christ is a blessing that all may possess. The poorest are as well able as the richest to purchase salvation; for no amount of worldly wealth can secure it. It is obtained by willing obedience, by giving ourselves to Christ as His own purchased possession.

(6) WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL  
CONDITION OF THOSE WHO  
REJECT CHRIST?

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### *Revelation 3:17*

Education, even of the highest class, cannot of itself bring a man nearer to God. The Pharisees were favored with every temporal and every spiritual advantage, and they said with boastful pride, We are “rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing”; yet they were “wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” Christ offered them the pearl of great price; but they disdained to accept it, and He said to them, “The publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.” Matthew 21:31.

(7) HOW DOES THIS VERSE  
DESCRIBE THE WAY TO  
OBTAIN THE TREASURE OF  
SALVATION?

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### *Matthew 13:44-46*

We cannot earn salvation, but we are to seek for it with as much interest and perseverance as though we would abandon everything in the world for it.

We are to seek for the pearl of great price, but not in worldly marts or in worldly ways. The price we are required to pay is not gold or silver, for this belongs to God. Abandon the idea that temporal or spiritual advantages will win for you salvation. God calls for your willing obedience. He asks you to give up your sins. “To him that overcometh,” Christ declares, “will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.” Rev. 3:21.

(8) WHAT ARE THREE PITFALLS  
SATAN USES TO DISTRACT US  
FROM SEARCHING FOR THE  
TREASURES OF HEAVEN?

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### *1 John 2:16*

There are some who seem to be always seeking for the heavenly pearl. But they do not make an entire surrender of their wrong habits. They do not die to self that Christ may live in them. Therefore they do not find the precious pearl. They have not overcome unholy ambition and their love for worldly attractions. They do not take up the cross and follow Christ in the path of self-denial and sacrifice. Almost Christians, yet not fully Christians, they seem near the kingdom of heaven, but they cannot enter there. Almost but not wholly saved, means to be not almost but wholly lost.

(9) WHO DOES CHRIST CONSIDER TO BE THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE AND IS HIS DESIRE TO SAVE?

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***Zechariah 9:16***

The parable of the merchantman seeking goodly pearls has a double significance: it applies not only to men as seeking the kingdom of heaven, but to Christ as seeking His lost inheritance. Christ, the heavenly merchantman seeking goodly pearls, saw in lost humanity the pearl of price. In man, defiled and ruined by sin, He saw the possibilities of redemption. Hearts that have been the battleground of the conflict with Satan, and that have been rescued by the power of love, are more precious to the Redeemer than are those who have never fallen. God looked upon humanity, not as vile and worthless; He looked upon it in Christ, saw it as it might become through redeeming love. He collected all the riches of the universe, and laid them down in order to buy the pearl. And Jesus, having found it, resets it in His own diadem. . . "They shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels." Mal. 3:17.

(10) WHO CONVICTS SINNERS OF THEIR NEED TO POSSESS THE PRICELESS PEARL?

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***1 Corinthians 2:10***

But Christ as the precious pearl, and our privilege of possessing this heavenly treasure, is the theme on which we most need to dwell. It is the Holy Spirit that reveals to men the preciousness of the goodly pearl. The time of the Holy Spirit's power is the time when in a special sense the heavenly gift is sought and found. In Christ's day many heard the gospel, but their minds were darkened by false teaching, and they did not recognize in the humble Teacher of Galilee the Sent of God. But after Christ's ascension His enthronement in His mediatorial kingdom was signaled by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

(11) WHEN THE VALUE OF THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE IS REALIZED AND THE TREASURE ACCEPTED, HOW DOES THE POSSESSOR VIEW CHRIST?

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***Acts 5:31***

On the day of Pentecost the Spirit was given. Christ's witnesses proclaimed the power of the risen Saviour. The light of heaven penetrated the darkened minds of those who had been deceived by the enemies of Christ. They now saw Him exalted to be "a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." They saw Him encircled with the glory of heaven, with infinite treasures in His hands to bestow upon all who would turn from their rebellion. As the apostles set forth the glory of the Only-Begotten of the Father, three thousand souls were convicted. They were made

to see themselves as they were, sinful and polluted, and Christ as their friend and Redeemer. Christ was lifted up, Christ was glorified, through the power of the Holy Spirit resting upon men. By faith these believers saw Him as the One who had borne humiliation, suffering, and death that they might not perish but have everlasting life. The revelation of Christ by the Spirit brought to them a realizing sense of His power and majesty, and they stretched forth their hands to Him by faith, saying, "I believe."

(12) HOW DID PETER AND JOHN DEMONSTRATE IN THEIR REACTION WHAT ALL WILL EXPERIENCE WHO ALSO FIND THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE?

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**Acts 4:20**

Then the glad tidings of a risen Saviour were carried to the uttermost bounds of the inhabited world. The church beheld converts flocking to her from all directions. Believers were reconverted. Sinners united with Christians in seeking the pearl of great price. The prophecy was fulfilled, The weak shall be "as David," and the house of David "as the angel of the Lord." Zech. 12:8. Every Christian saw in his brother the divine similitude of benevolence and love. One interest prevailed. One object swallowed up all others. All hearts beat in harmony. The only ambition of the believers was to reveal the likeness of Christ's character, and to labor for the enlargement of His kingdom. "The multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one

soul. . . . With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them all." Acts 4:32, 33.

(13) WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THE EFFORTS OF THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN SHARING THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE?

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**Acts 2:47**

The Spirit of Christ animated the whole congregation; for they had found the pearl of great price.

(14) WHAT HAS GOD PROMISED TO DO IN THE FINAL DAYS OF EARTH'S HISTORY THAT WILL DRAW A MULTITUDE TO SEEK THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE?

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**Joel 2:28**

These scenes are to be repeated, and with greater power. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was the former rain, but the latter rain will be more abundant. The Spirit awaits our demand and reception. Christ is again to be revealed in His fulness by the Holy Spirit's power. Men will discern the value of the precious pearl, and with the apostle Paul they will say, "What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord." Phil. 3:7, 8.

*I am grateful for Christ, the Pearl of Great Price in whom is hidden all the treasure of wisdom and knowledge.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I am thankful that Christ, the Pearl of Great Price, can be found by all who search for Him!*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I pray for the awesome presence and power of the Holy Spirit. May I be led to full acceptance of the priceless gift of salvation and be given the heart to*

*walk in willing love-based obedience.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*May God grant me the wisdom to avoid Satan's snares so that I may inherit the Pearl of Great Price He has so graciously provided.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I pray that all with whom I come in contact will recognize the Pearl of Great Price within me and will long to obtain this great treasure also.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

***Study Notes / Prayer Requests / Answered Prayers:*** \_\_\_\_\_

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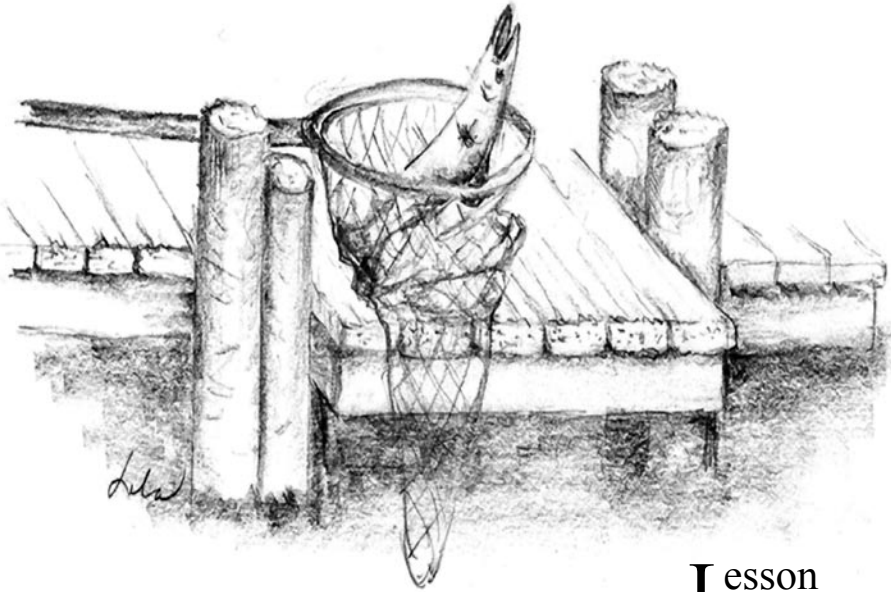
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# The Net



## Lesson 12

Lesson based on Matthew 13: 47-50.

(1) WHAT DOES THE “NET” IN THIS PARABLE REPRESENT?

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**Matthew 13:47**

*The net* “...was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind; which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

(2) WHO WILL BE DRAWN INTO THE NET?

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**Matthew 13:47**

The casting of the net is the preaching of the gospel. This gathers both good and evil into the church.

(3) WHEN DOES THE SEPARATION OF THE GOOD AND EVIL OCCUR?

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**Matthew 13:49**

When the mission of the gospel is completed, the judgment will accomplish the work of separation. Christ saw how the existence of false brethren in the church would cause the way of truth to be evil spoken of. The world would revile the gospel because of the inconsistent lives of false professors. Even Christians would be caused to stumble as they saw that many who bore Christ's name were not controlled by His Spirit. Because these sinners were in the church, men would be in danger of thinking that God excused their sins. Therefore Christ lifts the veil from the future and bids all to behold that it is character, not position, which decides man's destiny.

(4) WHAT STATEMENT IN THIS VERSE SHOWS THAT NOT ALL THAT CLAIM CHRISTIANITY WILL BE SAVED?

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**Matthew 13:49, 50**

Both the parable of the tares and that of the net plainly teach that there is no time when all the wicked will turn to God. The wheat and the tares grow together until the harvest. The good and the bad fish are together drawn ashore for a final separation.

(5) WHEN DOES THE SEPARATION OF THE WICKED AND THE JUST OCCUR?

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**Matthew 13:49**

Again, these parables teach that there is to be no probation after the judgment.

When the work of the gospel is completed, there immediately follows the separation between the good and the evil, and the destiny of each class is forever fixed.

(6) HOW DOES GOD FEEL ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED?

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**Ezekiel 33:11**

God does not desire the destruction of any....Throughout the period of probationary time His Spirit is entreating men to accept the gift of life. It is only those who reject His pleading that will be left to perish. God has declared that sin must be destroyed as an evil ruinous to the universe. Those who cling to sin will perish in its destruction.

