



New Life Christian Growth Series

“The Bible Is The Word Of God”

Booklet #13

Mountain State Ministries
P.O. Box 217
Springfield, WV 26763
www.mountainstateministries.org

Today's Date: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

General Instructions:

1. Please fill in the blanks on the following pages using a King James Version of the Bible. Please read the detailed instructions for the individual lessons on page 6 before you begin to put pen to paper. NOTE: The individual lessons are designed to be completed daily so you can meditate on the material.
2. When you are done, return the **Review Section (Pages 35-36) of this booklet** to the address provided below. Keep the rest of this Booklet (Pages 1-34) for your own use. Review Sections returned less than 30 days from the time it was mailed, will not be accepted. Please spend time with the Lord in prayer and ask Him to help you learn the material.
3. As soon as we receive your completed review pages, we will grade it (Pass or Fail) and send a letter confirming your status, along with Booklet #14.
4. You will also receive a Certificate of Completion for this Booklet.

Please mail the completed Review Section to:

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Mountain State Ministries was started in January of 2017 to continue the legacy of Country Wide Prison Ministry. CWPM's purpose was to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to prison inmates and their families, and to edify them through the teaching of the Word of God through Bible correspondence courses. MSM will continue this legacy and expand the Bible correspondence courses to anyone in world via the internet. This will provide anyone the opportunity to study God's word, become more closely imitate with Jesus, and be more sensitive and obedient to God's Holy Spirit. Our goal is to Exalt the King and to Expand the Kingdom!

Ray Witmer Jr., author of this Bible study curriculum, founded Country Wide Prison Ministry in 2003. His New Life Christian Growth Series has been administered to thousands of prison inmates throughout ever state in the Union. Mr. Witmer retired due to heath issues on 1 January 2017 and has provided Mountain State Ministries all rights to continue his legacy.

We are very grateful and appreciate Brother Ray's heart for God and his willingness to let us use this resource to spread God's Word among this generation of people.

“Verily, Verily, I say to you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.” John 12:24

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******* INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR BIBLE LESSONS *******

- A. The Bible verses used in this study are taken from the King James Version of the Bible, translated out of the original tongues with the former translation diligently compared and revised.
- B. Before doing each lesson, take time to ask God to open your understanding and show you the truth.
- C. For the best results, do only one lesson each day. Meditate on each day's lesson (there are four weeks of lessons per book).
- D. Keep in mind that these lessons are based on what the Bible says and not on man's opinion.
- E. These lessons are designed to help you to know the truth, to know the Lord in a personal way, and to trust what the Bible says and teaches you.
- F. Remember, it is not what you, I, or any preacher says, but what the Bible says.
- G. You must learn to stand on what the Bible says to "study to show yourself approved unto God, workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15)
- H. Who wrote the Bible? (II Peter 1:21).
- I. All Scripture is inspired by God (II Timothy 3:16).
- J. Regardless of what man says, the believer (Christian) has direct access to the throne of God and is responsible directly to God. This access is through Jesus Christ and Him only (I Timothy 2:5).
- K. These studies are to help you have peace of mind (Isaiah 26:3-4).
- L. These studies will help you know if you are going to Heaven or Hell (Romans 10:13).
- M. These lessons will help you with assurance and security; these are not the same. The securing of the believer is God's work. It is a part of God's great work of salvation depending solely upon His infinite grace. Assurance is the believer's acceptance of the security provided for him in Christ. It is the result of the human soul resting in what God has promised in His Word to accomplish. This is why it is important to know what the Bible says. (I John 5:11-13)



TAKE TIME TO READ BELOW BEFORE
DOING THIS LESSON

Meditate on the Scriptures of this Lesson and Ask Yourself
These Questions:

1. What do these verses teach me about God and myself?
2. Is there an example here to follow or avoid?
3. Is there a command, a promise, or a warning that I need to apply?
4. What action do I need to take to align my life with this truth?



The Bible is the Word of God

WE CANNOT BREAK APART FROM GOD'S WORD

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #1

This week's verse to memorize: Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart.

Have you ever stopped to consider what an amazing book the Bible is? If it were a history book, it would be necessary in recounting the events of the ancient world. If it were a poetry book, it would be unmatched in its beauty and eloquence. If it were a book of moral guidelines, it would be essential to successful living. But the Bible is much more than all that.

But evil men and seducers (imposters) shall wax worse and worse, _____
_____. But continue thou in the things _____
_____ and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child,

_____ which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus (II Timothy 3:13-15).

The Bible is the very Word of God, spoken to His messengers, passed down through time, and relevant to every generation. The Bible is God's magnificent revelation of Himself to the world. Some people, however, do not believe in the Bible's authority. In fact, there are many people who choose what parts of the Bible to believe and what parts to throw out.

All _____,
and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That _____
_____, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (II Timothy 3:16-17).

You cannot break up God's Word. You must accept it in its entirety from beginning to end. God never said anything by accident, so you must understand that every word in the Bible is relevant to your life.

For _____,
covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, _____, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: _____ (II Timothy 3:2-5).

Do you ever "pick and choose" what parts of the Bible you want to believe and follow? For believers in Jesus Christ, this is simply not an option. God did not give you an incomplete Word. Rather, He gave you a perfect volume that must be accepted in its entirety.

Something you need to remember is that the Bible does not merely contain the words of God, but rather, the Bible is the Word of God.

What is your thinking toward the Bible? _____

Today's Bible reading is II Timothy chapter 3.

THE QUALITIES OF THE BIBLE AND YOUR DUTY TO LIVE BY THEM

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #2

This week's verse to memorize: Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart.

If you were researching a certain topic for school or work, you would certainly want to consult the most trustworthy book available, right? You base your trust in a resource not only on the material that is presented, but also on the credentials of the author. With that in mind, let us consider the qualifications of the Bible.

Seeing ye have purified your souls in _____
unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: _____
_____, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which
liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and
the flower thereof falleth away: _____
_____. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you (I Peter 1:22-25).

