



New Life Christian Growth Series

“Hatred”

Booklet #19

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 35-38) 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 #20.
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.
- 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

FIGHTING HATRED (PART I)
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Lesson #1

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:11
Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

God will bring judgment upon those who hate Him. In I John, you can find a way to prove whether a man truly loves God; the proof is in his love for others. A man who claims to love God but hates another person is a liar, and in reality, he or she does not love God.

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a _____, visiting the iniquity of the father upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that _____, and keep my commandments. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain; for the _____ that taketh his name in vain (Exodus 20:5-7).

There is no fear in love; but perfect love _____ because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he _____. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is _____: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, that he who _____ (1 John 4:18-21).

Hatred is the natural human response toward an enemy. This is why Jesus commands you, as His child, to love your enemies; it is impossible for the natural man, but it is possible for the spiritual man.

The secret of the Lord is with them that _____; and he will shew them his covenant. Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net. Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate (lonely) and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my distresses. Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and _____ Consider mine enemies for they are many; and they _____ cruel hatred. O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my _____ in thee (Psalm 25:14-20).

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do _____, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be _____ of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the _____ (Matthew 5:44-45).

But I say unto you which hear, _____, do good to them which hate you. Bless them that _____, and pray for them which despitefully _____ (Luke 6:27-28).

Today's Bible reading is Luke chapter 6.

FIGHTING HATRED (PART II)
New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred
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Lesson #2

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:11
Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

Words of hatred come from a wicked tongue and lying lips. In the Bible, the two seem to go hand in hand, which makes sense since they are both parts of your sinful nature.

Hold not thy peace, O God of my praise; for the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are _____
_____ : they have spoken against me with a _____
_____. They compassed me about also with words of _____; and
fought against me without a cause. For my love they are my adversaries: but I give myself unto prayer. And they have
rewarded me _____, and hatred for my love (Psalm 109:1-5).

He that hideth hatred with _____, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.
In the multitude of words there _____ :
but he that refraineth his lips _____. The _____
_____ silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth (Proverbs 10:18-20).

The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. Burning lips and a wicked
heart are like a potsherd _____ dross. He that hateth
dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up _____ ;
When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven _____ in his heart.
Whose hatred is _____, his wickedness
shall be shewed before the whole congregation (Proverbs 26:22-26).

The fear of the Lord is to hate what He hates and love what He Loves.

Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. For they speak against thee wickedly,
and thine enemies _____
Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee? And am not I grieved with _____
_____ ? I hate them with _____
_____ : I count them mine enemies. Search me, O God, and _____
_____ : try me, and _____ : And see if
_____,
and lead me in the way everlasting (Psalm 139:19-24).

God absolutely hates sin, and when you love the Lord, your hatred for sin will increase. This hatred for sin should drive you away from it. Consider a food that you despise; you want nothing to do with it. When you hate sin, you will want nothing to do with it.

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 139.

FIGHTING HATRED (PART III)
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Lesson #3

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:11
Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

A man filled with hatred will face continual strife and fighting. Love, on the other hand, moves past even the greatest offense and involves complete forgiveness.

The mouth of a righteous man is a _____: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked. Hatred _____: but love covereth all sins. In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is _____ (Proverbs 10:11-13).

Withdraw thy _____ from thy neighbor's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee. A man that beareth false witness against his neighbor is a _____, and a sword, and a sharp arrow (Proverbs 25:17-18).

This passage gives you practical advice about how to keep others from hating you: don't overstay your welcome. Although you are not responsible for others' responses to you, you are responsible for your part in relationships that turn to hatred. Hatred is included in a list of sins of the flesh. The word used in scripture is "enemy," and is most often translated in the New Testament as the word, "enmity."

But if ye be led _____, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are _____, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envy, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not _____ of God (Galatians 5:18-21).

The carnal and fleshly mind is at enmity or variance against God.

Because the carnal mind is _____: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot _____. But ye are not in the flesh, but _____, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell _____. Now if any man have not the _____, he is none of his. And if Christ _____, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is _____ of righteousness (Romans 8:7-10).

The world always keeps a keen eye on believers. So desperate to find something genuine and true falter, they will watch to see if your talk measures up to your lifestyle. Many times, their motives are just to confirm their growing suspicion that nothing true and genuine exists.

What hatred are you holding in your heart today? _____

Today's Bible reading is Galatians chapter 5.

FIGHTING HATRED (PART IV)
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Lesson #4

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:11
Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

Jesus abolished "enmity" through His death. This enmity and opposition was contained in the "ordinances of the law," which we could not fulfill, and which also put us in opposition to God. Key verses provide a word in how you were moved from being an enemy of God to becoming a child of God. This word is "reconcile."

But now in Christ Jesus ye _____
are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our _____, who hath made both one, and hath
broken down the middle _____ between us; Having
abolished in his flesh the _____, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to
make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might _____ both unto
God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off,
and to them that were nigh. For _____ we both have _____
_____ unto the Father (Ephesians 2:13-18).

Friendship with the world places you at enmity with God.

From whence come wars and fightings _____? come they not hence, even of your
_____ that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and _____
_____ : ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because _____.
Ye ask, and receive not, because _____ that ye may consume it upon
your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship with _____
is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend _____
_____ (James 4:1-4).

Jesus said that you are blessed when people hate you for His name's sake; the same idea is found in John. (It should be noted, though, that this blessing does not extend when you are hated because of your own foolishness or arrogance.)

Blessed are ye, when men hate you, and when they shall _____ you from their
company, and shall reproach you, and _____, for the
Son of Man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your _____
_____ heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets (Luke 6:22-23).

If the world hate you, ye know that it _____ before it hated you. If ye were of the
world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have _____
_____, therefore the world hateth you (John 15:18-19).

Name some things that are in the world that you think you may be part of that are wrong and that you would like to drop:

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 15.

FIGHTING HATRED (PART V)
New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred
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Lesson #5

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:11

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

Whatever is in your heart will come out in your life. If there is good treasure in your heart (which can only come from the Spirit of the Lord, Who resides in you), then good will be produced in your life.

Evil, in the same way, comes from an evil heart. James tells of bitter emotions that lead to strife; hatred is one of these bitter emotions. This evil comes from the world, the flesh, and the Devil; the eventual product will be all manners of evil works. To replace this evil, a man must seek wisdom that is from above.