*I am thankful God has provided the gospel net for the redemption of mankind.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

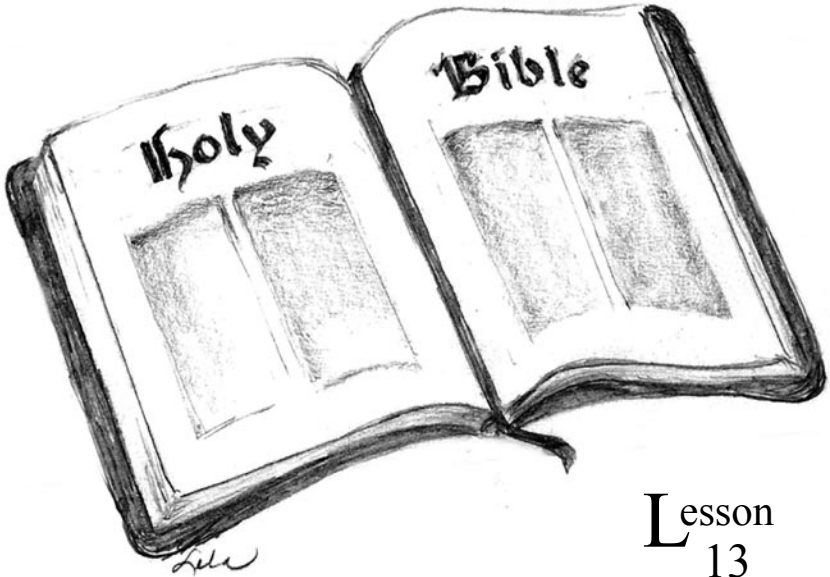
*I realize that the net will bring a mixture of tares and wheat into the church and the separation will occur at Christ's second coming.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I realize God takes no pleasure in the destruction of the wicked and longs to save all His fallen children.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

# Things New and Old



## Lesson 13

Lesson based on Matthew 13: 52.

(1) IF, AS GOOD STEWARDS OF TRUTH, WE PROCLAIM IT, WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT?

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### *Isaiah 55:11*

While Christ was teaching the people, He was also educating His disciples for their future work. In all His instruction there were lessons for them. After giving the parable of the net, He asked them, "Have ye understood all these

things?" They said unto Him, "Yea, Lord." Then in another parable He set before them their responsibility in regard to the truths they had received. "Therefore," He said, "every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an house-holder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old."

The treasure gained by the householder he does not hoard. He brings it forth to communicate to others. And by use the treasure increases. The householder has precious things both new and old. So Christ teaches that the truth committed to His disciples is to be communicated to the world. And as the knowledge of truth is imparted, it will increase.



(2) WHAT IS THE COMMISSION AND PRIVILEGE OF THOSE WHO FIND CHRIST?

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*Acts 22:15*

All who receive the gospel message into the heart will long to proclaim it. The heaven-born love of Christ must find expression. Those who have put on Christ will relate their experience, tracing step by step the leadings of the Holy Spirit—their hungering and thirsting for the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent, the results of their searching of the Scriptures, their prayers, their soul agony, and the words of Christ to them, “Thy sins be forgiven thee.” It is unnatural for any to keep these things secret, and those who are filled with the love of Christ will not do so. In proportion as the Lord has made them the depositories of sacred truth will be their desire that others shall receive the same blessing. And as they make known the rich treasures of God’s grace, more and still more of the grace of Christ will be imparted to them. They will have the heart of a little child in its simplicity and unreserved obedience. Their souls will pant after holiness, and more and more of the treasures of truth and grace will be revealed to them to be given to the world.

(3) WHO PROVIDES WISDOM AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH?

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*Proverbs 2:6*

The great storehouse of truth is the word of God—the written word, the book of nature, and the book of experience in God’s dealing with human life. Here are the treasures from which Christ’s workers are to draw. In the search after truth they are to depend upon God, not upon human intelligences, the great men whose wisdom is foolishness with God. Through His own appointed channels the Lord will impart a knowledge of Himself to every seeker.

(4) TO WHOM WILL THE WISDOM AND TRUTH OF GOD’S WORD BE REVEALED?

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*Psalms 19:7*

If the follower of Christ will believe His word and practice it, there is no science in the natural world that he will not be able to grasp and appreciate. There is nothing but that will furnish him means for imparting the truth to others. Natural science is a treasure house of knowledge from which every student in the school of Christ may draw. As we contemplate the beauty of nature, as we study its lessons in the cultivation of the soil, in the growth of the trees, in all the wonders of earth and sea and sky, there will come to us a new perception of truth. And the mysteries connected with God’s dealings with men, the depths of His wisdom and judgment as seen in human life—these are found to be a storehouse rich in treasure.

(5) WHERE WILL THE TRULY EARNEST SEEKERS OF GOD FIND KNOWLEDGE OF HIM?

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***Psalms 119:130***

But it is in the written word that a knowledge of God is most clearly revealed to fallen man. This is the treasure house of the unsearchable riches of Christ.

**(6) HOW MUCH OF SCRIPTURE IS APPLICABLE TO OUR FULL KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH?**

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***2 Timothy 3:16***

The word of God includes the Scriptures of the Old Testament as well as of the New. One is not complete without the other. Christ declared that the truths of the Old Testament are as valuable as those of the New. Christ was as much man's Redeemer in the beginning of the world as He is today. Before He clothed His divinity with humanity and came to our world, the gospel message was given by Adam, Seth, Enoch, Methuselah, and Noah. Abraham in Canaan and Lot in Sodom bore the message, and from generation to generation faithful messengers proclaimed the Coming One. The rites of the Jewish economy were instituted by Christ Himself. He was the foundation of their system of sacrificial offerings, the great antitype of all their religious service. The blood shed as the sacrifices were offered pointed to the sacrifice of the Lamb of God. All the typical offerings were fulfilled in Him.

Christ as manifested to the patriarchs, as symbolized in the sacrificial service,

as portrayed in the law, and as revealed by the prophets, is the riches of the Old Testament. Christ in His life, His death, and His resurrection, Christ as He is manifested by the Holy Spirit, is the treasure of the New Testament. Our Saviour, the outshining of the Father's glory, is both the Old and the New.

**(7) WHY IS ALL SCRIPTURE IMPORTANT IN PRESENTING THE FULL GOSPEL MESSAGE?**

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***John 5:39; Luke 24:27***

Of Christ's life and death and intercession, which prophets had foretold, the apostles were to go forth as witnesses. Christ in His humiliation, in His purity and holiness, in His matchless love, was to be their theme. And in order to preach the gospel in its fullness, they must present the Saviour not only as revealed in His life and teachings, but as foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament and as symbolized by the sacrificial service.

**(8) WHAT DOES THIS SCRIPTURE PROMISE TO THE JUST WHO ARE CONTINUALLY SEEKING FOR DEEPER TRUTHS?**

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***Proverbs 4:18***

Christ in His teaching presented old truths of which He Himself was the originator, truths which He had spoken through patriarchs and prophets; but He now shed upon them a new light. How different appeared their meaning! A flood of light and spirituality was

brought in by His explanation. And He promised that the Holy Spirit should enlighten the disciples, that the word of God should be ever unfolding to them. They would be able to present its truths in new beauty.

Ever since the first promise of redemption was spoken in Eden, the life, the character, and the mediatorial work of Christ have been the study of human minds. Yet every mind through whom the Holy Spirit has worked has presented these themes in a light that is fresh and new. The truths of redemption are capable of constant development and expansion. Though old, they are ever new, constantly revealing to the seeker for truth a greater glory and a mightier power.

In every age there is a new development of truth, a message of God to the people of that generation. The old truths are all essential; new truth is not independent of the old, but an unfolding of it. It is only as the old truths are understood that we can comprehend the new. When Christ desired to open to His disciples the truth of His resurrection, He began "at Moses and all the prophets" and "expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself." Luke 24:27.

**(9) WHAT WILL BE LOST BY PARTIAL ACCEPTANCE OF GOD'S WORD?**

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**Luke 11:28; Revelation 22:19**

But it is the light which shines in the fresh unfolding of truth that glorifies the

old. He who rejects or neglects the new does not really possess the old. For him it loses its vital power and becomes but a lifeless form.

**(10) WHAT STATEMENT BY CHRIST SHOWS THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IS PARAMOUNT TO ACCEPTING HIM IN THE NEW?**

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**John 5:46**

There are those who profess to believe and to teach the truths of the Old Testament, while they reject the New. But in refusing to receive the teachings of Christ, they show that they do not believe that which patriarchs and prophets have spoken. "Had ye believed Moses," Christ said, "ye would have believed Me; for he wrote of Me." Hence there is no real power in their teaching of even the Old Testament.

Many who claim to believe and to teach the gospel are in a similar error. They set aside the Old Testament Scriptures, of which Christ declared, "They are they which testify of Me." John 5:39. In rejecting the Old, they virtually reject the New; for both are parts of an inseparable whole. No man can rightly present the law of God without the gospel, or the gospel without the law. The law is the gospel embodied, and the gospel is the law unfolded. The law is the root, the gospel is the fragrant blossom and fruit which it bears.

The Old Testament sheds light upon the New, and the New upon the Old. Each is a revelation of the glory of

God in Christ. Both present truths that will continually reveal new depths of meaning to the earnest seeker.

(11) WHAT PHRASE IN THIS VERSE DESCRIBES THE FOCUS OF A CHRISTIAN'S STUDY BOTH ON THIS EARTH AND THROUGHOUT ETERNAL AGES?

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***Mark 4:11***

Truth in Christ and through Christ is measureless. The student of Scripture looks, as it were, into a fountain that deepens and broadens as he gazes into its depths. Not in this life shall we comprehend the mystery of God's love in giving His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. The work of our Redeemer on this earth is and ever will be a subject that will put to the stretch our highest imagination. Man may tax every mental power in the endeavor to fathom this mystery, but his mind will become faint and weary. The most diligent searcher will see before him a boundless, shoreless sea.

(12) WHAT WILL FALLEN MORTALS ALWAYS STRUGGLE TO COMPREHEND AND NEVER FULLY KNOW?

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***Ephesians 3:18, 19***

The truth as it is in Jesus can be experienced, but never explained. Its height and breadth and depth pass our knowledge. We may task our imagination to the utmost, and then we shall see only dimly the outlines

of a love that is unexplainable, that is as high as heaven, but that stooped to the earth to stamp the image of God on all mankind.

Yet it is possible for us to see all that we can bear of the divine compassion. This is unfolded to the humble, contrite soul. We shall understand God's compassion just in proportion as we appreciate His sacrifice for us. As we search the word of God in humility of heart, the grand theme of redemption will open to our research. It will increase in brightness as we behold it, and as we aspire to grasp it, its height and depth will ever increase.