II Timothy 3:16 asserts that ALL Scripture is inspired by God; His Spirit led over 40 different men to write this inerrant Book over the course of about 1,500 years.

All _____; and the
Lord hath laid on him the iniquity _____. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted
_____: he is
brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth (Isaiah 53:6-7).

Do you merely hear the Word of God when you read it, or do you also do what it says? The Bible warns that "all of us like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way." As a lost sheep, you have only one option: you must listen for the call of the Good Shepherd, and then follow His voice home.

Wherefore _____, and superfluity of naughtiness,
and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But _____
_____, deceiving your own selves. For
if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth
himself, and goeth his way, and straight way _____ what manner of man he was (James 1:21-24).

It was through the Spirit that the Bible was written; you can therefore trust Him to reveal its truth to you. Thank God today for this amazing Book—the most reliable and complete resource you will ever need.

Tell us in your own words how you will listen to God's Word? _____

Today's Bible reading is James chapter 1.

WANDERING FROM THE WORD

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #3

This week's verse to memorize: Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart.

Putting together a toy or mechanical device rarely turns out to be as easy as the instructions claim. First, there are many parts that are expected to go somewhere. Next, the amount of time set aside never seems to be enough, and interruptions come more often than wanted. Finally, there are the instructions themselves, which leave out key points and information.

Teach me, O Lord, _____; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give _____, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight (Psalm 119:33-35).

Perhaps you have been viewing God's instruction book, the Bible, in a similar way and think dreadfully, "There are those 66 books to read and apply." Then, there is also the obstacle of insufficient time or interruptions that distract you.

Incline _____, and not to covetousness. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. Stablish _____, who is devoted to thy fear. Turn away my reproach which I fear : for thy judgments are good. Behold, _____: quicken me in thy righteousness (Psalm 119:36-40).

It may seem as if additional training is needed to understand scriptural truth. Even mature Christians can find themselves inattentive to Scripture. Wandering from God's Word eventually leads to wandering from God and His ways.

With _____: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy _____, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord teach me thy statutes. With my lips I have declared _____ thy mouth (Psalm 119:10-13).

What is it that you want for your life? To please God? To glorify Him? To rise above worries and fears and to experience the abundant life? You do these things by investigating and applying God's Word.

The thief cometh not, _____: I am come that _____, and that they might have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

I have _____, as much as in all riches. I will _____ in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will _____ in thy statutes: I will not forget thy WORD (Psalm 119:14-16).

What do you want for your life? _____

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 119.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLICAL TRUTH

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Lesson #4

This week's verse to memorize: Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart.

You learned that knowing what you believe protects you and prevents you from being misled. A solid grounding in Biblical principles also prepares you to answer people who are honestly seeking to know the truth. It is your privilege to help a soul find its way to Christ. By having a strong grasp on God's truth, you can confidently act upon opportunities to share your faith. The world offers "hope" based on opinion, but there are many opinions. You, however, need to offer hope based solely on the reality of Jesus Christ.

For the eyes of the Lord _____, and his ears are open unto their prayers: But the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if _____ of that which is good? (I Peter 3:12-13).

Saturating your mind with scriptural truth has two outcomes:

#1 — Your answers have persuasive power. It is the Holy Spirit's task to draw people to faith in Christ. God chooses to use your mind and voice, however, to teach others about the Lord. When He decides you are ready, His persuasive power will flow out through your words to reach others.

But and if ye suffer for righteousness sake, _____: and be not afraid, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: _____ to give an answer to every man that asketh you _____ with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, _____, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ (I Peter 3:14-16).

#2 — Your personal relationship with God will be strengthened. The more you study God's Word, the more you will comprehend its deeper truths and the stronger your faith will become. Your belief system is to be based on neither your opinions nor the ideas of others. The Bible, which is the inspired, infallible truth of God, is to be your primary source of knowledge.

Please put into your words what the Bible means to you personally? _____

Do you believe that the Bible is God's Word and that it is one way God talks to you? _____

Today's Bible reading is I Peter chapter 3.

HOLDING FAST TO THE FAITHFUL WORD

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #5

This week's verse to memorize: Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart.

In today's lesson, you will be exploring the guidelines the Bible has for selecting church elders. At the end of the list of desirable conduct and character traits is an essential qualification that applies to every believer: holding fast to the Bible. It is necessary that you, like the first century elders, demonstrate an unwavering commitment to God's Word in order to nurture and guard the church.

For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest _____ the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: If any be _____, the husband of _____ wife, having _____ children not accused of riot or unruly (Titus 1:5-6).

You cannot use the Bible to defend your faith and assist others unless you study it, and for its truths to be effective, you must apply them to your life.

For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not _____, not soon to angry, given _____, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; holding fast _____, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers (Titus 1:7-9).

Christians appreciate the Scripture's power to encourage, comfort, and heal, but too often they keep their knowledge to themselves. You may feel uncertain about sharing, but God provides courage and brings to mind pertinent verses if you are willing to speak. As you practice His ways, your wisdom will increase. You'll begin to recognize hurting people and will learn how to exhort them in sound doctrine, as the Bible suggests.

Lord, thou hast heard _____: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear: To _____, that the man of the earth may no more oppress (Psalm 10:17-18).

The Bible also bids believers to confront those who contradict true faith; this requires courage and discernment. When you study and live out sound Biblical principles, you will quickly recognize false doctrine. The better you know God's Word, the more readily you'll be able to find passages that challenge counterfeit teachings and support God's truths.

Please list and explain what your stand is concerning the Bible's qualifications for selecting church elders:

Today's Bible reading is Titus chapter 1.

YOUR HELPER IN BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Is The Word Of God

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Lesson #6

This week's verse to memorize: Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Bible is God's revelation of truth, and it is intended for regular use by every believer. The Holy Spirit's indwelling presence is a necessity since He is the one Who makes clear the meaning of the Word (Bible); He guides the mind of each person who genuinely seeks to know God.