But _____, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your _____, and ye shall be the children of _____ for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore _____, as your Father also is merciful (Luke 6:35-36).

Who is a wise man and endued with _____ among you? let him shew out of a good conversation (conduct) his works with meekness of _____. But if ye have bitter envying and strife _____, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but it is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and _____ is, there is _____ and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is _____, then peaceable, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is shown in peace of them that _____ (James 3:13-18).

A person with hatred in his heart is like the natural product of an apple and a peach tree. The apple tree naturally produces apples but can in no way produce a peach. It could try as hard as it could for as long as it could, but it cannot produce something against its very nature. The same is true with man; he cannot produce love on his own.

For we ourselves also were sometimes _____, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lust and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and _____. But after that the _____ of God our Saviour toward man appeared. Not by works of _____, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the _____, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us _____ through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to _____. These things are good and profitable unto men (Titus 3:3-8).

The above passage tells of the difference Jesus Christ can make in a man's life. You were once foolish, disobedient, following your own lust, and living in malice and envy. "But after that, the kindness and love of God toward man appeared." His kindness was not brought about by your works, but according to His mercy.

Today's Bible reading is Titus chapter 3.

HOW TO HANDLE YOUR ANGER AND HATRED

New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred

Booklet #20

Lesson #6

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:11

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

*You cannot believe someone would commit such an act against you — cut you off in traffic, gossip about you, or show another form of disrespect. You wonder, **“What did I do to deserve this?”***

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the _____, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lust; And be renewed in the _____; And that ye put on the _____, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore _____ lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another (Ephesians 4:22-25).

Getting a grip on your anger and hatred is imperative, especially when you are in the company of others who have not offended you. If you allow your anger to explode, everyone around you will sense its fury, and nothing can be gained. When anger comes, step away from the situation and take time to calm down before the hatred comes. Tell God what you are feeling, and then ask Him to defuse the situation.

Be ye angry, and _____: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the _____. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your _____, but that which is _____, that it may minister grace unto the hearers (Ephesians 4:26-29).

When you acknowledge to God that you are angry, He will help you identify the source of your frustration. He will teach you how to deal with the hatred from a godly perspective. God has a lesson for you to learn in every circumstance of life.

And _____ the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let _____ bitterness, and _____, and clamour, and evil speaking, be _____, with all malice: And be ye _____ one to another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you (Ephesians 4:30-32).

Frustrations will come, and you will feel anger and hatred. However, you can say No to anger and hatred and Yes to God's ability to deal with your frustrations. Ask Him, “Lord, what do you want me to learn through this?” When you pray this prayer, He will make His will clear. Anger and hatred will disappear once you know God has a plan in mind that includes hope and not frustration.

What anger and hatred do you need to get God's help to handle and get rid of in your life? _____

What plans do you have to get anger and hatred out of your life today? _____

Today's Bible reading is Ephesians chapter 4.

HOW TO HANDLE YOUR TEMPER AND HATRED

New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred

Booklet #20

Lesson #7

This week's verse to memorize: Matthew 5:44

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

When you lose your temper, you lose the ability to think sanely and to make balanced decisions. Like a sore festering on your body, so is unforgiveness in your heart. A gaping wound left by someone may anger you. Instead of attending to it, you leave it open; you want the world to see what was done to you. Each time you look at how mangled you are, though, your anger slowly grows into hatred.

For if ye _____ men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive _____ men their trespasses, _____ will your father forgive your trespasses (Matthew 6:14-15).

No man can serve two masters: for either he will _____, and love the other: or else he will _____, and despise the other. Ye cannot _____ and mammon (Matthew 6:24).

Wherefore putting away _____, speak every man _____ with his neighbor: for we are members _____. Be ye angry, and _____: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give _____ to the devil (Ephesians 4:25-27).

*Anger can destroy you from within and from without. It can quickly turn into hated rage, or it can simmer quietly for years inside you. The Bible says **"Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity."** God created you with emotions, and anger is one of these emotions. However, He does not want you to use it to hurt others or become embittered.*

Again, a _____ I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the _____ now shineth. He that saith he is in light, and hateth his brother, is in _____ even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in _____, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in _____, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath _____. I write unto you, little children, because your sins are _____ you for his name's sake (I John 2:8-12).

Anger always needs to be dealt with immediately and not left to linger in your thoughts. In teaching, Jesus emphasized the importance of forgiveness—especially when dealing with hatred and personal hurts. Realize that Satan looks for every possible avenue to thwart your Christian witness. Therefore, don't allow hatred to become a place where he can build a stronghold in your life.

Who do you need to confront and stop hating in your life today? _____

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 6.

HOW TO HANDLE YOUR WEAKNESS OF HATRED

New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred

Booklet #20

Lesson #8

This week's verse to memorize: Matthew 5:44

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

You live in an age of fitness. For the body's wellness, you can go to gyms to exercise and participate in diets to lose weight. For the mind, you can choose from a myriad of how-to books as well as seminars about thinking positively and ridding yourself of bad habits. The truth is that everyone has several weaknesses to confront. In the Bible, you can find wise counsel for how to handle these areas of your life.

And lest I should be _____ through the abundance of revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to _____ me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I _____ thrice, that it might _____ from me (II Corinthians 12:7-8).

If you look honestly at yourself, you can identify what you think is your weakness. It could be physical (a disability you were born with or developed in life), or it could be emotional, mental, or even spiritual; whatever it is, God's Word applies to you. The first thing to do is acknowledge the presence of the weakness. Secondly, it is important that you recognize the purpose of frailty. Paul says his thorn in the flesh was given to him to keep him from exalting himself. His weakness was preventive maintenance on the part of God, Who knew that dependence kept Paul's pride in check.

And he said unto me, My grace is _____: for my strength is made _____ in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ might _____ upon me. Therefore I take _____ in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for _____: for when I am weak, _____ (II Corinthians 12:9-10).

You should consider what your weakness says about you. For example, if a person struggles with dishonesty, a close analysis of his thinking might reveal that the real problem is that he has a fear of rejection. To protect himself, he will lie his way out of threatening situations; but by giving in to his weakness, the dishonest man reacts improperly. Other wrong responses to weakness are ignoring it, denying it, or excusing it.