(13) WHAT GREAT PROVISION DOES THIS VERSE DESCRIBE THAT GIVES CONTINUAL FRESHNESS TO OUR CONNECTION WITH CHRIST?

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***1 Thessalonians 5:17***

Our life is to be bound up with the life of Christ; we are to draw constantly from Him, partaking of Him, the living Bread that came down from heaven, drawing from a fountain ever fresh, ever giving forth its abundant treasures. If we keep the Lord ever before us, allowing our hearts to go out in thanksgiving and praise to Him, we shall have a continual freshness in our religious life. Our prayers will take the form of a conversation with God as we would talk with a friend. He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Often there will come to us a sweet joyful sense of the presence of Jesus. Often our hearts will burn within us as He draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. When this is in truth the experience of

the Christian, there is seen in his life a simplicity, a humility, meekness, and lowliness of heart, that show to all with whom he associates that he has been with Jesus and learned of Him.

(14) IF WE BECOME CONNECTED TO CHRIST AND BELIEVE, WHAT DOES HE PROMISE WILL FLOW FROM US?

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**John 7:37, 38**

In those who possess it, the religion of Christ will reveal itself as a vitalizing, pervading principle, a living, working, spiritual energy. There will be manifest the freshness and power and joyousness of perpetual youth. The heart that receives the word of God is not as a pool that evaporates, not like a broken cistern that loses its treasure. It is like the mountain stream fed by unending springs, whose cool, sparkling waters leap from rock to rock, refreshing the weary, the thirsty, the heavy laden.

This experience gives every teacher of truth the very qualifications that will make him a representative of Christ. The spirit of Christ's teaching will give a force and directness to his communications and to his prayers. His witness to Christ will not be a narrow, lifeless testimony. The minister will not preach over and over the same set discourses. His mind will be open to the constant illumination of the Holy Spirit.

(15) WHAT IS THE SOURCE THAT GIVES ENERGIZING POWER TO OUR MINISTRY FOR CHRIST?

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**John 6:63**

When we eat Christ's flesh and drink His blood, the element of eternal life will be found in the ministry. There will not be a fund of stale, oft-repeated ideas. The tame, dull sermonizing will cease. The old truths will be presented, but they will be seen in a new light. There will be a new perception of truth, a clearness and a power that all will discern. Those who have the privilege of sitting under such a ministry will, if susceptible to the Holy Spirit's influence, feel the energizing power of a new life. The fire of God's love will be kindled within them. Their perceptive faculties will be quickened to discern the beauty and majesty of truth.

(16) WHAT EFFORT BLESSED BY GOD, WILL ENABLE HIS FOLLOWERS TO SHARE HOPE, COURAGE, AND SPIRITUAL VISION TO LISTENING EARS?

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**Proverbs 2:3-5**

The faithful householder represents what every teacher of the children and youth should be. If he makes the word of God his treasure, he will continually bring forth new beauty and new truth. When the teacher will rely upon God in prayer, the Spirit of Christ will come upon him, and God will work through him by the Holy Spirit upon the minds of others. The Spirit fills the mind and heart with sweet hope and courage and Bible imagery, and all this will be communicated to the youth under his instruction.

(17) WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT?

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**Psalms 119:162**

The springs of heavenly peace and joy, unsealed in the soul of the teacher by the words of Inspiration, will become a mighty river of influence to bless all who connect with him. The Bible will not become a tiresome book to the student. Under a wise instructor the word will become more and more desirable. It will be as the bread of life, and will never grow old. Its freshness and beauty will attract and charm the children and youth. It is like the sun shining upon the earth, perpetually imparting brightness and warmth, yet never exhausted.

God's holy, educating Spirit is in His word. A light, a new and precious light, shines forth from every page. Truth is there revealed, and words and sentences are made bright and appropriate for the occasion, as the voice of God speaking to the soul.

(18) WHAT CAN BE DONE, BY GOD'S SPIRIT, TO CAPTIVATE THE SENSES, ANIMATE THE SOUL WITH SPIRITUAL POWER, AND BARRICADE THE MIND AGAINST TEMPTATION?

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***Psalms 119:11***

The Holy Spirit loves to address the youth, and to discover to them the treasures and beauties of God's word. The promises spoken by the great Teacher will captivate the senses and animate the soul with spiritual power that is divine. There will grow in the fruitful mind a familiarity with divine things that will be as a barricade against temptation.

The words of truth will grow in importance, and assume a breadth

and fullness of meaning of which we have never dreamed. The beauty and riches of the word have a transforming influence on mind and character. The light of heavenly love will fall upon the heart as an inspiration.

(19) WHAT VISUAL AID HAS GOD GIVEN TO HELP MANKIND COMPREHEND THE DEEP MYSTERIES OF THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION?

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***Psalms 77:13***

The appreciation of the Bible grows with its study. Whichever way the student may turn, he will find displayed the infinite wisdom and love of God.

The significance of the Jewish economy is not yet fully comprehended. Truths vast and profound are shadowed forth in its rites and symbols. The gospel is the key that unlocks its mysteries. Through a knowledge of the plan of redemption, its truths are opened to the understanding. Far more than we do, it is our privilege to understand these wonderful themes. We are to comprehend the deep things of God. Angels desire to look into the truths that are revealed to the people who with contrite hearts are searching the word of God, and praying for greater lengths and breadths and depths and heights of the knowledge which He alone can give.

(20) WHAT IS PROMISED TO THOSE WHO STUDY THE PROPHECIES IN GOD'S WORD?

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***Revelation 1:3***

As we near the close of this world's history, the prophecies relating to the last days especially demand our study. The last book of the New Testament scriptures is full of truth that we need to understand. Satan has blinded the minds of many, so that they have been glad of any excuse for not making the Revelation their study. But Christ through His servant John has here declared what shall be in the last days. . .

(21) WHAT IS ETERNAL LIFE?

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***John 17:3***

Why is it that we do not realize the value of this knowledge? Why are not these glorious truths glowing in our hearts, trembling upon our lips, and pervading our whole being?

(22) WHAT DOES STUDY OF GOD'S WORD REVEAL?

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***2 Timothy 3:15***

In giving us His word, God has put us in possession of every truth essential for our salvation. Thousands have drawn water from these wells of life, yet there is no diminishing of the supply. Thousands have set the Lord before them, and by beholding have been changed into the same image. Their spirit burns within them as they speak of His character, telling what Christ is to them, and what they are to Christ. But these searchers have

not exhausted these grand and holy themes. Thousands more may engage in the work of searching out the mysteries of salvation.

(23) WHAT DESCRIPTIVE TERM DOES SCRIPTURE GIVE FOR THE LIFE AND MISSION OF CHRIST WHICH WILL BE OUR FOCUS OF STUDY THROUGHOUT ETERNITY?

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***1 Timothy 3:16***

As the life of Christ and the character of His mission are dwelt upon, rays of light will shine forth more distinctly at every attempt to discover truth. Each fresh search will reveal something more deeply interesting than has yet been unfolded. The subject is inexhaustible. The study of the incarnation of Christ, His atoning sacrifice and mediatorial work, will employ the mind of the diligent student as long as time shall last; and looking to heaven with its unnumbered years he will exclaim, "Great is the mystery of godliness."

In eternity we shall learn that which, had we received the enlightenment it was possible to obtain here, would have opened our understanding. The themes of redemption will employ the hearts and minds and tongues of the redeemed through the everlasting ages. They will understand the truths which Christ longed to open to His disciples, but which they did not have faith to grasp. Forever and forever new views of the perfection and glory of Christ will appear. Through endless ages will the faithful Householder bring forth from His treasure things new and old.

*I thank the Lord for the blessing of truth that He is revealing to me. I pray for an open mind and a strong desire to be a more diligent student of His Word.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I realize the validity and importance of all of God's Word. I realize that all Scripture was given by inspiration and for a specific purpose and diligent study of it will reveal to me the important truths it contains.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I look forward to heaven and the blessing of eternal time spent growing in the knowledge and understanding the great mystery of godliness—the gift of God's amazing love to man.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I pray for wisdom by God's Spirit to be a loving servant of Christ and enjoy the blessing and privilege of sharing the good news of the gospel to a lost and dying world.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

**Study Notes / Prayer Requests / Answered Prayers:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# Asking

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## Lesson 14

Lesson based on Luke 11:1-13

(1) WHOSE MESSAGE DID CHRIST COME TO DELIVER?

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**John 14:24**

Christ was continually receiving from the Father that He might communicate to us. "The word which ye hear," He said, "is not Mine, but the Father's which sent Me."

(2) WHAT WAS THE FOCUS OF CHRIST'S EARTHLY MISSION?

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**Matthew 20:28**

"The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." Not for Himself, but for others, He lived and thought and prayed.

(3) AS CHRIST'S HABIT OF COMMUNING WITH GOD IS OUR MODEL, WHAT EXAMPLE DID HE SET FOR US REGARDING THE TIME AND TYPE OF PLACE?

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**Mark 1:35; Matthew 6:6**

From hours spent with God He came forth morning by morning, to bring the light of heaven to men. Daily He received a fresh baptism of the Holy

Spirit. In the early hours of the new day the Lord awakened Him from His slumbers, and His soul and His lips were anointed with grace, that He might impart to others. His words were given Him fresh from the heavenly courts, words that He might speak in season to the weary and oppressed. "The Lord God hath given Me," He said, "the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: He wakeneth morning by morning, He wakeneth Mine ear to hear as the learned." Isa. 50:4.

(4) WHAT METHOD OF COMMUNION WAS CHRIST'S HABIT AND OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE?

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*Matthew 14:23*

Christ's disciples were much impressed by his prayers and by his habit of communion with God. One day after a short absence from their Lord, they found him absorbed in supplication. Seemingly unconscious of their presence, he continued praying aloud. The hearts of the disciples were deeply moved. As he ceased praying, they exclaimed, "Lord, teach us to pray." In answer, Christ repeated the Lord's prayer, as he had given it in the sermon on the mount.

(5) TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN MINISTRY, WHAT ELEMENT MUST ACCOMPANY OUR PRAYERS OF FAITH?

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*James 2:17*

(6) WHO SHOULD BE THE BENEFICIARY OF OUR PRAYERS?

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*Philippians 2:4*

Then in a parable he illustrated the lesson he desired to teach them. "Which of you," he said, "shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I can not rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth."

Here Christ represents the petitioner as asking that he may give again. He must obtain the bread, else he can not supply the necessities of a weary, belated wayfarer. Though his neighbor is unwilling to be troubled, he will not desist his pleading; his friend must be relieved. At last his importunity is rewarded, and his wants are supplied.