But as it is written, _____
_____, neither have entered into the heart of man, The things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.
But God _____
_____ : for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God (I Corinthians 2:9-10).

When you read God's Word, your Helper opens your understanding to the true meaning of the text, so that you can grasp its significance. You never outgrow this need for Him. A mature believer with decades of experience meditating on the Bible requires as much revelation as a child who has just received Christ.

For _____, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so _____, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, _____; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God (I Corinthians 2:11-12).

Grasping a new truth from the Bible should get you excited and inspire you to apply what you learn. Then, as you integrate one truth into your life, the Spirit of God reveals another in order to make you more like your Savior.

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, _____; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: _____, because they are spiritually discerned (I Corinthians 2:13-14).

Learning about God and conforming to the image of Jesus Christ is the highest ambition of Christianity, and you can achieve those goals only by learning and applying scriptural principles. Truth, however, cannot be poured into a dirty heart, nor can you expect to understand the Bible if you refuse to obey its precepts.

But _____ judges all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For _____, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:15-16).

If you want the Holy Spirit to reveal Biblical meaning, you must ask first for revelation of your sin. When you repent of the wrongdoing brought to mind by your Helper, your heart opens to His illumination.

Today's Bible reading is I Corinthians chapter 2.

WHEN YOU SEEK GOD
The Bible Is The Word Of God
Booklet #13

Lesson #7

This week's verse to memorize: I John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Seeking after God means wanting to learn more about God's character, purposes, and plans; it means learning more about His Word, and about how it applies to your life. Finally, it implies a sense of urgency to get answers from God's Word—the Bible.

Pursuing God takes an attitude of:

1. **Wholeheartedness.** *Your relationship with the Lord is to come first above everything else in your life.*

And thou shalt _____,
with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment (Mark 12:30).

2. **Diligence.** *A sense of devotion and careful attention to what God is saying will bring you into a closer walk with Him.*

I love them that _____; and those that seek me early shall find me (Proverbs 8:17).

3. **Persistence.** *You are not to be satisfied with the knowledge you presently have or the current depth of your relationship with the Lord. Learning more about Him is to be a continual pursuit.*

Seek _____: seek his face evermore (Psalm 105:4).

4. **Confidence.** *God rewards those who run after Him. You can be confident that you will find Him through prayer and meditation.*

But _____:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him (Hebrews 11:6).

5. **Humility.** *The truth is, you are not worthy to receive divine understanding about God. You are totally dependent on Him for everything and can do nothing apart from Him; awareness of this truth brings humility.*

I am the vine, ye are the branches; _____,
_____, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing (John 15:5).

6. **Attitude.** *The best way to connect with God is through reading His Word and willingly putting yourself in His hand. Allow Him to reveal what great blessings He will give you through your surrendered will to Him.*

Yea doubtless, and _____ for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ (Philippians 3:8).

List the items you are willing to surrender to Him today: _____

Today's Bible reading is Philippians chapter 3.

HOW TO LISTEN TO GOD
The Bible Is The Word Of God
Booklet #13

Lesson #8

This week's verse to memorize: I John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Communicating with the Lord involves both speaking and listening. Most people are better at talking than listening, but God intends for His children to hear His voice. His goal is the same today as it has always been — to be certain that you comprehend the truth about Him, to conform you to His ways, and to equip you for communicating His truth to others.

And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. And Samuel was laid down to sleep; That the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, _____ . And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I: _____ ; lie down again. And he went and lay down. And the Lord _____ , Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answer, I called not, my son; lie down again (I Samuel 3:3-6).

Two of the instruments the Lord uses to speak to modern-day believers are His Word and other people. For this reason, studying the Bible is more important than getting breakfast, lunch, or dinner each day. You can easily live on one daily meal, but you cannot survive in this wicked world unless you feast on God's Word. The result of regular consumption of the Bible is a discerning spirit.

Now _____ neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed not unto him. And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, _____ ; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child. Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, _____ for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place (I Samuel 3:7-9).

When a Christian shares a message that the Lord has laid on his or her heart for you, your spirit will verify the truth of his or her statement. Regardless of how loudly God speaks, you won't hear unless listening is a priority. You must ask Him to teach you to hear and then work at having a quiet attitude. An internal "receiver" tuned to the Father develops only through committed prayer, meditation, and practice with listening.

And _____ and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. _____ , Speak; for thy servant heareth (I Samuel 3:10).

You need a spirit of submission to obey the commands God gives to you. God's goal for you is a lifestyle of sensitivity so that you can hear Him in noisy or calm situations. Listening to Him is a critical skill for ensuring that your heart is open to divine guidance in every circumstance.

Have you heard the sound of the Father's voice? What are you going to do about what you hear Him say? _____

Today's Bible reading is I Samuel chapter 3.

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD
The Bible Is The Word Of God
Booklet #13

Lesson #9

This week's verse to memorize: I John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Living in agreement with God and His Word is something you must learn if you truly desire to walk with Him. Keeping in step with God, however, will prove to be more than challenging if your heart is not unified with His.

Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; _____
_____ from among the children of men. They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a
_____ do they speak. The _____
_____, and the tongue that speaketh proud things (Psalm 12:1-3).

To find a cause that you will stand behind, fight for, live for, and die for, you must be in complete agreement with the principles and leadership of that cause. How willing would you be to defend something that did not stir you up with passion? How eager would you be to risk anything for a cause that merely sparked your interest?

Who have said, _____, our lips are our own:
who is lord over us? For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, _____
_____ I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him (Psalm 12:4-5).

After you have reconciled your relationship with God by accepting His Son, Jesus Christ, as your Lord and Savior, you must learn to trust Him by living a life in agreement with His principles and precepts. What God says about His Son, His church, His Word, and sin, are all of utmost importance for you. If you think that some of these are flawed or untrue, how can you walk in step with what God desires for your life?

The _____: as silver
tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou _____
from this generation for ever. The _____
_____, when the vilest men are exalted (Psalm 12:6-8).