I am become a _____ in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in _____ behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing (II Corinthians 12:11).

The only right response to the weakness of hatred is the promise of God: "My grace is sufficient for you" (II Corinthians 12:9). God's words to the apostle Paul are meant as encouragement for every believer still today.

Tell us what steps you will take against the weakness of hatred in your life: _____

Today's Bible reading is II Corinthians chapter 12.

THE DANGER OF BITTERNESS LEADING TO HATRED

New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred

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Lesson #9

This week's verse to memorize: Matthew 5:44

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

King Saul had it all: God's anointing on him as ruler, the prophet Samuel to guide him, the power and wealth of the kingdom of Israel, and the applause of the people; yet, he died a bitter man. What steps led to his downfall?

And it came to pass, when he had made an end of _____, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Saul took him that day, and would let him _____ to his father's house. Then Jonathan and David made a _____, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle (I Samuel 18:1-4).

Step #1: Anger. When Goliath was defeated, the crowd praised Saul as a killer of thousands but David as a slayer of tens of thousands. Instead of rejoicing that God had raised up someone to slay the giant, Saul grew angry at David for receiving more praise than he did.

And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself _____: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of _____, and also in the sight of Saul's servants. And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, _____, to meet Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music. And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul has slain his _____ and David his _____ thousands (I Samuel 18:5-7).

Step #2: Wrong Thinking. Saul's flaring temper affected his mind, and he became suspicious of David's motives. He started thinking that since the Lord was with David, the young man would want to take over the kingdom right away.

And Saul was _____, and the saying _____ him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more than the _____? And Saul _____ David from that day and forward (I Samuel 18:8-9).

Although the details of your life differ from Saul's, the steps to bitterness and hatred are the same.

What unresolved anger are you allowing to fester? _____

Whom do you avoid because of ill will? _____

Won't you confess your sin, turn to God, and be set free? Yes _____ No _____

Will you write or call that person that you hate, and ask them to forgive you? Yes _____ No _____

Today's Bible reading is I Samuel chapter 19.

THE DANGER OF A HARDENING HEART WITH HATRED

New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred

Booklet #20

Lesson #10

This week's verse to memorize: Matthew 5:44

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

Everyone has things that they highly treasure. Some may prize objects, while others cherish activities or experiences. Whatever the case, the possessor of the treasure will carefully guard it. Each one of your valuables has a connection to an inner chamber that the Bible calls "the heart." What you value most is what is closest to your heart.

Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee? And am I not grieved with those that rise up _____? I hate them with perfect hatred I count them mine enemies. Search me, O God, and _____: try me, and know _____: And see if there be any _____ in me, and lead me in the way everlasting (Psalm 139:21-24).

The Bible admonishes you to keep watch very carefully over your heart because it is the chest where your treasures are kept. In it lies a vast reservoir of possibilities for good or evil.

Keep thy heart with _____; for out of it are issues of life. Put away from thee a forward mouth, and perverse lips put _____ (Proverbs 4:23-24).

Originally, the heart is full of wickedness, but when it is purified, it can reveal the very face of God.

The heart is deceitful above _____, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord _____, I try the reins, even to give every man according to _____ and according to the fruit of his doing (Jeremiah 17:9-10).

With such possibilities within you, is it any wonder that you are exhorted to employ all diligence in guarding your heart? How do you remove the impurities and uncover those secrets of the heart spoken of in the Bible?

Blessed are the _____: for they shall see God (Matthew 5:8). Shall not God search this out? For he knoweth the _____ of the heart (Psalm 44:21).

Fortunately, God knows. He is well aware of all the clever deceits that litter the landscape of your heart. He tells you in the Bible, "I am He who searches the minds and hearts." Again, you are told in His word that "all things are open and laid bare" to His eyes. Thankfully, there is Someone Who sees and knows what to do.

And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which _____ and I will give unto every one of you _____ (Revelation 2:23).

Neither is there any creature that is not _____: but all things are _____ with whom we have to do (Hebrews 4:13).

Your part in all of this is simply to respond to His initiatives. Like David, you, too, can say, "Search me, O God, and know my heart...and lead me in the everlasting way."

Today's Bible reading is Hebrews chapter 4.

HATRED VOIDS THE GRACE OF GOD
New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred
Booklet #20

Lesson #11

This week's verse to memorize: Matthew 5:44

**But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you,
and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.**

The Bible raises a probing question for all who have believed on Jesus for salvation. God asks, "Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?" The subtle shift from confidence in Jesus to confidence in the flesh can all too easily go unnoticed.

Are ye so foolish? Having begun in _____, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many thin _____? If it be yet in vain. He therefore that ministereth to you the spirit, and worketh _____, doeth he it by works of the law, or by the _____? (Galatians 3:3-5).

When you first found salvation through faith in Jesus and experienced the glorious freedom from sin, you knew you could never have produced it yourself; there is absolutely no room for self-satisfaction. As you grow in grace, however, and submit to the disciplines of obedience and service, you naturally accumulate a record of good deeds and Christ-like conduct. Then, it becomes easy to let that prideful behavior assume an improper role. It can lead to confidence in the flesh and the grievous error of thinking that your security somehow lies in your obedience.

But what things were gain to me, those I counted _____.
Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the _____
_____ : for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but _____,
that I may _____ (Philippians 3:7-8).

None of us would actually come out and say that we have shifted our confidence from Jesus' finished work on the cross to our own work, but we often act as if that is the case. The flesh is exceedingly subtle and tenacious; it often persists through the hottest fires of God's refinery.

And be found in him, not having mine own _____, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, The righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may _____, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might _____ unto the resurrection of the dead (Philippians 3:9-11).

God will go to any length to purify your heart until it is wholly His. He may even send troubles to you until you are stripped of every shred of confidence in the flesh.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things _____, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the _____ of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13-14).

God is a jealous God and will tolerate no rival. The fires of His jealousy will purify your heart and bring about greater Christ-likeness in you.

Today's Bible reading is Philippians chapter 3.