(7) WHAT PROMISE CAN THOSE SEEKING TO MINISTER CLAIM?

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*2 Corinthians 9:8; Matthew 28:18*

In like manner the disciples were to seek blessings from God. In the

## Asking to Give

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feeding of the multitude and in the sermon on the bread from heaven, Christ had opened to them their work as his representatives. They were to give the bread of life to the people. He who had appointed their work, saw how often their faith would be tried. Often they would be thrown into unexpected positions, and would realize their human insufficiency. Souls that were hungering for the bread of life would come to them, and they would feel themselves to the destitute and helpless. They must receive spiritual food, or they would have nothing to impart. But they were not to turn one soul away unfed. Christ directs them to the source of supply. The man whose friend came to him for entertainment, even at the unseasonable hour of midnight, did not turn him away. He had nothing to set before him, but he went to one who had food, and pressed his request, until the neighbor supplied his need. And would not God, who had sent his servants to feed the hungry, supply their need for his own work?

(8) WHAT IS GOD'S ATTITUDE IN PROVIDING FOR HIS CHILDREN?

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### *Matthew 7:11*

But the selfish neighbor in the parable does not represent the character of God. The lesson is drawn, not by comparison, but by contrast. A selfish man will grant an urgent request, in order to rid himself of one who disturbs his rest. But God delights to give. He is full of compassion, and he

longs to grant the requests of those who come unto him in faith. He gives to us that we may minister to others, and thus become like himself.

(9) WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ON OUR PART TO RECEIVE?

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### *Matthew 7:7*

Christ declares: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

The Saviour continues: "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"

(10) WHAT DO WE HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING CALLED?

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### *Galatians 3:26*

(11) WITH WHAT TITLE DO WE HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF ADDRESSING GOD?

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### *Matthew 6:9*

In order to strengthen our confidence in God, Christ teaches us to address Him by a new name, a name entwined with the dearest associations of the human heart. He gives us the privilege of calling the infinite God our Father. This name, spoken to Him and of Him, is a sign of our love and trust toward Him, and a pledge of His regard and relationship to us. Spoken when asking His favor or blessing, it is as music in His ears. That we might not think it presumption to call Him by this name, He has repeated it again and again. He desires us to become familiar with the appellation.

(12) WHAT PRIVILEGED POSITION ARE WE GIVEN?

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**Revelation 1:6**

God regards us as His children. He has redeemed us out of the careless world and has chosen us to become members of the royal family, sons and daughters of the heavenly King. He invites us to trust in Him with a trust deeper and stronger than that of a child in his earthly father. Parents love their children, but the love of God is larger, broader, deeper, than human love can possibly be. It is immeasurable. Then if earthly parents know how to give good gifts to their children, how much more shall our Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?

(13) WHAT TYPE OF PRAYERS AVAIL MUCH?

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**James 5:16**

Christ's lessons in regard to prayer should be carefully considered. There is a divine science in prayer, and His illustration brings to view principles that all need to understand. He shows what is the true spirit of prayer, He teaches the necessity of perseverance in presenting our requests to God, and assures us of His willingness to hear and answer prayer.

(14) UPON WHAT PRINCIPLE, AS SET FORTH IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST, SHOULD OUR PRAYERS BE BASED?

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**Mark 12:31**

Our prayers are not to be a selfish asking, merely for our own benefit. We are to ask that we may give. The principle of Christ's life must be the principle of our lives. "For their sakes," He said, speaking of His disciples, "I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified." John 17:19. The same devotion, the same self-sacrifice, the same subjection to the claims of the word of God, that were manifest in Christ, must be seen in His servants. Our mission to the world is not to serve or please ourselves; we are to glorify God by cooperating with Him to save sinners. We are to ask blessings from God that we may communicate to others. The capacity for receiving is preserved only by imparting. We cannot continue to receive heavenly treasure without communicating to those around us.

(15) FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO WORK THROUGH US, WHAT IMPORTANT ELEMENT MUST OUR FERVENT PRAYERS CONTAIN?

authority for the fulfillment of the promise, but they do not those things that would show faith in Christ and love for Him.

(17) IF WE ARE NOT LIVING ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S LAW, WHAT DO OUR PRAYERS BECOME?

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**Proverbs 28:9**

Many are forfeiting the condition of acceptance with the Father. We need to examine closely the deed of trust wherewith we approach God. If we are disobedient, we bring to the Lord a note to be cashed when we have not fulfilled the conditions that would make it payable to us. We present to God His promises, and ask Him to fulfill them, when by so doing He would dishonor His own name.

The promise is "If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7. And John declares: "Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected." 1 John 2:3-5.

(18) WHAT MUST BE DONE TO RECEIVE HEALING AND GOD'S RICH BLESSINGS?

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**James 5:16**

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**Psalms 32:5**

In the parable the petitioner was again and again repulsed, but he did not relinquish his purpose. So our prayers do not always seem to receive an immediate answer; but Christ teaches that we should not cease to pray. Prayer is not to work any change in God; it is to bring us into harmony with God. When we make request of Him, He may see that it is necessary for us to search our hearts and repent of sin. Therefore He takes us through test and trial, He brings us through humiliation, that we may see what hinders the working of His Holy Spirit through us.

(16) BEFORE WE CAN CLAIM HIS PROMISES, WHAT TWO IMPORTANT CONDITIONS MUST BE MET ?

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**Psalms 119:2**

There are conditions to the fulfillment of God's promises, and prayer can never take the place of duty. "If ye love Me," Christ says, "Keep My commandments." "He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me; and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him." John 14:15, 21. Those who bring their petitions to God, claiming His promise while they do not comply with the conditions, insult Jehovah. They bring the name of Christ as their

One of Christ's last commands to His disciples was "Love one another as I have loved you." John 13:34. Do we obey this command, or are we indulging sharp, unchristlike traits of character? If we have in any way grieved or wounded others, it is our duty to confess our fault and seek for reconciliation. This is an essential preparation that we may come before God in faith, to ask His blessing.

(19) WHAT SIN DOES GOD CONSIDER THE WITHHOLDING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO BE?

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**Malachi 3:8**

There is another matter too often neglected by those who seek the Lord in prayer. Have you been honest with God? By the prophet Malachi the Lord declares, "Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from Mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings."

(20) WHAT DOES GOD PROMISE TO POUR OUT ON HIS FAITHFUL STEWARDS?

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**Malachi 3:10**

As the Giver of every blessing, God claims a certain portion of all we possess. This is His provision to sustain the preaching of the gospel. And by making this return to God, we are to show our appreciation of His gifts. But if we withhold from Him that which is His own, how can we claim His blessing? If we are unfaithful stewards of earthly things, how can we expect Him to entrust us with the things of heaven? It may be that here is the secret of unanswered prayer. But the Lord in His great mercy is ready to forgive, and He says, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, . . . if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field. . . . And all nations shall call you blessed; for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the Lord of hosts." Mal. 3:10-12.

So it is with every other one of God's requirements. All His gifts are promised on condition of obedience. God has a heaven full of blessings for those who will cooperate with Him. All who obey Him may with confidence claim the fulfillment of His promises.

(21) WHAT IS THE FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT OF ANSWERED PRAYER?

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**Hebrews 11:6**

But we must show a firm, undeviating trust in God. Often He delays to answer us in order to try our faith or test the

genuineness of our desire. Having asked according to His word, we should believe His promise and press our petitions with a determination that will not be denied.

God does not say, Ask once, and you shall receive. He bids us ask. Unwearyingly persist in prayer. The persistent asking brings the petitioner into a more earnest attitude, and gives him an increased desire to receive the things for which he asks. Christ said to Martha at the grave of Lazarus, "If thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God." John 11:40.

But many have not a living faith. This is why they do not see more of the power of God. Their weakness is the result of their unbelief. They have more faith in their own working than in the working of God for them. They take themselves into their own keeping. They plan and devise, but pray little, and have little real trust in God. They think they have faith, but it is only the impulse of the moment. Failing to realize their own need, or God's willingness to give, they do not persevere in keeping their requests before the Lord.

Our prayers are to be as earnest and persistent as was the petition of the needy friend who asked for the loaves at midnight. The more earnestly and steadfastly we ask, the closer will be our spiritual union with Christ. We shall receive increased blessings because we have increased faith.

(22) HOW DOES PAUL DESCRIBE THOSE WHO ARE SEEKING HARMONY WITH OUR PRAYER-HEARING GOD?

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*1 Corinthians 3:9*

Our part is to pray and believe. Watch unto prayer. Watch, and cooperate with the prayer-hearing God. Bear in mind that "we are labourers together with God." Speak and act in harmony with your prayers. It will make an infinite difference with you whether trial shall prove your faith to be genuine, or show that your prayers are only a form.

(23) TO WHOM SHOULD WE EXPRESS OUR DIFFICULTIES AND SPIRITUAL INFIRMITIES?

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*Psalms 55:22*

When perplexities arise, and difficulties confront you, look not for help to humanity. Trust all with God. The practice of telling our difficulties to others only makes us weak, and brings no strength to them. It lays upon them the burden of our spiritual infirmities, which they cannot relieve. We seek the strength of erring, finite man, when we might have the strength of the unerring, infinite God.

(24) FROM WHOM CAN THE WISDOM FOR SUCCESS IN SPIRITUAL AS WELL AS TEMPORAL MATTERS BE FOUND?

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*James 1:5*

You need not go to the ends of the earth for wisdom, for God is near. It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can



do for you. We need to have far less confidence in what man can do and far more confidence in what God can do for every believing soul. He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him. He longs to give you understanding in temporal as well as in spiritual matters. He can sharpen the intellect. He can give tact and skill. Put your talents into the work, ask God for wisdom, and it will be given you.

(25) WHAT ESSENTIAL SPIRITUAL ELEMENT HAS GOD GIVEN A MEASURE OF TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RACE?

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***Romans 12:3***

Take the word of Christ as your assurance. Has He not invited you to come unto Him? Never allow yourself to talk in a hopeless, discouraged way. If you do you will lose much. By looking at appearances and complaining when difficulties and pressure come, you give evidence of a sickly, enfeebled faith. Talk and act as if your faith was invincible. The Lord is rich in resources; He owns the world. Look heavenward in faith. Look to Him who has light and power and efficiency.

(26) TO WHAT SOURCE CAN WE GO TO BUILD A GENUINE AND BUOYANT FAITH THAT WILL NOT GROW WEARY?