Disunity results in any organization where there is a disagreement between leadership and the body of people. How can the cause be advanced by someone when he does not believe in the cause he is advancing? As you submit more of your life to God, your will is broken to the point that your will becomes what God wills for you.

What is in your life that God needs to break you of? _____

What are your plans to walk in God's will? _____

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 12.

PROFESSION AND PERFORMANCE

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #10

This week's verse to memorize: I John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Close your eyes for a minute and picture your own face. Imagine the slope of your cheek and the color of your eyes. Note any freckles, dimples, or blemishes. Do you have a big nose or button nose? Thinning hair or full, thick locks? Crooked teeth or pearly whites? Undoubtedly, you know exactly what you look like. Why? It is because you spend many hours in front of a mirror, studying your face and getting to know yourself. You are not born knowing what you look like, and if you didn't catch your reflection from time to time, you would honestly have no idea!

But be ye doers of the word, _____, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the Word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straight way _____ (James 1:22-24).

Now think of this same scenario in terms of faith. You are not born with knowledge of the saving truth of Jesus Christ. Since you do not inherently know the Word of God, you must read, study, and carefully analyze the Bible, so that the Holy Spirit can impress salvation and direction on your heart and mind.

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, _____, this man shall be blessed in his deed (James 1:25).

But how many people read the Bible and then walk away, seemingly unaffected? It is as though they forget the power of the Word as soon as they close the Book. These are the people who praise Jesus on Sunday, but live lives of pretense Monday through Saturday. These are the ones who, as the Bible describes, forget what they look like.

If any man among you seem to be religious, _____, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is _____. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself _____ (James 1:26-27).

Do you listen to the Word of God? Explain how you listen to it: _____

If you profess to know Jesus as Lord, then you carry a solemn responsibility to show others Christ in you. How do you plan on doing this? _____

Today's Bible reading is James chapter 1.

HOW YOU SEEK THE LORD
The Bible Is The Word Of God
Booklet #13

Lesson #11

This week's verse to memorize: I John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Have you ever experienced a spiritual “dry spell” when you could not sense that God was real, or a time when your prayers seemed to fall flat and the Bible seemed like nothing more than black print on white pages? If during those times you were keeping a diary, you might have discovered that the dry spells occurred when your mind and heart were focused on someone or something other than the person of Jesus Christ. The remedy for such spiritual droughts is learning how to seek the Lord in a Biblical, scriptural manner.

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: _____
_____, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To _____
_____, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Because thy
lovingkindness is _____, my lips shall praise thee (Psalm 63:1-3).

Throughout the Bible, you are admonished to seek God. Seeking means that you desire Him, hunger for Him, and long to grow in intimacy with him. It does not mean going to the Lord laden with requests only to get your needs met. Seeking Him may include needs and requests, but it goes far deeper.

Thus will _____ while I live: I will lift up hands in thy name. My soul shall be
_____ as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:
When I _____ thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches (Psalm 63:4-6).

To know God means to build a strong relationship; the focus is not just on getting things, but on being satisfied with Him.

Because thou hast _____, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I
rejoice. My soul _____ after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me But those that
seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the _____ of the earth (Psalm 63:7-9).

One way to seek God is to develop a continual subconscious awareness of Jesus' presence. You can't consciously be thinking of Him every moment, but if you are a believer and know what it means to walk in the Spirit, Jesus will always be there. An underlying sense of His presence will remain even when you are meticulously engrossed in something else.

They shall _____ by the sword: they shall be a portion for foxes. But the king shall rejoice in God;
everyone that sweareth by him _____: but the mouth of them
that _____ shall be stopped (Psalm 63:10-11).

Set your heart on avoiding any kind of relationship, pleasure, or experience that leaves God out. Instead, seek the Lord fully; you will be wholly satisfied and richly rewarded.

What will you do to seek the Lord more then you have been? _____

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 63.

LEARNING SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #12

This week's verse to memorize: I John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Spiritual discernment develops progressively. The Lord does not simply pour knowledge into your head; you must daily seek His will and study to understand Him better. To do so, you must regularly spend time in the Bible and place yourself under God's teaching.

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For everyone that _____: for he is a babe. But strong meat _____, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Church is where you receive instruction. If a poll were taken as people left their house of worship, they would give many different reasons for attending church: worshipping, duty, fellowshiping, encouraging one another, and inviting others to receive Jesus Christ. How many would say they come to learn righteousness? Yet teaching about holiness is a primary calling of all pastors.

And _____, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean (Ezekiel 44:23).

A minister's goal should be to teach in such a way that parishioners hear a godly principle and learn to apply it. In this way, believers grow in spiritual discernment. Instruction does little good unless you practice what you learn. David exercised spiritual discernment throughout his life. He went against conventional military wisdom and faced Goliath armorless and with just five stones.

David said moreover, _____ out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the Lord be with thee. And Saul _____; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul _____; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him (I Samuel 17:37-39).

Do you believe that God has something He wants you to do? If so, please explain: _____

Today's Bible reading is I Samuel chapter 17.

LEARNING TO PRAY THE BIBLE WAY

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #13

This week's verse to memorize: I John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

God wants His children to ask for what is on their hearts because He delights to give; but even more than that, He wants to fellowship with you. You can experience such joy every time you meet your heavenly Father through your prayers!

But when ye pray, use not _____, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like them: for your Father knoweth _____, before ye ask him. After this manner therefore pray ye: _____ which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, _____, as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:7-10).

The privilege of supplication rests on your relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ. Only those who are part of God's family can claim Him as their Father and take full advantage of His pledge to answer prayer.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the _____: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (John 14:6).

God makes no such commitment to unbelievers. The single exception is the sinner who asks for forgiveness and receives Christ as Savior and Lord; his prayer is always answered with salvation as promised.

That if _____, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved (Romans 10:9).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus used three verbs to describe prayer: ask, seek, and knock. Notice the progression in intensity from a request, to a search, and then to further action. Prayer is more than you giving God requests; it involves seeking after His will to guide your entreaties. It means "knocking on doors" by exploring different solutions and obtaining godly counsel to help determine the Lord's mind.