FREEDOM FROM ENSLAVEMENT TO HATRED

New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred

Booklet #20

Lesson #12

This week's verse to memorize: Matthew 5:44

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

Sin begins with a thought; therefore, your mind is the Enemy's target. Not only does sin enslave you and bind you to destructive activity, but it also separates and isolates you from God's love. This does not mean that God changes the way He loves you. His love is unconditional and eternal. However, in the garden of Eden, after Adam and Eve yielded to sin, they immediately hid themselves from God. God did not avoid or hide from them; they were the ones who ran from God.

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, if ye continue in my word, then are ye my _____; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make _____. They answered him, we be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest unto you; Ye shall be made _____? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but, the Son _____. If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be _____ indeed (John 8:31-36).

Is any sin too great for God to forgive? No. Nothing is greater than God. However, you must make the decision to turn away from sin and return to the Lord. You may be in a situation where you feel totally out of control. You may have given yourself over to someone or something, and now you are no longer in control of your feelings or emotions. Sin may, therefore, have a stranglehold on your life.

What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom _____; whether of sin unto death, or of _____ unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have _____ that from of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made _____, ye became the _____ of righteousness (Romans 6:15-18).

Cry out to God — He knows where you are. He sees what the sin of hatred has done to your life, and He promises to make a way of escape when you cry out to Him. Maybe you are not a believer, and you wonder how you can receive hope that does not fade. Cry out to God, and He will reach out to you and save you.

Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have _____. Deliver me from the oppression of man: so will I keep thy precepts. Make thy face to _____; and teach me thy statutes. Rivers of waters run down my eyes, because they _____ (Psalm 119:133-136).

Make a commitment to say No to hatred and anything that does not line up with the Word of God. This will mean spending time studying His Word. Once you have tasted His goodness and learned His principles, hatred will lose its appeal.

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 6.

THE TROUBLEMAKER HATRED WITHIN YOU

New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred

Booklet #20

Lesson #13

This week's verse to memorize: I John 3:18

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

I used to wonder if the Christian life really worked. Even after I had become a Christian, I would look at the Scriptures and then at my life, and they did not always match. Even though most people have the idea that the Christian life does not work out the way the Bible say it does, I could not be content with doubting what the Word of God said. I fasted and prayed, confessing to the Lord everything I could think to acknowledge; still, I believed I was missing something.

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt _____
_____. But if ye bite and devour one another,
take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then, _____
_____ and ye shall not _____ the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:14-16).

I soon discovered the reason that my Christian life was not working according to Scripture. I had been overlooking one very important truth — a truth that would ultimately transform my life of faith. The problem was coming from within me. Your greatest troublemaker is your flesh. The main cause of defeat for the believer is the natural desire to sin.

For the flesh _____ the Spirit, and the Spirit against the _____:
and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot _____
that ye would. But if ye be _____ of the _____, ye are not under the law (Galatians 5:17-18).

You receive a new nature the moment you are saved. However, Scripture reveals that because of the way your thinking had been “programmed” as a sinner, you retain certain longings that do not fit a child of God. These attitudes and desires may come and go for the rest of your life, but they no longer define who you are. You are a new creature in Christ because He broke the power of the flesh.

Now the works of the _____ are manifest (evident) which are these; _____
_____, uncleanness, lasciviousness, _____, witchcraft,
hatred, variance, emulations, _____, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, _____,
drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do
such things, _____ kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21)

But the fruit of the Spirit is _____, joy, _____, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness,
_____, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the
_____ with the affections and lusts. If we _____ in the Spirit, let us also
_____ in the Spirit. Let us not be _____ of vain glory,
provoking one another, _____ one another (Galatians 5:22-26).

Therefore, it is clear that you cannot live the Christian life without God. There is a battle waged between your flesh and the Holy Spirit, and the only way to win is by allowing Jesus Christ to live His life through you.

Explain how you know you are walking in the Spirit: _____

Today's Bible reading is Galatians chapter 5.

HATRED — HOT TO DEAL WITH SIN
New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred
Booklet #20

Lesson #14

This week's verse to memorize: I John 3:18

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He broke the power of sin to control believers. As a result, sin cannot overpower a child of God unless he or she allows it to do so. Perhaps you have struggled with hatred and feel that you have done everything you know to overcome it. Take heart, because there are Biblical steps that can help you:

Step #1: Realize Who God is. *The Bible says He is light.*

And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be _____. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that _____, and in him is no _____ at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we _____, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son _____ us from ALL sin (I John 1:4-7).

Everything that is sin is darkness and is diametrically opposed to God. Whenever you face hatred, remember that you have a choice to align yourself with light or darkness and with God or Satan. Recognize sin for what it is. Satan is still trying to trip you because he wants to minimize your effectiveness and Christian witness. Try to remember that sin is so powerful that it required Christ's substitutionary death to defeat it.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is _____. If we confess our sins, he is _____ to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from _____ unrighteousness. If we say that we have _____, we make him a _____, and his word is not _____ (I John 1:8-10).

Step #2: Assume responsibility. *God wants to liberate you from your hatred, but you must take responsibility for your sin regardless of the circumstances. Satan is tempting you, but he isn't forcing you; you act on your own volition.*

For this is the love of God, that we _____ his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous (burdensome). For whatsoever is born of God, _____ the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that _____ that Jesus is the _____? (I John 5:3-5).

Step #3: Confess the sin of hatred. *Confession means that you agree with God about how He sees your sin. True confession involves repentance, which is not just an emotional moment. It means that you have changed your attitude and have decided to turn 180° to head in the opposite direction.*

These things have I written unto you that _____ on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have _____, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. And this the confidence that we have in him, that, if we _____ any thing according to his will, he _____ (I John 5:13-14).

What or how are you going to deal with hatred? _____

Today's Bible reading is I John chapter 5.

OVERCOMING HATRED
New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred
Booklet #20

Lesson #15

This week's verse to memorize: I John 3:18

My little children let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Victory is God's will for the believer's life in overcoming hatred, but sometimes you will find yourself falling repeatedly into the same sin. As a result, your prayer life is marked by broken promises to end wrongdoing. You may tell the Lord that you yearn to do what is right, but often, your desire wanes when virtue is no longer convenient, pleasurable, or profitable.

For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, _____.
For that which I do _____: for what I would, that do I not;
but what I hate, that _____. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the _____
_____, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no
more I that do it, but sin that _____ (Romans 7:14-17).