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***Romans 10:17***

There is in genuine faith a buoyancy, a steadfastness of principle, and a fixedness of purpose that neither time nor toil can weaken. "Even the youths

shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isa. 40:30, 31.

(27) HOW CAN WE RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE ABLE TO HELP OTHERS?

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***Luke 11:13***

There are many who long to help others, but they feel that they have no spiritual strength or light to impart. Let them present their petitions at the throne of grace. Plead for the Holy Spirit. God stands back of every promise He has made. With your Bible in your hands say, I have done as Thou hast said. I present Thy promise, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

(28) IN WHOSE NAME AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE SHOULD WE PRAY?

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***John 14:13***

(29) WHO IS OUR PARTNER IN PRAYER?

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***Romans 8:26***

We must not only pray in Christ's name, but by the inspiration of the

Holy Spirit. This explains what is meant when it is said that the Spirit “maketh intercession for us, with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Such prayer God delights to answer. When with earnestness and intensity we breathe a prayer in the name of Christ, there is in that very intensity a pledge from God that He is about to answer our prayer “exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.” Eph. 3:20.

(30) WHAT IS THE CONDITION OF ANSWERED PRAYER?

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***Mark 11:24***

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***1 John 5:14, 15***

And the beloved John, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, speaks with great plainness and assurance: “If we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us: and if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.” Then press your petition to the Father in the name of Jesus. God will honor that name.

(31) WHEN WE PRAY, MEETING THE CONDITIONS, UPON WHAT PROMISE CAN WE DEPEND?

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***Ephesians 3:20***

The rainbow round about the throne is an assurance that God is true, that in Him is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. We have sinned

against Him, and are undeserving of His favor; yet He Himself has put into our lips that most wonderful of pleas, “Do not abhor us, for Thy name’s sake; do not disgrace the throne of Thy glory; remember, break not Thy covenant with us.” Jer. 14:21. When we come to him confessing our unworthiness and sin, He has pledged Himself to give heed to our cry. The honor of His throne is staked for the fulfillment of His word unto us.

Like Aaron, who symbolized Christ, our Saviour bears the names of all His people on His heart in the holy place. Our great High Priest remembers all the words by which He has encouraged us to trust. He is ever mindful of His covenant.

(32) WHAT PROMISE IS GIVEN TO ALL WHO SEEK THE LORD IN SINCERE PRAYER?

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***Luke 11:10***

The excuse will not be made, Trouble Me not; the door is closed; I do not wish to open it. Never will one be told, I cannot help you. Those who beg at midnight for loaves to feed the hungry souls will be successful.

(33) WHAT WONDERFUL PROMISE DOES GOD GIVE TO THOSE WHO ASK IN FAITH, BELIEVING?

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***Philippians 4:19***

In the parable, he who asks bread for the stranger, receives “as many as he

needeth." And in what measure will God impart to us that we may impart to others? "According to the measure of the gift of Christ." Ephesians 4:7. Angels are watching with intense interest to see how man is dealing with his fellow men. When they see one manifest Christlike sympathy for the erring, they press to his side and bring to his remembrance words to speak that will be as the bread of life to the soul. So "God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Your testimony in its genuineness and reality He will make powerful in the power of the life to come. The word of the Lord will be in your mouth as truth and righteousness.

(34) WHAT TYPE OF PRAYER SHOULD PRECEDE OUR EFFORTS IN SOUL WINNING?

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**Matthew 6:6**

Personal effort for others should be preceded by much secret prayer; for it requires great wisdom to understand the science of saving souls. Before communicating with men, commune with Christ. At the throne of heavenly grace obtain a preparation for ministering to the people.

Let your heart break for the longing it has for God, for the living God. The life of Christ has shown what humanity can do by being partaker of the divine nature. All that Christ received from God we too may have. Then ask and receive. With the persevering faith of Jacob, with the unyielding persistence of Elijah, claim for yourself all that God has promised.

Let the glorious conceptions of God possess your mind. Let your life be knit by hidden links to the life of Jesus. He who commanded the light to shine out of darkness is willing to shine in your heart, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit will take the things of God and show them unto you, conveying them as a living power into the obedient heart. Christ will lead you to the threshold of the Infinite. You may behold the glory beyond the veil, and reveal to men the sufficiency of Him who ever liveth to make intercession for us.

*I am thankful that Christ came to earth and set for us an example of ministry for the blessing of others. Because of my love for Him I want to follow in His footsteps.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

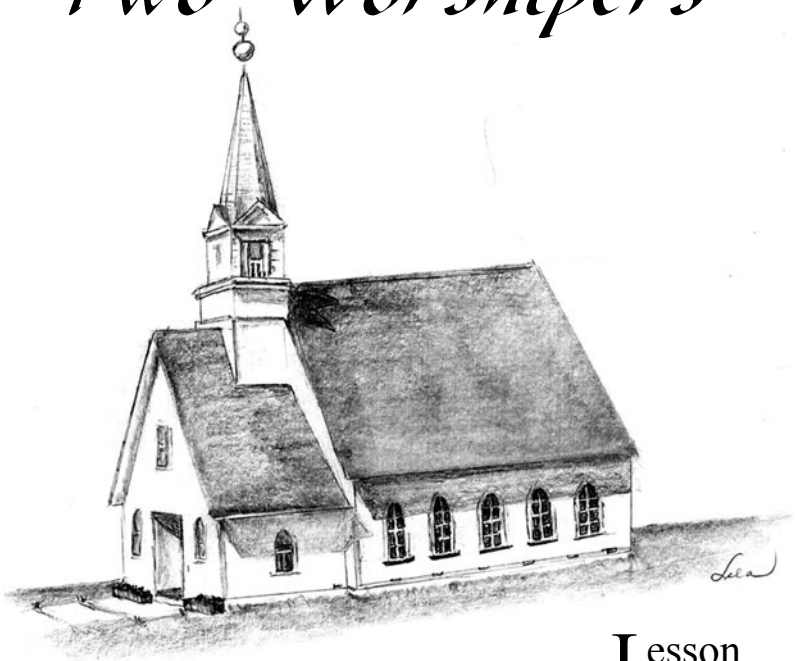
*I realize that to be successful in ministry I must stay connected with the Father through prayer and study of His Word.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I am grateful that by asking according to His will He provides for us unlimited spiritual and physical resources for the salvation of all mankind.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

# Two Worshipers



## Lesson 15

(1) TO WHOM DID CHRIST SPEAK THE PARABLE OF THE TWO WORSHIPERS?

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**Luke 18:9**

Unto certain which trusted in them-selves that they were righteous, and despised others," Christ spoke the parable of the Pharisee and the publican.

(2) IN THIS PARABLE, WHAT WAS THE PHARISEE'S TRUE MOTIVE FOR WORSHIP?

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**John 12:42, 43**

The Pharisee goes up to the temple to worship, not because he feels that he is a sinner in need of pardon, but because he thinks himself righteous and hopes to win commendation. His worship he regards as an act of merit that will recommend him to God. At the same time it will give the people a high opinion of his piety. He hopes to secure favor with both God and man. His worship is prompted by self-interest.

(3) WHAT WAS THE ATTITUDE CONVEYED IN HIS THOUGHTS AND THROUGH HIS ACTIONS?

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**Isaiah 65:2, 5**

And he is full of self-praise. He looks it, he walks it, he prays it. Drawing apart from others as if to say, "Come not near to me; for I am holier than thou," he stands and prays "with himself." Wholly self-satisfied, he thinks that God and men regard him with the same complacency.

(4) WHO SHOULD BE OUR ONLY STANDARD FOR SELF-COMPARISON?

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*1 Peter 2:21*

"God, I thank thee," he says, "that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican." He judges his character, not by the holy character of God, but by the character of other men. His mind is turned away from God to humanity. This is the secret of his self-satisfaction.

He proceeds to recount his good deeds: "I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." The religion of the Pharisee does not touch the soul. He is not seeking Godlikeness of character, a heart filled with love and mercy. He is satisfied with a religion that has to do only with outward life. His righteousness is his own—the fruit of his own works—and judged by a human standard.

(5) WHEN SELF IS OUR STANDARD FOR COMPARISON, LIKE SATAN, WHAT DO WE BECOME?

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*Revelation 12:10*

Whoever trusts in himself that he is righteous, will despise others. As the Pharisee judges himself by other men, so he judges other men by himself. His righteousness is estimated by theirs, and the worse they are the more righteous by contrast he appears. His self-righteousness leads to accusing. "Other men" he condemns as transgressors of God's law. Thus he is making manifest the very spirit of Satan, the accuser of the brethren. With this spirit it is impossible for him to enter into communion with God. He goes down to his house destitute of the divine blessing.

(6) WHAT WAS THE HEARTFELT CRY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PLEA OF ALL WHO DEMONSTRATE TRUE REPENTANCE?

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*Luke 18:13*

The publican had gone to the temple with other worshipers, but he soon drew apart from them as unworthy to unite in their devotions. Standing afar off, he "would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast," in bitter anguish and self-abhorrence. He felt that he had transgressed against God, that he was sinful and polluted. He could not expect even pity from those around him, for they looked upon him with contempt. He knew that he had no merit to commend him to God, and in utter self-despair he cried, "God be merciful to me, a sinner." He did not compare himself with others. Overwhelmed with a sense of guilt, he stood as if alone in God's presence.

## Two Worshipers

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(7) WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THE PUBLICAN'S TRUE REPENTANCE?

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*Luke 18:14*

His only desire was for pardon and peace, his only plea was the mercy of God. And he was blessed. "I tell you," Christ said, "this man went down to his house justified rather than the other."

(8) WHAT FACT MUST WE AS SINNERS REALIZE AND CONFESS BEFORE WE CAN FIND ACCEPTANCE WITH GOD?

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*Ephesians 2:12, 13*

The Pharisee and the publican represent two great classes into which those who come to worship God are divided. Their first two representatives are found in the first two children that were born into the world. Cain thought himself righteous, and he came to God with a thank offering only. He made no confession of sin, and acknowledged no need of mercy. But Abel came with the blood that pointed to the Lamb of God. He came as a sinner, confessing himself lost; his only hope was the unmerited love of God. The Lord had respect to his offering, but to Cain and his offering He had not respect. The sense of need, the recognition of our poverty and sin, is the very first condition of acceptance with God. "Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5:3.

(9) WHAT WARNING IS GIVEN TO THOSE WHOSE CONFIDENCE IS IN SELF?