Ask, and it shall be given you; _____ knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For _____; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, _____? (Matthew 7:7-10).

Jesus pledged that you will receive, you will find, and God will open the door. You have His assurance that the Lord will respond, and that what He does is good.

If ye then, _____, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? (Matthew 7:11)

Prayer is simple, yet you may find it hard to practice at times. Ask the Lord to teach you more about Biblical praying; put into practice what you learn, and wait with assurance for His answers!

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 7.

DISCOVERING GOD'S WILL FROM THE BIBLE

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #14

This week's verse to memorize: Colossians 1:10

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work,
and increasing in the knowledge of God.

God's plan ensures that every believer reaches his or her maximum potential. He desires that His children live a certain way and make right decisions, and so He accepts full responsibility for guiding them.

I will _____ in the way which thou shalt go: I will
guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as a horse, or as the mule, _____
_____ : whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee (Psalm 32:8-9).

*However, your lifetime is not mapped out in a book that you read the day you are saved and then follow thereafter.
Discovering God's will is a daily process of trust.*

*You will learn God's will by reading His Word (the Bible). The Bible provides a comprehensive guide for any situation.
There you find rules and commands that will lead to success, as well as principles for daily application.*

But continue thou in the things which thou hast _____
_____, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy
scriptures, which are able to make thee _____
_____ which is in Christ Jesus (II Timothy 3:14-15).

*Studying God's Word is the only way for a believer to recognize God's will. The Bible does not detail every possible
situation you might face, but its principles equip you to make decisions with regard to any and every circumstance you
encounter.*

All _____, and is
profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the _____
_____, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (II Timothy 3:16-17).

*You discover God's will through circumstances. The Lord is actively guiding every incident of your life in order to stitch
the incongruent "threads" together for your good.*

And we _____,
_____, to them who are the called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).

Pray every day that God will make you sensitive to His ways.

Today's Bible reading is II Timothy chapter 3.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S WILL FROM THE BIBLE

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #15

This week's verse to memorize: Colossians 1:10

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work,
and increasing in the knowledge of God.

God does not "play games" with His children by veiling His will in mystery. Believers can be sure of His leading in any situation. When you need confirmation, the following questions will help clarify the solution:

Question #1 — Is this decision consistent with God's Word?

God's Word will indicate the best move. The passage below may not mention your exact situation, but the principle will speak to the situations you will inevitably encounter.

Wherefore I also, after I heard of _____
_____, and love unto all the saints, cease _____
_____, making mention of you in my prayers; That the
God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the _____
_____ in the knowledge of him (Ephesians 1:15-17).

Question #2 — Is this a wise decision?

A choice may seem reasonable and even pleasing emotionally, but you must remember that the decision will stand long after present feelings have faded; you must consider consequences and long-term effects.

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; _____
_____, and what the riches of the glory of his
inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His _____
_____, according to the working of his mighty power (Ephesians 1:18-19).

Question #3 — Can I ask God to enable me?

Believers cannot ask the Lord for anything they want. A man asking God to help him to sin and not get caught, for example, would not result in God's blessing. God promises to provide, but anything gained outside of His plan will turn to ashes.

See then _____, but as wise. Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
Wherefore be ye _____ of the Lord is (Ephesians 5:15-17).

Question #4 — Do I have genuine peace?

You can talk at God, but you cannot force yourself to have peace. Regardless of the way you think or feel about a matter, God will not give you a tranquil heart before the time is right. Genuine peace includes His confirmation, a calm heart, and the affirmation of your conscience. When you are inside the heavenly Father's will, you cannot lose.

Today's Bible reading is Ephesians chapter 1.

BIBLICAL MEDITATION
The Bible Is The Word Of God
Booklet #13

Lesson #16

This week's verse to memorize: Colossians 1:10

**That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work,
and increasing in the knowledge of God.**

The first verse of the book of Joshua shows God giving His instructions to the new Israelite leader. Notice that the Lord does not suggest gathering a committee together to decide what should happen next. Instead, God gives assurance that He will be with Joshua at all times to guide him, just as He was with his predecessor Moses.

Now after the death of Moses _____ it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; _____

_____, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel (Joshua 1:1-2).

There shall not _____
_____ all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

_____: for
unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them (Joshua 1:5-6).

Then, God gave instruction on how to listen for His voice of leadership: "Do according to all the law, which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left . . . meditate on it day and night."

Only be thou _____,
that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law _____

_____; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night,
that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: _____
_____, and then thou shalt have good success (Joshua 1:7-8).

A private time of meditation upon the Bible must be an absolute priority. That time spent with the Lord is the key to your Christian life. By reflecting upon God, you assimilate the truths from the Bible, so that you can know Him better. In prayer, you are to be quiet and listen for His voice. It is essential that you set aside time to be alone with God.

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage _____
_____: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest (Joshua 1:9).

The Lord offers you a wonderful piece of wisdom in today's lesson: meditate day and night. You should begin your day with Him, and you should likewise end it with Him.

Do you start every day by talking to God? Yes ____ No ____ Please explain how you start your day and how you end it:

Today's Bible reading is Joshua chapter 1.

THE POWER OF BIBLICAL MEDITATION

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #17

This week's verse to memorize: Colossians 1:10

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work,
and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Meditation includes reading the Bible, listening to the Lord, and asking Him to speak to your heart. It means making yourself available to Him for instruction and growth. To meditate requires time, outward silence, and inner quietness — three things that many, unfortunately, do not believe they must give to God. You, too, may tend to be spiritually dead because you stay too busy running from one activity to the next.

Blessed is the man that _____,
nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in the law doth he meditated _____ (Psalm 1:1-2).

If you choose to meditate, God has great rewards for you. You will learn to develop a quiet spirit no matter how stormy your life may be. Inner calmness is one character trait of Jesus Christ that you can have as you become more like Him.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; _____
_____ and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper (Psalm 1:3).