Many believers become angry with God for withholding victory, but sin is always your choice, not the Lord's. If a stinging conscience and misery are the result of your decision to sin, why do you continue in wrongdoing? One reason is incomplete repentance. It is possible for you to experience grief, embarrassment, and shame over sin without being truly repentant.

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth _____: for to
will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I _____. For the
good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, _____. Now if I
do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but the _____ that dwelleth in me (Romans 7:18-20).

The second reason for failure is an inadequate view of your true identity in the Lord. The believer, as a complete child of God, has Christ living within to empower him or her. When you grasp this truth, you will recognize that sin does not fit who you are, and you will stop rationalizing your offenses. Genuine repentance is based upon an honest understanding of your identity.

I find then a law, that, when I would _____, evil is present with me. For I delight in the
law of God after the _____: But I see another law in my members, warring
against the law of my mind, and bringing me into _____ to the law of _____
which is in my members. O wretched man that _____! Who shall deliver me from the body of this
death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with _____ I myself
serve the _____; but with the flesh the law of sin (Romans 7:21-25).

When you put these truths together, a powerful tool against Satan and temptation is created. Your Father wants you to be victorious, and you triumph over hatred when you remember that Jesus Christ is your life.

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 7.

COSTLY FORGIVENESS LEADS TO HATRED

New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred

Booklet #20

Lesson #16

This week's verse to memorize: I John 3:18

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Your forgiveness toward others should have no limitations. God's unconditional pardon of your sins destroys any excuse you might devise for holding onto bitterness and hatred. Though you may try to draw a line at the number of times you'll accept apologies or attempt to categorize which offenses you'll pardon, you must remember that Jesus drew no lines at the cross.

Then came Peter to him (Jesus), and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and _____
_____? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but
until _____ (Matthew 18:21-22).

You may also want to hang on to resentment instead of forgiving instantly; this is not scriptural. Whenever you cling on to unforgiveness, even if for only a short time, Satan gains a stronghold. If the Father's will is that you forgive, why must you think about it? You need to get your thinking done now; decide today that you will respond to hurts and humiliation with forgiveness.

Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a _____, which would take
account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon (accounts), one was brought unto him, which owed him ten
thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be _____, and
his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him
saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will _____ (Matthew 18:23-26).

You walk in a spirit of forgiveness when you understand that God is sovereign over this universe. Nothing can touch you unless it passes through His will. That is not to say God instigates or causes everything; however, God allows some unpleasant situations, so that He can utilize your hurt to develop character, expose weak spots, or drive you closer to Him.

Then the Lord of that servant was _____,
and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred
pence: and he _____, and took him by the
throat, saying, _____. And his fellowservant
fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have _____,
and I will pay thee all. And he _____: but went and cast him into prison, till he
should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were _____,
and came and told unto their lord all that was done (Matthew 18:27-31).

Forgiveness is painful and costly. Jesus felt every nail and every thorn. As the forgiver, you must bear wrongdoing without retaliation. But as a believer, you must trust Jesus Christ to take that pressure off you.

Will you forgive the person(s) who has wrong you, and stop the hatred you have for them? Yes _____ No _____

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 18.

RELEASING UNFORGIVENESS AND HATRED
New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred
Booklet #20

Lesson #17

This week's verse to memorize: I John 3:18

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

One of the most beautiful examples of a forgiving spirit is found in the book of Genesis. Despite being the victim of jealousy, evil intentions, malicious plotting, and selfish disregard, Joseph had an attitude of forgiveness that was unmatched in the Old Testament. He was obviously a Godly man who understood how to deal with resentment and hatred, because you see him responding in the right way to every new hurt.

And Joseph returned into Egypt, he, and his brethren, and all that went up with him to _____, after he had buried his father. And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure _____, and will certainly requite us all the _____ (Genesis 50:14-15).

If you refuse to release unforgiveness, you can expect to go through a series of painful steps. You will have difficulty dealing with the wrong done to you. By choosing to forgive at this point, you could skip many of the remaining steps; but if you cling to resentment, bitterness and hatred will take root, and you will begin to experience defeat in relationships, emotions, attitudes, and even physical health. Defeat ultimately leads to discouragement and hatred.

And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did _____ before he died, saying, So shall ye say unto Joseph, _____, I pray thee now, the trespasses of thy brethren, and _____; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespasses of the servants _____ of thy father. And Joseph _____ when they _____ (Genesis 50:16-17).

You may look successful to the world, but true joy and contentment will evade you. Feeling love for others and experiencing love in return will be hampered. Eventually, despair will set in, which can create such inner turmoil that some people resort to drugs, alcohol, adultery, pleasure, travel, or work in an effort to find relief. Tragically, some people try even more frantic measures!

And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy _____. And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I _____? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto _____, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. Now therefore fear ye not: I will _____ you, and your little ones. And he _____ them, and spake kindly unto them (Genesis 50:18-21).

There is hope for those wise enough to look for a spiritual way out of their desperation. A Christian pastor might be able to help detect what is wrong deep inside. Often, people discover a root of hatred that developed from a spirit of unforgiveness. By opening your heart, accepting help from reading the Bible, listening to the Holy Spirit's still voice, and spending time in prayer talking to your Father, you can find deliverance.

After completing this lesson, will you now take time and get alone with God, claim His promise in I Peter 3:12, and give up the hatred that you may have? Yes _____ No _____

Today's Bible reading is Genesis chapter 50.

FACING CHALLENGES WITH HATRED
New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred
Booklet #20

Lesson #18

This week's verse to memorize: I John 3:18

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Challenges with hatred are universal. Whether you face financial difficulty, health crises, or personal hatred, you must keep in mind that everyone struggles through some hardship or other in their lives. The believer's first instinct should be to pray, which is certainly the right approach. However, the manner in which you pray is also important.

Hear the right, O Lord, attend unto _____, that goeth not out of feigned lips. Let my sentence come forth from thy _____; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal. Thou hast _____; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress (Psalm 17:1-3).

Worship is not reserved for Sunday morning, but should come from your lips every day. Our conversations with God are often problem-focused, but many of the heroes of the Old Testament laced their requests with worship of the Almighty.