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*1 Corinthians 10:12*

For each of the classes represented by the Pharisee and the publican there is a lesson in the history of the apostle Peter. In his early discipleship Peter thought himself strong. Like the Pharisee, in his own estimation he was "not as other men are." When Christ on the eve of His betrayal forewarned His disciples, "All ye shall be offended because of Me this night," Peter confidently declared, "Although all shall be offended, yet will not I." Mark 14:27, 29. Peter did not know his own danger. Self-confidence misled him. He thought himself able to withstand temptation; but in a few short hours the test came, and with cursing and swearing he denied his Lord.

(10) WHAT DOES CHRIST PROMISE TO ALL WHO DEMONSTRATE TRUE REPENTANCE BY CONFESSION?

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*1 John 1:9*

When the crowing of the cock reminded him of the words of Christ, surprised and shocked at what he had just done he turned and looked at his Master. At that moment Christ looked at Peter, and beneath that grieved look, in which compassion and love for him were blended, Peter understood himself. He

went out and wept bitterly. That look of Christ's broke his heart. Peter had come to the turning point, and bitterly did he repent his sin. He was like the publican in his contrition and repentance, and like the publican he found mercy. The look of Christ assured him of pardon.

Now his self-confidence was gone. Never again were the old boastful assertions repeated.

(11) WHAT QUESTION DID CHRIST ASK PETER THREE TIMES TO TEST THE PURITY OF HIS HEART?

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**John 21:17**

Christ after His resurrection thrice tested Peter. "Simon, son of Jonas," He said, "lovest thou Me more than these?" Peter did not now exalt himself above his brethren. He appealed to the One who could read His heart. "Lord," he said, "Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee."

(12) WHAT PRIVILEGED COMMISSION WAS CHRIST ABLE TO BESTOW UPON PETER AND TO ALL WHO SEEK A PURE HEART?

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**John 21:17; Matthew 28:19, 20**

Then he received his commission. A work broader and more delicate than had heretofore been his was appointed him. Christ bade him feed the sheep and the lambs. In thus committing to his stewardship the souls for whom the Saviour had laid down his own life,

Christ gave to Peter the strongest proof of confidence in his restoration. The once restless, boastful, self-confident disciple had become subdued and contrite. Henceforth he followed his Lord in self-denial and self-sacrifice. He was a partaker of Christ's sufferings; and when Christ shall sit upon the throne of His glory, Peter will be a partaker in His glory.

(13) WHAT SIN IS ESPECIALLY OFFENSIVE TO GOD AND THE LEAST CURABLE?

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**Proverbs 16:5**

The evil that led to Peter's fall and that shut out the Pharisee from communion with God is proving the ruin of thousands today. There is nothing so offensive to God or so dangerous to the human soul as pride and self-sufficiency. Of all sins it is the most hopeless, the most incurable.

(14) WHAT CHOICE CAN A RIGHTEOUS MAN MAKE THAT WILL CAUSE HIM TO LOSE HIS SALVATION?

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**Ezekiel 18:24**

Peter's fall was not instantaneous, but gradual. Self-confidence led him to the belief that he was saved, and step after step was taken in the downward path, until he could deny his Master. Never can we safely put confidence in self or feel, this side of heaven, that we are secure against temptation. Those who

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## Two Worshipers

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accept the Saviour, however sincere their conversion, should never be taught to say or to feel that they are saved. This is misleading. Every one should be taught to cherish hope and faith; but even when we give ourselves to Christ and know that He accepts us, we are not beyond the reach of temptation. God's word declares, "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried." Dan. 12:10. Only he who endures the trial will receive the crown of life. (James 1:12.)

(15) WHAT IS THE DANGER OF OVER CONFIDENCE IN SELF?

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### *Proverbs 14:12*

Those who accept Christ, and in their first confidence say, I am saved, are in danger of trusting to themselves. They lose sight of their own weakness and their constant need of divine strength. They are unprepared for Satan's devices, and under temptation many, like Peter, fall into the very depths of sin. We are admonished, "Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall." 1 Cor. 10:12. Our only safety is in constant distrust of self, and dependence on Christ.

(16) IN HIS WARNING, WHAT TWO SPECIFIC ACTIONS DID CHRIST SAY WILL HELP AVOID TEMPTATION?

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### *Matthew 26:41*

It was necessary for Peter to learn his own defects of character, and his need

of the power and grace of Christ. The Lord could not save him from trial, but He could have saved him from defeat. Had Peter been willing to receive Christ's warning, he would have been watching unto prayer. He would have walked with fear and trembling lest his feet should stumble. And he would have received divine help so that Satan could not have gained the victory.

(17) BY DEMONSTRATION OF WHAT TWO TRAITS OF CHARACTER WILL OUR FEET BE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED?

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### *Matthew 3:8*

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### *1 Peter 5:5*

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It was through self-sufficiency that Peter fell; and it was through repentance and humiliation that his feet were again established. In the record of his experience every repenting sinner may find encouragement. Though Peter had grievously sinned, he was not forsaken. The words of Christ were written upon his soul, "I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not." Luke 22:32. In his bitter agony of remorse, this prayer, and the memory of Christ's look of love and pity, gave him hope. Christ after His resurrection remembered Peter, and gave the angel the message for the women, "Go your way, tell His disciples and Peter that He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him." Mark 16:7. Peter's repentance was accepted by the sin-pardoning Saviour.

(18) WHAT DOES GOD OFFER TO SINNERS SEEKING PEACE?



thanksgiving of His people. Perfumed with the fragrance of His righteousness, these ascend to God as a sweet savor. The offering is wholly acceptable, and pardon covers all transgression.

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**Isaiah 27:5; Isaiah 40:29**

And the same compassion that reached out to rescue Peter is extended to every soul who has fallen under temptation. It is Satan's special device to lead man into sin, and then leave him, helpless and trembling, fearing to seek for pardon. But why should we fear, when God has said, "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me?" Every provision has been made for our infirmities, every encouragement offered us to come to Christ.

(19) WHAT GIFT DID CHRIST OFFER UP TO MAKE OUR RESTORATION TO GOD POSSIBLE?

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**Hebrews 10:10; Luke 22:19**

Christ offered up His broken body to purchase back God's heritage, to give man another trial. "Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb. 7:25. By His spotless life, His obedience, His death on the cross of Calvary, Christ interceded for the lost race. And now, not as a mere petitioner does the Captain of our salvation intercede for us, but as a Conqueror claiming His victory. His offering is complete, and as our Intercessor He executes His self-appointed work, holding before God the censer containing His own spotless merits and the prayers, confessions, and

(20) WHAT GIFT DOES GOD GIVE THROUGH CHRIST THAT WE MUST ACCEPT BEFORE WE CAN EXPERIENCE FORGIVENESS?

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**Acts 5:31**

(21) HOW DOES THE BIBLE DESCRIBE THE DEMONSTRATION OF TRUE REPENTANCE?

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**Joel 2:12**

(22) WHO DOES THE LORD DESIRE TO ACCEPT THE GIFTS OF REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS?

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**2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:2-6**

Christ has pledged Himself to be our substitute and surety, and He neglects no one. He who could not see human beings exposed to eternal ruin without pouring out His soul unto death in their behalf, will look with pity and compassion upon every soul who realizes that he cannot save himself.

He will look upon no trembling suppliant without raising him up. He who through

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## Two Worshipers

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His own atonement provided for man an infinite fund of moral power, will not fail to employ this power in our behalf. We may take our sins and sorrows to His feet; for He loves us. His every look and word invites our confidence. He will shape and mold our characters according to His own will.

(23) WHAT PROMISE MAY THOSE WHO TRUST IN CHRIST CLAIM?

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*John 10:28, 29*

In the whole Satanic force there is not power to overcome one soul who in simple trust casts himself on Christ. "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength." Isa. 40:29. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." The Lord says, "Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God." "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean; from all your filthiness and from all your idols will I cleanse you." 1 John 1:9; Jer. 3:13; Eze. 36:25.

(24) WHAT MUST WE REALIZE BEFORE WE CAN HAVE PARDON AND PEACE?

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*Revelation 3:17*

But we must have a knowledge of ourselves, a knowledge that will result in

contrition, before we can find pardon and peace. The Pharisee felt no conviction of sin. The Holy Spirit could not work with him. His soul was encased in a self-righteous armor which the arrows of God, barbed and true-aimed by angel hands, failed to penetrate. It is only he who knows himself to be a sinner that Christ can save. He came "to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." Luke 4:18. But "they that are whole need not a physician." Luke 5:31. We must know our real condition, or we shall not feel our need of Christ's help. We must understand our danger, or we shall not flee to the refuge. We must feel the pain of our wounds, or we should not desire healing.

(25) WHAT GIFT HAS GOD DEALT TO EVERY MAN AND IS THE KEY THAT BRINGS US INTO HARMONY WITH HIM?

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*Romans 12:3*

The gold tried in the fire is faith that works by love. Only this can bring us into harmony with God. We may be active, we may do much work; but without love, such love as dwelt in the heart of Christ, we can never be numbered with the family of heaven.

(26) WHY, WITHOUT CHRIST, ARE WE IN DANGER OF FALSE INTERPRETATION OF OUR OWN MOTIVES?

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(28) IN SIMPLE FAITH, WHAT MUST BE OUR HEARTFELT PRAYER?

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*Jeremiah 17:9*

No man can of himself understand his errors. ...The lips may express a poverty of soul that the heart does not acknowledge. While speaking to God of poverty of spirit, the heart may be swelling with the conceit of its own superior humility and exalted righteousness. In one way only can a true knowledge of self be obtained. We must behold Christ. It is ignorance of Him that makes men so uplifted in their own righteousness. When we contemplate His purity and excellence, we shall see our own weakness and poverty and defects as they really are. We shall see ourselves lost and hopeless, clad in garments of self-righteousness, like every other sinner. We shall see that if we are ever saved, it will not be through our own goodness, but through God's infinite grace.

(27) ONCE WE EXPERIENCE TRUE REPENTANCE, WHERE MUST WE GO TO FIND THE POWER TO RENOUNCE SELF?

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*Hebrews 4:16*

The prayer of the publican was heard because it showed dependence reaching forth to lay hold upon Omnipotence. Self to the publican appeared nothing but shame. Thus it must be seen by all who seek God. By faith—faith that renounces all self-trust—the needy suppliant is to lay hold upon infinite power.

*Psalms 51:10*

No outward observances can take the place of simple faith and entire renunciation of self. But no man can empty himself of self. We can only consent for Christ to accomplish the work. Then the language of the soul will be, Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, unchristlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul.

(29) AFTER THE INITIAL SURRENDER OF OUR WILL TO CHRIST, HOW DO WE CONTINUE TO WALK SAFELY IN HIM?