Another positive result of meditation is that God will deepen your hunger for Him. Many people wish they loved God more; quiet time is the key. Try setting aside time with God every day for a week. You may have to start the process more than once, but it will be worth it. God will do an amazing work. He will so satisfy the desires of your heart with Himself that you will always be wanting more time with Him.

But know that the Lord hath set apart him that _____: the
Lord will hear when I call unto Him. Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, _____
_____, and be still. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, _____
_____ (Psalm 4:3-5).

Through meditation, your view of the Lord enlarges because you learn to see Him as He really is. You also see problems and needs in their proper perspective. No difficulty is too big for your Father. When you experience the living God, your discernment is sharpened and you learn to think as He thinks. The greatest reward of meditation is an increased sensitivity to God, His will, and His work in your life.

Will you set aside time every day to read God's word and pray? Yes _____ No _____

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 1.

STEPS OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #18

This week's verse to memorize: Colossians 1:10

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work,
and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Three steps to obedience are meditating, listening, and walking. You will look at these three qualities that are essential for the obedient life in further depth in today's lesson.

MEDITATING. *If you want to know the mind of God, you must meditate upon His Word. You do not need to pick the "right" verses in the Bible in order to know God's will. He has the power to direct you to any portion of the Bible. Your part is to pursue wisdom through Scripture over a sustained period of time.*

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto _____
_____. In _____,
_____, and he shall direct thy paths (Proverbs 3:5-6).

LISTENING. *Learn to listen to the quiet prompting of the Holy Spirit—your helper. The Word of God is the primary resource through which the Spirit works. If you are studying the Bible, God will open your mind so you can understand how He is directing you, or He will bring to remembrance a passage you have learned and will reveal how it applies to your situation.*

Marvel not that I said unto thee _____ . The wind
bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell _____
_____, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit (John 3:7-8).

WALKING. *Sometimes you must walk even when the way is not clear. Abraham is a good example of this. God told Him to move out of his homeland, but did not specify the destination. Abraham obeyed by faith, anyway.*

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, _____
_____; and he went out, not _____ whither he went (Hebrews 11:8).

You can obey without total understanding because God makes Himself responsible for the consequences. You are accountable only for obeying.

How much time will you take to Meditate today? _____

How much time will you set aside to Listen to God speak to you today? _____

Explain your plans of how to Walk where God leads you: _____

Today's Bible reading is Hebrews chapter 11.

SEEKING GOD'S GUIDANCE FROM GOD'S WORD

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #19

This week's verse to memorize: Colossians 1:10

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Men often have a bad reputation for refusing to ask for directions while driving. At the root of the issue is the fact that they do not like to admit that they do not know something. Even if it means going in circles for hours, many of us would rather stumble upon the right answer ourselves than to ask for help.

How _____ unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth. Through thy precepts I get _____: therefore I hate every false way. Thy _____, and a light unto my path. I have sworn, and I will perform it, _____ righteous judgments (Psalm 119:103-106).

This method works for you as long as you know the general area. However, if you must get to a specific destination in a strange town, you need to know how to get there! It is practically impossible to accidentally land in the precise spot at which you need to be at the precise moment you need to be there.

I will bless the Lord, _____: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons. I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall _____. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: _____ (Psalm 16:7-9).

The same can be said of your life. You may believe that God has something specific set aside for you, and yet you may not seek His guidance for leading you safely into His plan. How can you arrive at God's destination if you do not consult the only One, Who can see where you are going? Read how Joshua messed up when he neglected to seek God's will regarding the Gibeonites (Joshua 9).

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou _____ to see corruption. Thou wilt show me _____: in thy presence is fullness of _____; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore (Psalm 16:10-11).

The Lord has promised to give you direction. God's will is not something that you find "out there" through trial and error. Rather, it is something that you find "in Him" through prayer and Bible study as you strive to know His heart more.

What plans will you take to find God's will for your life? _____

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 16.

GOD'S TOOL FOR COMMUNICATING IS THE BIBLE

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #20

This week's verse to memorize: Colossians 1:10

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work,
and increasing in the knowledge of God.

God has something to say to the obedient and to the disobedient, to the powerful and the weak, to the self-assured and to the insecure, and to the lost and the saved. There is no circumstance in your life in which the Lord will not speak to you, and you can be sure that His words are always purposeful.

Comprehend

But as it is written, _____
_____, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them
that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us _____:
for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God (I Corinthians 2:9-10).

As a Christian, you can be certain that God desires you to comprehend the truth of what He is saying. You can be confident this will happen because of the Holy Spirit's presence in you and the promise that He will guide you into all truth.

Conformity

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth
_____, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world but _____
_____ ; that we might know the things
that are freely given to us of God (I Corinthians 2:11-12).

Communicate

God also reveals the truths about life in Christ so that you can communicate them to others, which is another aspect of His goal. Jesus spoke only what His Father had taught Him. You need to be listening carefully every time God speaks through His Word (the Bible), so that you know what to say.

Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up (crucified) the Son of man, then shall ye _____
_____, and that I do _____ ; but
as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: _____
_____ ; for I do always those
things that please him (John 8:28-29).

Can you say just as Jesus did, "I do always those things that please God?" Yes ____ No ____ What will you do about it?

Today's Bible reading is I Corinthians chapter 2.

HOW GOD REVEALS HIMSELF THROUGH THE BIBLE

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #21

This week's verse to memorize: Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Look at the delicate veins of an oak leaf, and you can see God's beauty. Observe the storm-whipped waves beating against a beach, and you witness His power. The Lord's sense of order is revealed in the march of the seasons and the precise tilting and turning of the earth. People need to look no farther than nature to understand that God is real.

The _____ declare _____; and the _____ sheweth his handywork (Psalm 19:1).

For therein is the righteousness of God _____: as it is written, the just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all _____, who hold the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:17-18).