Hold up my goings in _____, that my footsteps _____.
I have called upon thee, for thou wilt _____, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech. Shew thy marvelous loving kindness, O thou that _____ by thy right hand them which put their _____ from those that rise up against them. Keep me as the apple of the eye, _____ under the shadow of thy wings, From the wicked that _____, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about (Psalm 17:5-9).

You will stand up from your prayer time with renewed vigor and confidence if you spend time acknowledging God's capability to handle your challenges instead of merely concentrating on the trial.

They are enclosed in their own fat: with their mouths they _____. They have now compassed us in our steps: they have set their eyes _____; Like as a lion is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places. Arise, O Lord, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my _____, which is thy sword (Psalm 17:10-13).

Another way to tackle problems is to get others involved in praying for you. This sometimes requires courage and boldness as you may be a private person, or you might be dealing with a very personal issue; but it can be a strengthening, encouraging, and powerful experience to hear another person calling your name before God.

From men which are thy hand, O Lord, from _____, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou _____ with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes. As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be _____, when I awake, with _____ (Psalm 17:14-15).

In addition, the Lord may use one of your prayer partners to provide a solution for your hatred. You can be certain God will always show you a way to resolve the difficulty you face, if you only put your faith in Him and trust Him.

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 17.

HATRED — OVERCOMING LIFE’S UPS AND DOWNS

New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred

Booklet #20

Lesson #19

This week's verse to memorize: I John 3:18

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Secrets — the very word catches our attention and makes us curious to know more. Well, the apostle Paul proclaimed that he had learned a very important secret: how to find contentment in all circumstances. “That is not possible,” is our first response, or perhaps, “That is not who I am.” It wasn’t who Paul was, either.

But I _____ greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in _____, therewith to be happy (Philippians 4:10-11).

Paul had to learn the spiritual truths that enabled him to face his difficulties God’s way without discontent, hatred, worry, or fear. Each time he experienced a trial, he had a choice to look at it from his own perspective or from God’s; that is, he could react emotionally to the situation, or he could respond spiritually.

I know how to be abased, and I know how _____ (live in prosperity) every where and in all things I am instructed both to be _____, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do _____ through Christ which _____ (Philippians 4:12-13).

Inner turmoil and outward agitation result when Christians live based on feelings instead of spiritual principles. When your desires and needs are not being fulfilled, you must look at your circumstances from God’s point of view. As you practice having this perspective, irritation, anger, hatred, and the natural tendency to place blame on others will be replaced by an inner quietness and confidence.

Notwithstanding ye have _____ communicate (share in) with my affliction. Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the _____, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only (Philippians 4:14-15).

Is it really possible to face serious trials and have God’s peace? YES, but not in your own strength. The secret is learning to bring God’s power into your weakness. This is accomplished through what you believe, and not through what you do.

Not because I _____: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all, and _____: I am full having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your _____ according to his _____ in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:17-19).

Trusting that you have access to God’s power through the Holy Spirit at all times for all situations is the first step to contentment in fighting hatred.

Today's Bible reading is Philippians chapter 4.

TO HAVE HATRED IS TO HAVE SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred

Booklet #20

Lesson #20

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:11

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

A key piece of equipment used in horse racing is a set of blinders attached to the bridle on either side of the horse's eyes. Blinders prevent the horse from becoming distracted and allow him to focus on the path before him. Focus is admirable, unless your focus is on a path that leads to destruction. The world is filled with people who are guided by good intentions, but blinded by the deception of hatred.

But if our gospel _____, it is hid to them that _____: In whom the god of this world (Satan) hath _____ the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the _____ of God, should shine unto them (II Corinthians 4:3-4).

What causes "blindness" of the spirit?

The Bible tells you that "the god of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is the image of God."

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath _____, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory _____ Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 4:5-6).

By deceiving unbelievers, Satan creates pockets of hatred, doubt, and skepticism within racial, social, and political groups. Untruths delivered by false teachers then spread like wildfire. Soon, what started as doubt becomes total rejection of all that is of God.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be _____, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not _____; we are perplexed, but not in _____; Persecuted, but not _____; cast down, but not _____; Always bearing about in body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made _____ (II Corinthians 4:7-10).

How can you protect yourself from Satan's schemes?

Ground yourself in the Word of God by studying the truth of the Scriptures. Then, separate yourself from any persons or organizations that are misinterpreting what you know to be true. When Jesus returns, Satan's lies will be exposed before all. Until then, guard your heart and mind with the truth from God's Word.

What steps will you take to stay away from persons or organizations that misinterpret the truth? _____

Today's Bible reading is II Corinthians chapter 4.

OBEYING GOD — THE LEARNING PROCESS TO FIGHT HATRED

New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred

Booklet #20

Lesson #21

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:11

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

Obedience is a learned process, and not a natural one. Just look at a two-year-old to see the unnaturalness of doing what one is told. Live with a teenager a while to see the prevalence of rebellion over compliance. Only when you are born again into a new life in Christ are you set free from slavery to sin; then, obeying God becomes a possibility. In order to make obedience a reality in your life, you must learn several things.

For if we have been _____ in the likeness of his _____, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is _____, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not _____. For he that is dead is _____ from sin (Romans 6:5-7).

First, you need to develop the art of waiting on God in prayer. This is to be an active waiting time, during which you learn of His character, examine your own character, and seek to understand what He is asking. As you practice careful listening, you will learn to recognize His voice as He speaks from His Spirit to your spirit. You must resist outside pressure and exercise self-control by waiting.

After this manner therefore pray ye: _____ which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, _____ in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our _____. And forgive us our debts, _____ (Matthew 6:9-12).

And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them: for they _____ . And a stranger they will not _____, but will flee from him: for they know not the _____ (John 10:4-5).

Tied closely to living an obedient life is meditating upon the Word of God. Meditation means reading Scripture and asking yourself, "What do these verses teach me about God or myself? Is there an example here to follow or avoid? Is there a command, a promise, or a warning that I need to apply? What action do I need to take to align my life with this truth?"

That which we have seen and heard we declare unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with _____, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be _____. This is the _____ we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God _____, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and _____, we lie, and do not _____ (I John 1:3-6).