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*Colossians 2:6*

It is not only at the beginning of the Christian life that this renunciation of self is to be made. At every advance step heavenward it is to be renewed. All our good works are dependent on a power outside of ourselves. Therefore there needs to be a continual reaching out of the heart after God, a continual, earnest, heartbreaking confession of sin and humbling of the soul before Him. Only by constant renunciation of self and dependence on Christ can we walk safely.

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(30) AS WE DISCERN THE PURITY OF CHRIST, HOW WILL WE COME TO VIEW OURSELVES FOR THE SINS WE HAVE COMMITTED?

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*Ezekiel 20:43; 36:31*

The nearer we come to Jesus and the more clearly we discern the purity of His character, the more clearly we shall discern the exceeding sinfulness of sin and the less we shall feel like exalting ourselves. Those whom heaven recognizes as holy ones are the last to parade their own goodness. The apostle Peter became a faithful minister of Christ, and he was greatly honored with divine light and power; he had an active part in the upbuilding of Christ's church; but Peter never forgot the fearful experience of his humiliation; his sin was forgiven; yet well he knew that for the weakness of character which had caused his fall only the grace of Christ could avail. He found in himself nothing in which to glory.

(31) WHAT WAS THE APOSTLE PAUL'S REALIZATION REGARDING PURITY OF SELF?

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*1 Timothy 1:15*

None of the apostles or prophets ever claimed to be without sin. Men who have lived nearest to God, men who would sacrifice life itself rather than knowingly commit a wrong act, men whom God had honored with divine light and power, have confessed the

sinfulness of their own nature. They have put no confidence in the flesh, have claimed no righteousness of their own, but have trusted wholly in the righteousness of Christ. So will it be with all who behold Christ.

(32) LIKE PAUL, WHAT WILL BE OUR SINCERE CONFESSION?

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*Romans 7:18*

At every advance step in Christian experience our repentance will deepen. It is to those whom the Lord has forgiven, to those whom He acknowledges as His people, that He says, "Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight." Eze. 36:31. Again He says, "I will establish My covenant with thee, and thou shalt know that I am the Lord; that thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord God." Eze. 16:62, 63. Then our lips will not be opened in self-glorification. We shall know that our sufficiency is in Christ alone.

(33) WHAT HAS GOD PROMISED TO WORK WITHIN US IF WE WALK LIFE'S PATHWAY WITH HIS ABIDING PRESENCE?

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*Philippians 2:13*

God does not bid you fear that He will fail to fulfill His promises, that His

patience will weary, or His compassion be found wanting. Fear lest your will shall not be held in subjection to Christ's will, lest your hereditary and cultivated traits of character shall control your life. "It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Fear lest self shall interpose between your soul and the great Master Worker. Fear lest self-will shall mar the high purpose that through you God desires to accomplish. Fear to trust to your own strength, fear to withdraw your hand from the hand of Christ and attempt to walk life's pathway without His abiding presence.

(34) WHAT IS THE THIRD PIT-FALL OF LIFE MENTIONED IN THIS VERSE THAT WE ARE WARNED TO AVOID?

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**1 John 2:16**

We need to shun everything that would encourage pride and self-sufficiency; therefore we should beware of giving or receiving flattery or praise. It is Satan's work to flatter. He deals in flattery as well as in accusing and condemnation. Thus he seeks to work the ruin of the soul. Those who give praise to men are used by Satan as his agents. Let the workers for Christ direct every word of praise away from themselves. Let self be put out of sight. Christ alone is to be exalted. "Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood," let every eye be directed, and praise from every heart ascend. Rev. 1:5.

(35) WHEN A CHOICE FOR CHRIST IS MADE, HOW WILL IT BE REVEALED IN THE LIFE?

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**Psalm 33:21**

The life in which the fear of the Lord is cherished will not be a life of sadness and gloom. It is the absence of Christ that makes the countenance sad, and the life a pilgrimage of sighs. Those who are filled with self-esteem and self-love do not feel the need of a living, personal union with Christ. The heart that has not fallen on the Rock is proud of its wholeness. Men want a dignified religion. They desire to walk in a path wide enough to take in their own attributes. Their self-love, their love of popularity and love of praise, exclude the Saviour from their hearts, and without Him there is gloom and sadness. But Christ dwelling in the soul is a wellspring of joy. For all who receive Him, the very keynote of the word of God is rejoicing.

(36) WHAT PROMISE DOES GOD FULFILL IN THOSE WHO HAVE A CONTRITE AND HUMBLE SPIRIT?

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**Isaiah 57:15**

(37) WHEN WE CHOOSE TO DWELL IN CHRIST THE RIVEN ROCK, LIKE MOSES, WHAT ATTRIBUTES OF GOD'S CHARACTER WILL WE REALIZE?

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**Exodus 34:6**

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It was when Moses was hidden in the cleft of the rock that he beheld the glory of God. It is when we hide in the riven Rock that Christ will cover us with His own pierced hand, and we shall hear what the Lord saith unto His servants. To us as to Moses, God will reveal Himself as “merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.”

(38) WHAT IS THE MIRACULOUS RESULT OF A LIFE SURRENDERED TO CHRIST?

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### *2 Corinthians 5:17*

The work of redemption involves consequences of which it is difficult for man to have any conception. “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that

love Him.” 1 Cor. 2:9. As the sinner, drawn by the power of Christ, approaches the uplifted cross, and prostrates himself before it, there is a new creation. A new heart is given him. He becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus. Holiness finds that it has nothing more to require. God Himself is “the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.” Rom. 3:26. And “whom He justified, them He also glorified.” Rom. 8:30. Great as is the shame and degradation through sin, even greater will be the honor and exaltation through redeeming love. To human beings striving for conformity to the divine image there is imparted an outlay of heaven’s treasure, an excellency of power, that will place them higher than even the angels who have never fallen. “Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and His Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, . . . Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the Lord that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and He shall choose thee.” Isa. 49:7. “For every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

*I see the danger of pride and that Christ is our only safe standard for comparison to self.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I see my wretched state and, like the publican, I am experiencing true sorrow for my sins.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I now confess and ask God for the precious blood of Christ to cleanse me and deliver me from sin.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I love the Lord and desire to do His will and understand I must rely on Him for victory over temptation.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**



## Answer Key

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**The wording of your answer may vary according to the translation of the Bible you use, but the meaning should remain the same.**

### Lesson 1

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| (1) The mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.  | (2) A heart hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.   |
| (2) Much (many) people.  | (3) Satan comes immediately and takes away the Word that was sown in their heart.                    |
| (3) Behold a sower went forth to Sow.  | (4) (a) A true witness delivers Souls.   |
| (4) The world knew Him not.  | (b) For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.              |
| (5) Sow the good seed.   | (5) Endures for a while until tribulation or persecution rises.                                      |
| (6) That seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.   | (6) With meekness the engrafted (planted) Word.  |
| (7) Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.   | (7) The just shall live by faith.  |
| (8) Went out a sower to sow.   | (8) He is offended.  |
| (9) Go ye therefore and teach all nations.   | (9) Abide in me (Christ.)  |
| (10) (a) The Word.   | (10) With all they heart, and with all they soul, and with all they mind, and with all thy strength. |
| (b) Grace and truth.   | (11) Serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our lives.    |
| (11) (a) The Word.   | (12) Christ will dwell in your hearts by faith and you will be rooted and grounded in love.          |
| (b) They Word is truth.  | (13) He that loses his life for my sake shall find it.   |
| (12) Are changed into the same image.  | (14) As every man receives the gift, even so minister the same one to another.                       |
| (13) To search the scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life and they testify of me (Christ.)   | (15) No one can serve two masters.   |
| (14) All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness. |  |
| (15) Beware lest ye also being led away with the error of the wicked fall from your own steadfastness.   |  |
| (16) The gospel of the kingdom.  |  |
| (17) A way that seems right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death.  |  |
| (18) He that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption.   |  |
| (19) Study to show thyself approved unto God... rightly dividing the Word of truth.  |  |
| (20) The life was manifested and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you eternal life.  |  |

### Lesson 2

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| (1) Having ears willing to hear. | (6) He that abides in me, and I in |
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### Lesson 3

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| (1) The Word is choked and he becomes unfruitful.  | (3) (1) Cares of this world.                        |
| (2) Wholly—your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord. | (2) The deceitfulness of riches.                    |
| (3) (1) Cares of this world.   | (3) The lusts entering in.                          |
| (2) The deceitfulness of riches.   | (4) Casting all your cares upon Him.                |
| (3) The lusts entering in.   | (5) May gain the whole world and lose his own soul. |
| (4) Casting all your cares upon Him.   | (6) He that abides in me, and I in                  |
| (5) May gain the whole world and lose his own soul.  |   |



## Answer Key

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- Him, the same brings forth much fruit.
- (7) It is God that gives thee power to get wealth.
- (8) War against the soul.
- (9) Train up a child in the way he should go.
- (10) Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.
- (11) God is greatly to be feared (respected) in the assembly of the saints and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Him.
- (12) To be carnally minded is death.
- (13) They drown men in destruction and perdition (ruin.)

### Lesson 4

- (1) Willingness to turn our heart to spiritual things so we may hear.
- (2) Break up your fallow ground.
- (3) If we draw out our soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted.
- (4) I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live yet not I, but Christ lives in me.
- (5) Fruit that sprang up and increased.
- (6) I came not to call the righteous but the sinners to repentance.
- (7) Hear and understand the Word.
- (8) Not as the word of man, but as it is in truth, the Word of God.
- (9) Makes wise the simple.
- (10) Mediate upon these things and give thyself wholly to them.
- (11) Bring forth fruit.
- (12) Teach me O Lord the way of they statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.
- (13) Patience (perseverance.)
- (14) Tribulation works patience.
- (15) Draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.
- (16) Bears and bring forth fruit.

### Lesson 5

- (1) (a) The Sower - "a man."

- (b) The Reaper who puts in the sickle - "He" is Christ.
- (2) Sow thy seed.
- (3) God.
- (4) (a) The Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before the nations.
- (b) I (God) will be as the dew unto Israel.
- (5) Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord.
- (6) (a) He that goes forth and weeping, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him.
- (b) It shall not return void.
- (7) Grow up before Him as a tender plant and as a root out of dry ground.
- (8) Not by might; nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord of hosts.
- (9) Yield fruit to grow up and increase.
- (10) The Sower.
- (11) He that abides in me, and I in Him, the same brings forth much fruit.
- (12) Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

### Lesson 6

- (1) (a) The field which is the world.
- (b) Among the wheat.
- (2) (1) The Sower—the son of man.
- (2) The Good seed—the children of the kingdom.
- (3) The Tares—the children of the wicked one.
- (4) The Enemy—the devil.
- (5) The Reapers—the angels.
- (3) A stinking savor: so does a little folly in him that has a reputation for wisdom and honor.
- (4) Let them grow together until the harvest.