The Bible says that the revelation of the Lord in nature is sufficient to render inexcusable those who would deny His existence. There is no reasonable explanation for the creation of the material universe other than an omnipotent God putting it all together.

Because that which may be known of God is _____: for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world _____, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are _____ (Romans 1:19-20).

But you might argue that nature cannot give a full revelation; creation does not show the Lord's holiness or eternity. That is why God gave us His Word. The Bible reveals God's character, records His laws, and explains His expectations for the faithful. In its pages, you can learn about your Father and the kind of life He wants you to lead.

Because that, when they knew God, they _____, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves _____, they became fools. And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into _____, and birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things (Romans 1:21-23).

_____ and profitable for doctrine (teaching), for reproof, for correction, for instruction (training) in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16).

Spend time in Bible Study and prayer to know your heavenly Father better.

Has God revealed Himself to you through the Bible? If so, please explain: _____

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 1.

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY BRINGS US ASSURANCE

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #22

This week's verse to memorize: Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

In eternity past and throughout the entire history of man, almighty God has ruled with supreme authority. Nothing is hidden from God's knowledge or is beyond the scope of His control. Because of His sovereignty, you who by faith in Christ are part of His family can live with the assurance that:

#1 — God works for your good.

And he that searcheth the hearts _____,
_____, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know
that _____,
_____, to them who are the called according to his purpose (Romans 8:27-28).

The Bible declares that God has the power to work every circumstance in your life into something that is beneficial in His eyes. He has the knowledge and power to accomplish it as well as the desire to do so. God promises to do this for those who love and belong to Him; your part is simply to believe.

#2 — God protects you every day.

This poor man cried, and the _____, and saved him out of all his troubles.
The angel of the Lord _____,
_____, and delivereth them. O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that
_____. O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no _____
_____ (Psalm 34:6-9).

God's Word declares that "the angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him." Nothing can touch God's children outside of His permissive will. When God allows painful things to happen to you, you must trust in His unchanging nature and enduring promises. Circumstances and people change, but His good and loving character does not.

#3 — God has control over your future.

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, _____,
_____, things which God hath prepared for them that love him.
But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: _____,
_____, yea, the deep things of God (I Corinthians 2:9-10).

God has a plan fully worked out for the body of Christ and for each of its members — a plan so good that it is beyond imagining. You can entrust your future to God because His character and plans are perfect.

Today's Bible reading is I Corinthians chapter 2.

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND THE EXISTENCE OF EVIL

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #23

This week's verse to memorize: Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Throughout the Bible, you see evidence of God's authority over both humanity and nature. However, you may have trouble reconciling God's sovereign control with the existence of evil. What does the Bible tell you?

And God saw every thing that he had made, and behold, _____.
And the evening and the morning were the sixth day (Genesis 1:31).

In the beginning, God created a perfect world in which He declared that all He had made was good. Wickedness was not part of what He had fashioned. In the heavens, however, an angel known as Satan sought to elevate himself above God, and as a result, was cast down to earth.

How art thou _____, son
of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart _____,
I will exalt my throne above
the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. I _____;

I will be like the most high. Yet thou shalt be _____,
to the sides of the pit (Isaiah 14:12-15).

God created Adam and Eve in His image. They were made with the capacity to love their Creator and with the ability to choose to obey or disobey Him. God had no desire for Adam and Eve to sin.

Let no man say when he is tempted, _____:
for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of _____,
and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived _____:
and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death (James 1:13-15).

The Lord's permissive will allowed events to unfold as they have. God has permitted evil to exist and uses it to accomplish His good purposes.

That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, _____
I am the Lord, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness _____,
and create evil: I the Lord do all these things (Isaiah 45:6-7).

When you have questions or doubts about God's sovereignty, start with what you do understand. Study in the Bible what God has revealed about Himself and His ways, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you believe.

The secret things belong unto the _____: but those things which
are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law (Deuteronomy 29:29).

Today's Bible reading is Isaiah chapter 14.

CAN YOU BE FORGIVEN?
The Bible Is The Word Of God
Booklet #13

Lesson #24

This week's verse to memorize: Romans 10:17
So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

If you feel guilty about sins from your past, the Bible has special assurance for you. The Corinthian believers were struggling, too. The Bible offered counsel and hope that you will look at and explore in this lesson.

And such were some of you: _____,
but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God (I Corinthians 6:11).

*In the verses preceding these encouraging words, the Bible lists some disgraceful lifestyles that continue in this modern day. Every week, pastors hear from people who ask whether the Lord can forgive them for homosexual lifestyles, adultery, abuse of family members, or one of a host of other transgressions. The answer is YES! **God can and will forgive every sin, in accordance with the Bible.***

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, _____,
_____ , and to cleanse us
from all unrighteousness. If we _____,
_____, and his Word is not in us (I John 1:8-10).

*Until a believer understands how the Lord forgives and removes sin, he or she will carry around guilt. Promises to do better end in futility. **Forgiveness is based only on the shed blood of Jesus Christ. He bore your sin on the cross and died in your place. When you acknowledge that He alone can make you righteous before God, then you are set free. You are given a new mindset guided by the Holy Spirit to focus upon the things of God instead of your sinful desires.***

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, _____,
Christ died for us. Much more then, _____,
we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when _____, we were
reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life (Romans 5:8-10).

Do you wake up each morning to face another day of dragging your guilt around? You don't have to. The Lord is waiting to take that load from you.

As far as the east is from the west, _____
_____ (Psalm 103:12).

Will you confess your guilt and stop dragging it around? Yes _____ No _____

Do you believe that God has covered your sins under the shed blood of Jesus? Yes _____ No _____

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 103.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE'S JUDGMENT UPON FALSE TEACHERS?

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #25

This week's verse to memorize: Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Few things have as great an impact on a Christian's life as sitting under the teaching of a wise, Spirit-led teacher of the Bible. You can often become spellbound by the insightful comments of your teacher, though, listening to every word and trusting the speaker completely—without checking to make sure that what he is saying lines up with God and the Bible.