These two spiritual disciplines (waiting in prayer and meditating on Scripture) are foundational to the obedient life. If either is weak, you will waver. In order to develop a pattern of faithful obedience, take action to strengthen both.

Today's Bible reading is I John chapter 2.

OBEYING GOD — WHAT IS INVOLVED IN FIGHTING HATRED?

New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred

Booklet #20

Lesson #22

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:11

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

To obey God requires getting His perspective on your life every day. It means being renewed in your thinking so your attitude and actions honor Him. It also means being reminded of who you are apart from Him and who you are with Him.

And be not _____:
but be ye transformed by the _____ of your mind, that ye may _____
what is that _____, and acceptable, and _____, will of God (Romans 12:2).

I am the vine, ye are _____: He that abideth in me, and
I in him, the same _____:
for without me ye can do _____ (John 15:5).

I _____
_____ which strengtheneth me (Philippians 4:13).

Once you have His perspective, it takes courage to obey, courage to give up what you like in order to do what He asks, courage to do things which may bring unwelcome results, courage to rearrange your schedule to match His plan, and courage to love the unlovely, forgive the seemingly unforgivable, and give when you want to keep. Courage grows out of a deepening faith in God. As you know the Father more intimately, your confidence in Him increases, and obedience becomes easier.

Those things, which ye have both _____, and _____, and heard,
and _____, do: and the God of peace shall be with you (Philippians 4:9).

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these _____ commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the _____ in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called _____ in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:19).

Therefore whosoever _____ these sayings of mine, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon _____: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it _____: for it was _____ (Matthew 7:24-25).

Obedience involves knowing the commands of God and facing hatred or temptation that tells you to compromise. Furthermore, it means drawing courage from your trust in Him and accepting consequence as God-sent. Pray that obedience will mark your life.

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 5.

WISDOM DEALING WITH HATRED AND THE TRIALS OF LIFE

New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred

Booklet #20

Lesson #23

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:11

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

The apostle Paul knew about pain and turmoil. During his ministry, he was hunted, imprisoned, beaten, shipwrecked, and mocked. Paul faced the worst that life had to offer, yet he retained the joy that comes from a relationship with Jesus.

My brethren, count it _____ when you fall into diverse temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of _____ worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be _____, wanting nothing (James 1:2-4).

Unfortunately, many new believers assume that the saving work of Christ in their lives will prevent them from experiencing times of trials and hatred. Paul, however, disagrees with this mindset. The Bible says that Paul illuminates the pain often associated with discipleship. Ignoring the illusion that Christians are spared hardships, Paul instead praises God for those times in which His power is revealed in human weakness.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be _____, and not of us. We are _____; we are perplexed, but not in _____; persecuted, but not _____; cast down, but not _____; Always bearing about in the body the dying Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made _____ in our body (II Corinthians 4:7-10).

In verse 7, Paul compares the human body to fragile "jars of clay." The image here is of the unimaginable power of God being poured into fragile, cracked containers: you and me. God's glory is not revealed in spite of your brokenness, but rather through your brokenness. Just as a cracked jar will seep water, so the power of God will leak out from your fractured life.

Blessed is the man that _____: for when he is tried, he shall receive the _____, Which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am _____: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is _____, and enticed (James 1:12-14).

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth _____: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth _____. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every _____ and every _____ is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning (James 1:15-17).

Examine yourself to discover how God may be more fully revealed to you through your hardships.

Today's Bible reading is James chapter 1.

HOW THE ENEMY USES HATRED TO FIGHT YOU (PART I)

New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred

Booklet #20

Lesson #24

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:11

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

At the root of all your sin is some type of fear. You fear the consequences of what the truth might mean, so you lie. You fear your life will never change, so you do something drastic that is totally against God's Word. You fear what people think about you, so you make others look bad in order to promote yourself. When you let fear invade every area of your life, it can develop a strangling grip on you, and suddenly, you are living in a state of hatred.

Finally, my brethren, be _____, and in the power of his might. Put on the _____ armour of God, that ye may be able to _____ against the _____ (schemes) of the devil (Ephesians 6:10-11).

However, the Bible tells you that you should not fear the enemy. Instead of staying in a constant state of fear, you should simply remain faithfully committed to trusting God with your life. Satan is powerful, but not more powerful than God.

For we wrestle not against _____, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of _____, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the _____ armour of God, that ye may be able to _____ in the evil day, and having done all, to stand (Ephesians 6:12-13).

By allowing fear of the enemy to flood over you, you set yourself up to allow Satan to gain a stronghold in your life. God has given you the power to defeat the enemy; in fact, the victory already has been claimed by the Lord. There's an overwhelming sense of peace that you gain when you understand that God obtained the victory a long time ago.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with _____, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of _____; above all, taking the shield of _____, wherewith ye shall be able to _____ of the wicked (Ephesians 6:14-16).

To allow yourself to live in fear of an enemy that has already been defeated doesn't make sense.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the _____: Praying always with _____ prayer and supplication, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth _____ to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an _____ in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I _____ (Ephesians 6:17-20).

You cannot ignore the enemy, but you can remind yourself that you have been given the power to conquer him through Jesus' death and resurrection. With such power given by your heavenly Father, how can you live in fear and hatred?

Name what power the enemy has over you: _____

Today's Bible reading is Ephesians chapter 6.

HOW THE ENEMY USES HATRED TO FIGHT YOU (PART II)

New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred

Booklet #20

Lesson #25

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:11

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

The Bible does not downplay the power that the enemy has. Never does God's Word tell you that the devil isn't someone you should be worried about or acknowledge; rather, you are instructed to be alert for anything that the enemy might throw your way.

Humble yourselves therefore under the _____, that he may _____ in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your _____ the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may _____: Whom resist _____, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world (I Peter 5:6-9).

The Bible describes Satan as "a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." With a description like that, you can easily see that there is reason for concern. However, the Bible shows you why you need not cower in fear. The Bible tells you, "But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world ... To (Jesus) be dominion for ever and ever."

But the God of _____, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you _____, stablish, strengthen, and _____. To him be glory and dominion for _____ and ever (I Peter 5:10-11).

Your faith is in the One who holds dominion forever and ever. When you take this truth to heart, you can see how it is possible to resist the attacks of the enemy. No matter what he says or how he tries to discourage you, you can remind him of who your Father is. You serve the living God, who has dominion over everything—including the enemy.