## Answer Key

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- (5) (a) The Lord sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.  
(b) For Thou (the Lord) only knows the hearts of the children of men.
- (6) Patience and consolation grant you to be like mind.
- (7) Hypocrites.
- (8) The harvest at the end of the world.
- (9) The return of Christ and the separation of him that serves God and him that serves Him not.
- (10) Cast into a furnace of fire.
- Lesson 7**
- (1) It is like a grain of mustard seed.  
(2) (a) You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.  
(b) Righteousness.  
(3) It was less than all, like a grain of mustard seed.  
(4) The growth of newborn babes.  
(5) I am not ashamed of the gospel.  
(6) In the last days says God, I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh: and you sons and daughters shall prophesy.  
(7) Your calling, brethren, how that not many wise, mighty, or noble are called.  
(8) Them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.
- Lesson 8**
- (1) (a) Mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.  
(b) Things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.  
(2) God (by His Word.)  
(3) God so clothe the grass of the field...shall He not much more clothe you.  
(4) He (God) spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.
- (5) In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread.  
(6) We are laborers together with God.  
(7) (a) First the blade, then the ear, after that the full ear of corn.  
(b) Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.
- (8) (1) Lust of the flesh.  
(2) Lust of the eyes.  
(3) Pride of life.
- (9) Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.
- (10) Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.
- (11) Resisting the Holy Spirit.  
(12) A little leaven leavens the whole lump.  
(13) He which sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly and he that sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.  
(14) The seed dies but brings forth much life.  
(15) He that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal...If any man serve me, him will my Father honor.  
(16) At the resurrection of the dead.  
(17) The tilling of the ground.  
(18) Grown over with thorns and broken down.  
(19) The wise seek knowledge.  
(20) For it is God which works in you both to will and to do His good pleasure.
- Lesson 9**
- (1) A whole multitude.  
(2) Leaven was compared to the kingdom of heaven.  
(3) He is drawing everyone to Him.  
(4) The Spirit of God.  
(5) In the heart.  
(6) Our love for Christ.  
(7) To be born again by the Spirit of God.  
(8) Incorruptible beauty of a quiet

## Answer Key

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- spirit.
- (9) Conversion.
  - (10) We are made holy (sanctified) by the Word of God.
  - (11) We gain through God's Word the power of salvation and the ability to live by faith.
  - (12) Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.
  - (13) Seek first the kingdom of heaven.
  - (14) Our desire will be to seek the good of others and not self.
  - (15) Our conduct will become holy.
  - (16) There is joy in heaven.

### Lesson 10

- (1) A hidden treasure.
- (2) The Holy Scriptures.
- (3) The cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust other things enter in and choke the Word from being fruitful in their hearts.
- (4) The person who rejects the spirit does not accept the things of the spirit. They seem foolish to him, they are spiritually discerned.
- (5) They desired the praise of men more than of God.
- (6) Where your treasure is your heart will be also.
- (7) It will result in losing his own soul.
- (8) Man does not know its value. It is worth more than gold or all the valuable stones the world offers.
- (9) God's Word.
- (10) Nature—the Heavens above.
- (11) They are happy because the result is better than silver and gold.
- (12) The way may seem right but the end is the way of death.
- (13) Defiles it.
- (14) He blessed them with wisdom and understanding by a factor of ten.
- (15) Study to show ourselves approved.
- (16) (a) Jesus is truth.  
(b) God's Word is truth.
- (17) Wrestle those things we don't

- understand to our own destruction.
- (18) The traditions of man.
  - (19) When we search with all our heart.
  - (20) Obey His commandments.
  - (21) They searched the Scriptures daily with an open mind.
  - (22) Faith.
  - (23) The Holy Ghost.
  - (24) Because His ways and thoughts are much greater than ours.
  - (25) With the trust and faith of a child.
  - (26) Apply our hearts, cry out for discernment, lift up our voice for understanding, seek for it as silver and hidden treasure.
  - (27) When we have fulfilled the above conditions we will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

### Lesson 11

- (1) All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- (2) He came to His own and His own did not receive Him.
- (3) The merchant seeking pearls.
- (4) Fear the Lord, serve Him in truth with all your heart considering the great things He has done for you.
- (5) It is a gift offered to all, He is not willing that any should perish.
- (6) Wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.
- (7) When a man realizes the value of the treasure is willing to give all that He has to obtain it.
- (8) (a) Lust of the flesh.  
(b) Lust of the eyes.  
(c) The pride of life.
- (9) The flock of His people.
- (10) God through His Spirit.
- (11) As the Prince and Saviour who gives repentance and forgiveness.
- (12) We cannot help but speak the things we have heard.
- (13) The Lord added to the church daily.
- (14) He will pour out His spirit upon all flesh.

## Answer Key

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### Lesson 12

- (1) The kingdom of heaven.
- (2) Some of every kind.
- (3) The end of the age.
- (4) The wicked and the just will be separated and the wicked cast in the fire to be destroyed.
- (5) At the end of the age.
- (6) He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

### Lesson 13

- (1) It will not return void but accomplish its purpose.
- (2) To be a witness to all men of what we have seen and heard.
- (3) The Lord gives wisdom and from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding.
- (4) It makes wise even the simple.
- (5) The entrance of His Word gives light and understanding.
- (6) All.
- (7) In them you find eternal life and they testify of Christ.
- (8) The light of the truth will shine brighter and brighter unto the perfect day.
- (9) Miss the blessing that comes from hearing it and keeping it.
- (10) "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?"
- (11) The mysteries of God's kingdom.
- (12) The width, length, depth and height of the love of Christ for us.
- (13) Pray with out ceasing.
- (14) From us will flow rivers of living water.
- (15) It is the spirit that quickens and Christ's words that give life.
- (16) Seek after knowledge, and lift up thy voice for understanding seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasure.
- (17) There will be rejoicing like one who has found treasure.

- (18) Hide God's Word in our heart.
- (19) The Sanctuary
- (20) Blessed are those who read, hear, and keep the prophecies.
- (21) That we may know God and Jesus who He has sent.
- (22) The way unto salvation.
- (23) The mystery of godliness.

### Lesson 14

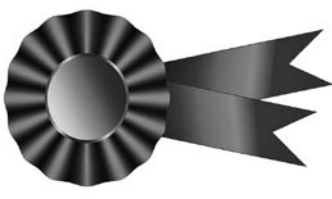
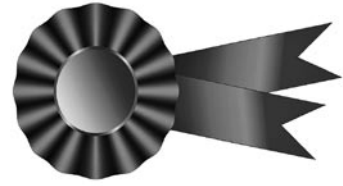
- (1) The Father's who sent Him.
- (2) He came not to be ministered to but to minister to others and to give His life as a ransom.
- (3) In the early morning hours in a solitary place.
- (4) He communicated by prayer.
- (5) Action—our good works.
- (6) Others not just ourselves.
- (7) He will sufficiently provide all things needed for every good work.
- (8) If we being evil know how to give good gifts how much more shall our heavenly Father give to those who ask.
- (9) Ask, seek, and knock.
- (10) The children of God.
- (11) "Our Father."
- (12) To be made kings and priests.
- (13) Fervently or with intensity.
- (14) Love others as we love ourself.
- (15) Acknowledgement of our sin to God by confession.
- (16) Keeping of His testimonies and seeking Him with our whole heart.
- (17) An abomination (disgusting).
- (18) Confess our faults and pray for one another.
- (19) Robbing Him (stealing).
- (20) A blessing from the windows of heaven that there is not room enough to receive.
- (21) Faith.
- (22) We are labourers together with Him.
- (23) The Lord who will sustain you and give you strength.
- (24) God who gives to all men liberally. ALL our needs!
- (25) A measure of faith.

## Answer Key

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- (26) The Word of God.  
(27) Ask our heavenly Father.  
(28) Ask in Christ's name that the Father may be glorified.  
(29) The Spirit who makes intercession for us before the Father.  
(30) (a) Belief.  
(b) Ask according to God's will.  
(31) He is able to do abundantly more than we ask or even think.  
(32) He who asks received and he who seeks will find.  
(33) He will supply all our needs according to His riches.  
(34) Private (secret) prayer.
- Lesson 15**
- (1) Those who are self-righteous and think themselves better than others.  
(2) To gain the praise of man.  
(3) He was rebelliously walking in his own way after his own thoughts and thinking "I am holier than thou."  
(4) Christ who left us the example we should follow.  
(5) An accuser of our brethren.  
(6) God be merciful to me a sinner.  
(7) He went to his house justified.  
(8) That without Christ we have no hope but by His blood we can be redeemed.  
(9) Take heed lest you fall.  
(10) If we confess our sins He is faithful to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(11) "Do you love me?"  
(12) "Feed my sheep."  
(13) Pride or a proud heart.  
(14) To turn from his righteousness and commit iniquity and die in his sins.  
(15) We may truly believe we are right but our way may lead to death.  
(16) Watch and pray.  
(17) (a) Repentance  
(b) Humility—God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.  
(18) His strength so we can make peace with Him.  
(19) His body.  
(20) Repentance.  
(21) Having true sorrow for sin and turning to the Lord with all our heart and with fasting, weeping and mourning.  
(22) All.  
(23) Eternal life which no man can steal.  
(24) That we are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.  
(25) Faith.  
(26) Our hearts are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.  
(27) God's throne of grace.  
(28) Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.  
(29) As you received Christ (fully surrendered) so walk in Him.  
(30) We will loathe or detest ourselves for the evils we have committed.  
(31) That he felt he was the chief of all sinners.  
(32) I know that in my flesh dwells no good thing.  
(33) To will and to do His good pleasure.  
(34) Pride of life.  
(35) Our heart will rejoice in Him because we have trusted in His holy name.  
(36) He promises to dwell in the high and holy place with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit.  
(37) God is merciful, gracious, long suffering, abundant in goodness and truth.  
(38) We become a new creature, old things are passed away and all things become new!

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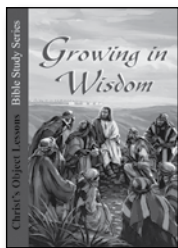
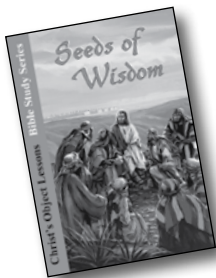


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