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should _____ which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men _____ unawares, who were before of old ordained to his condemnation, ungodly men, _____, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ (Jude 1:3-4).

When you put your focus on the teacher rather than the message, you begin to develop a serious problem. If you take your eyes off the message, you will lose your footing in your Christian walk. Having placed your confidence in the instructor rather than in the Word, you can easily be led astray by false teaching.

I will therefore _____, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them _____. And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day (Jude 1:5-6).

The Bible warns you to beware of false teachers. The problem is, these "godless men" are often so silver-tongued that you do not notice their misdirection. How can you know that a message you hear can be trusted?

Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, _____, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Likewise _____, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities (Jude 1:7-8).

The only sure way to protect yourself from false teaching is to measure every word that is taught against the Bible itself. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Does the teacher's message come from the Bible?
- Does the teacher's interpretation fit within the greater context of the Bible?
- Do the points the speaker is making only make sense when isolated from the rest of the Bible?

If a teaching requires you to turn a blind eye to any part of the Bible, you can be sure that the message is not true to the whole, inerrant Word of God.

Today's Bible reading is Jude chapter 1.

HOW TO ACQUIRE WISDOM FROM THE BIBLE

The Bible Is The Word Of God

Booklet #13

Lesson #26

This week's verse to memorize: Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

No one wants to believe that he or she is a fool in God's eyes, but you are playing a "fool's game" when you ignore what God says and instead live the way you want. Your reliance on intelligence, education, and talents will lead you astray. While useful, they are not substitutes for godly judgment. What does God say will help to make you wise?

My son, _____, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline _____, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, _____, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then _____ the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth _____: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 2:1-6).

Commitment

You must resolve to see all of life from God's perspective, making it your true desire to constantly gain wisdom and obey.

Devotion

View the Bible as a treasure of infinite worth. Devote time and attention to learning who you are in Christ and what God's plan is for you. Meditate on His Word daily and realize that nothing compares in value to spiritual understanding.

Happy is the man _____, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of _____, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She _____: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her (Proverbs 3:13-15).

Obedience

To live wisely, you must have more than just knowledge about the Bible's contents; you need to also apply what you learn. Storing up scriptural truths is good, but it does not make you wise. Wisdom means having God's perspective as well as having obedient responses to His commands.

The wise in heart will _____: but a prating fool shall fall. He that _____: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known (Proverbs 10:8-9).

Prayer

If any of you lack wisdom, _____, that giveth to all men _____ and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But _____: For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed (James 1:5-6).

Today's Bible reading is Proverbs chapter 3.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS
The Bible Is The Word Of God
Booklet #13

Lesson #27

This week's verse to memorize: II Timothy 1:7

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Idols cannot talk.

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of _____. They have mouths, _____: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, _____: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, _____: neither speak they through their throat (Psalm 115:4-7).

You, however, follow a God Who does speak. The Lord communicated to saints of both the Old and New Testaments in a variety of ways; you will look into and study these various ways of communication in today's lesson.

God spoke in an audible voice to affirm His Son and to give direction to Paul on the Damascus road.

And lo _____, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:17).

And he trembling and astonished said, _____? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city; and it shall be told thee what thou must do (Acts 9:6).

God used dreams to reveal future events to Joseph.

And Joseph _____, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more (Genesis 37:5).

God gave a vision to communicate with Peter.

On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop _____ about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: _____, he fell into a trance (Acts 10:9-10).

God sent angels to proclaim His will to Jesus' mother, Mary.

And in the sixth month the _____ unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin _____, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary (Luke 1:26-27).

God orchestrated events to communicate His message to Naaman.

And he brought the letter to the _____, saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy. And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, _____, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? Wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me (II Kings 5:6-7).

The Lord still speaks today. How? The written Word of God is your primary source for hearing from Him. In addition, the Lord sometimes uses circumstances to confirm what He is already telling you in His Word. God has much to say; the question is, how well are you listening?

Today's Bible reading is II Kings chapter 5.

New Life Christian Growth Series—The Bible Is The Word Of God

*****Booklet #13 Review (Pages 35-36)*****

Instructions: After you complete pages 7-34 of this Booklet, please answer the following questions to share what you have learned. When you are all done, please mail **pages 35-36 ONLY**, back to: Mountain State Ministries, P.O. Box 217, Springfield, WV 26763. When we receive it, we will review your answers and grade it (Pass or Fail).

Today's Date: ____ / ____ / ____

My Full Name: _____

My Address: _____

Hebrews 4:12: For the _____ is quick, powerful, and sharper than any two-edged _____, piercing even to the dividing asunder of _____, and of the _____, and is a discerner of the _____ and _____ of the _____.

Jeremiah 23:29: Is not my _____ like as a _____? Saith the LORD; and like a _____ that breaketh the _____ in _____?

Isaiah 34:16: _____ ye out of the _____ of the _____ and _____.

Matthew 22:29: Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do _____, not _____ the _____, nor the _____ of _____.

II Timothy 3:16-17: All _____ is given by _____ of _____, and is _____ for _____, for _____, for _____, for _____ in _____: that the _____ of _____ may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all _____.

What does the Bible mean to you? How important is it to you? _____

How often do you read the Bible? How many times have you read the whole Bible through? _____

If God's word says one thing, but someone tells us something different, which is right? Is God's word ever wrong? _____

Why do you think that so many claim to be Christians, but so few read and love God's word? _____

What does God's word say about how to get to heaven? _____

God's word should be the basis for all of our beliefs. God's word instructs us in matters of eternity, in morality, in right and wrong, in family relationships, and so much more. Why should we follow what God says in the Bible? _____

Do you know and love God and His word? Do you hunger and thirst after righteousness? _____

Do you have any comments or questions about what you have studied in this lesson or anything else? Is there any way that we can pray for you? _____

If it is your desire to have one of these Bible lessons sent to a family member and/or friend, please fill out the following:

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Relation to you: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Relation to you: _____