But without faith it is _____: for he that cometh to God must believe that _____, and that he is a rewarder of them that _____ (Hebrews 11:6).

But let patience have her _____, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him _____, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask _____, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think he shall _____ (James 1:4-7).

No longer do you have a reason to fear hatred, even though you see that the enemy's power is real. God's power is real, too, and it is greater than anything that can come against you. The Lord wants His children to walk with their heads held high, for they are part of an eternal kingdom that will never be defeated.

Today's Bible reading is I Peter chapter 5.

WHEN FIGHTING AGAINST HATRED, GUARD AGAINST DOUBT

New Life Christian Growth Series - Hatred

Booklet #20

Lesson #26

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:11

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

God has given you definite assurance about your adoption into His family, so it is important to guard against hatred or whatever challenges your position in Christ.

And they were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of: But this man (Jesus), because he continueth ever, hath an _____.
Wherefore he is able also to _____ to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make _____ for them (Hebrews 7:23-25).

Hatred, like static over a phone line, causes breaks in the connection between you and God. When you feel estranged from God, doubts about your salvation can creep in.

For such an high priest became _____, who is holy, harmless, undefiled separate from sinners, and made higher than _____; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up _____, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did _____ (Hebrews 7:26-27).

A legalistic attitude may agree that salvation is through Christ alone, but then imposes man-made rules and regulations to prove who is a real Christian and who isn't. You will rarely measure up to other people's standards, so doubts may roll in about your identity in Christ.

For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the _____, maketh the Son (Jesus), Who is _____ for evermore (Hebrews 7:28).

An overemphasis on feelings can lead to relying on temporary emotions rather than the unchanging Word of God. Because the Lord created your heart to play a crucial role in your relationship with Him, you must constantly commit your emotions to Him.

And the great dragon was _____, that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the _____: and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come _____, and _____, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is _____, which accused them before our God day and night (Revelation 12:9-10).

The Accuser, who charges you "day and night" (Revelation 12:10), will remind you of your past, people you've hurt, or the hatred and shamefulness of your sins and blunders. The Father of Lies will do anything to discourage you into doubting who you are in Christ; he wants your eyes focused on your failures, and not on Jesus' redemptive work. Doubting the truth of Scripture can cause you to mistrust your position in Christ. Believe what God says about Himself and about you. You must commit yourself to His trustworthiness.

Today's Bible reading is Hebrews chapter 11.

New Life Christian Growth Series—Hatred

*****Booklet #20 Test & Review (Pages 35-38)*****

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 35-38 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: _____

This week's verse to memorize: Proverbs 16:7

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

Section #1: Multiple Choice

Each question below is followed by three answers, only one of the answers is correct. Read each question carefully; then, select the correct answer and circle it. Each of these questions are taken from Scripture and the lessons in this book.

1. The Lord is a:
(A) Busy God
(B) Jealous God
(C) Weak God
2. The Bible says:
(A) Like your enemies
(B) Help your enemies
(C) Love your enemies
3. The mouth of the wicked is:
(A) Deceitful
(B) Helpful
(C) Good
4. I do hate them:
(A) That hate the Lord
(B) That hate me
(C) That rise up against me
5. Hatred stirreth up:
(A) Love
(B) Understanding
(C) Strife
6. Blessed are you when:
(A) You hate
(B) Men hate you
(C) The world loves you
7. You are to hate:
(A) Your enemies
(B) The world
(C) Yourself
8. You should put off:
(A) Going to church
(B) Praying
(C) The old man
9. Be angry and:
(A) Sin not
(B) Get even
(C) Let your emotions out
10. Grieve not:
(A) The Holy Spirit
(B) Your wife
(C) Your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ
11. Forgive men their:
(A) Weaknesses
(B) Trespasses
(C) Selfishness
12. God said:
(A) Hate him who hates you
(B) Forget me
(C) My grace is sufficient for thee

Today's Bible reading is Proverbs chapter 16.

*****Booklet #20 Test & Review (Pages 35-38)*****

This week's verse to memorize: Proverbs 16:7

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

Section #2: True or False

Each question below is followed by a blank. Read each question carefully. If the statement is true, write the word, "true" in the blank. If the statement is false, write the word "false" in the blank. Each of these questions are taken from Scripture and the lessons in this book.

1. Paul said there was given to him a thorn in the flesh. _____
2. For my strength is made perfect in weakness. _____
3. Keep thy heart with all diligence. _____
4. Bless them that curse you. _____
5. Thou shalt love only your neighbor. _____
6. One of the works of the flesh is hatred. _____
7. The Bible says that God is the light of the world. _____
8. You do not have to confess your sins. _____
9. There is hope in God's word. _____
10. In your flesh dwelleth good things. _____
11. With unforgiveness, you can expect painful steps. _____
12. The Lord attends unto your cry. _____
13. You can do all things through yourself. _____
14. To protect yourself from Satan, hide the Word of God in your heart. _____

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 6.

*******Booklet #20 Test & Review (Pages 35-38)*******

For us to hate another person is wrong. We are even told to love our enemies; however, there is a hatred that is not wrong. What kind of hatred is right, according to the Bible (see Psalm 97:10, Romans 12:9, Proverbs 8:13, for example)? _____

Are there people whom you hate or whom you have not forgiven in your heart? Explain. _____

Do you really hate sin, or is there some sin that you really do not mind—or that you even love? Explain.

Hatred can make us bitter and miserable. It ruins our relationships with God and with others. How can we get rid of the hatred in our lives? _____

Sometimes, when people experience difficulties, they turn against God. It may be the fault of religion and rules, or some sin, or simply the way that sin has affected the world, bringing pain, sickness, and death. Is there ever any right reason to hate God? Explain. _____

New Life Christian Growth Series—Hatred

*****Booklet #20 Test & Review (Pages 35-38)*****

Love is greater than hatred. God is greater than Satan. Hatred brings bitterness, anger, turmoil, sin, and regrets. Love brings joy, peace, forgiveness, and hope. Are you living in God's love, or is your heart filled with hatred? Explain your answer. _____

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 this Bible lesson series sent to a family member and/or friend, please fill out the following:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

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