

Biblical Discipleship II

12 Lessons

To help a Christian grow in grace
and in the sharing of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

2023 EDITION

**AMWELL CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
40 SANDBROOK HEADQUARTERS ROAD
STOCKTON, NJ 08559**

Forward

About the Sponsor

This publication is sponsored and provided free of charge by the Amwell Church of the Brethren (hereafter referred to as Amwell COB) located at 40 Sandbrook Headquarters Road in Stockton, NJ. Founded in 1733, Amwell COB is the fourth oldest Church of the Brethren congregation in the United States of America and the oldest Church of the Brethren congregation in New Jersey. Pastor Bob DiSalvio has been faithfully leading the congregation at Amwell COB since October 1998.

To learn more about Amwell COB and listen to sermons, we encourage you to examine the following:

- Radio – sermons can be heard weekly on Sundays at 7:30am EST on WDVR 89.7 FM.
- Web Site – at www.amwell.org you can learn more about the Church of the Brethren, read blogs and listen to sermons from Amwell COB's sermon archive.
- Live Streaming – visit YouTube and subscribe to: www.youtube.com/@amwellchurchofthebrethren5827 to watch weekly sermons and Bible studies.

Origin of Discipleship II

Discipleship I was provided to Amwell Church of the Brethren by First Baptist Church of Staten Island, NY. It has been successfully completed by many of Amwell COB's members. As these graduates of the Discipleship I program at Amwell COB began to ask for further discipleship material, a couple of members at Amwell COB felt called to create the Discipleship II material that you are about to review.

Teaching Format

We recommend discipleship be conducted in a 1:1 format between the person providing the discipleship (discipler) and the person being disciplined (disciple) in a quiet and comfortable environment that is free of distractions. Our experience has shown it best to pair genders, i.e., for a man to disciple another man and a woman to disciple another woman. Both persons should feel free to take notes, as desired, but as these discussions can sometimes include sensitive information, both should agree to maintain confidentiality with whatever is discussed. As discipleship should be led by the Holy Spirit and not the clock, durations and periodicity can vary, but we recommend setting aside 60 to 90 minutes at the same time each week with a target goal of one lesson per week until the course material is completed.

Lesson Structure

Each lesson includes key points, supporting Scripture references, discussion questions and ideas for application. This format is designed to ensure learning of the key points and most importantly, to gain an

understanding of how to apply the lesson to the life of the one being disciplined. We suggest you bring a Bible (preferably an Authorized King James Version, as mentioned below all scripture referenced in this guide is from this version) to each session in case further investigation of Scripture is desired.

In the first lesson, the discipler teaches the lesson and asks the disciple to answer the questions at the end of the lesson. These questions and answers can be reviewed at the end of the lesson, or at the beginning of the next lesson. Once the discipler senses that the disciple has a grasp of the lesson, then they should move on to the next lesson. Typically, no more than one lesson should be conducted during one session.

Scripture Text

Throughout this guide, Scripture referenced will be from the Authorized King James Version (AKJV).

Introduction

A disciple is a follower of a teacher, rabbi or master who desires to learn from the leader and imitate their life. Jesus had disciples and He gave them a command, or “Great Commission,” to continue spreading his teaching to all people.¹ It is in the spirit of obedience to this duty, and in declaration that Jesus Christ is our Master whom we love and serve, that we have created this curriculum for discipleship.

As Discipleship I was about **knowing** Jesus, Discipleship II is focused on **sharing** Jesus.

Why is it important to know and share Jesus? Simply put...eternal freedom. Jesus said we are slaves to sin, but if we abide in His Word (The Holy Bible), then we will know the truth and this truth will set us free from sin.² The Bible says that sin separates us from God and is punishable by death. Therefore, Jesus sacrificed Himself that we may live, and His blood became the supernatural agent that washes away our sin.³ His resurrection proves that His sacrifice was acceptable to His Heavenly Father. Those who confess their sins and trust in Jesus’ sacrifice on their behalf will have their sins forgiven⁴, but those who reject Jesus as Lord and Savior must bear God’s wrath for their sin. Moreover, as God’s Son, Jesus has the authority to bring us former slaves of sin into God’s family, forever. This is the whole point of salvation...eternal freedom...to be reconciled to God by having our sin debt paid by the blood of Jesus so that we can have a relationship with Almighty God and live in harmony with Him, as His children, forever.

As you go through this discipleship curriculum, it is important to understand the expectations of being a follower of Jesus Christ. As your relationship with Christ matures, you will begin to meet these expectations more and more.

Once you complete this curriculum, we encourage you to pay it forward and disciple someone else...all in accordance with the Great Commission from Master Jesus.

May our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, richly bless you as you seek to know Him more deeply and share Him with others.

¹ Matthew 28:18-20 ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

² John 8:31-36 ³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; ³² and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. ³³ They answered him, We be Abraham’s seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? ³⁴ Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. ³⁵ And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever. ³⁶ If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

³ Romans 6:23 ²³ For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

⁴ 1 John 1:9 ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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LESSON 1: Your Commission to Share Jesus

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What is my commission from Jesus?

In the armed services academies, when a prospective officer candidate graduates as a lieutenant, they are given a commission to lead personnel appointed under them. Romans 8:16-17 declares that, as a child of God, you are a joint heir with Christ to His inheritance. Thus, in effect, you are an officer who will rule with Him in the Millennial Kingdom (more on this in Lesson 12).

Likewise, Christ has given you a commission. This lesson will explain what it is and what you are to do.

- I. An Order from Commander Jesus
 - A. After Jesus was crucified and resurrected, He gave a commission to the eleven disciples, before He departed to Heaven.
 1. Matthew 28:18-20 ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.
 - B. Jesus' command was not a request.
 1. Just like a military officer receives a command, or an order, from a senior officer, he or she understands that:
 - a. It is not a request.
 - b. It is not to be negotiated.
 - c. It is to be obeyed, with haste.
 - C. Jesus' command applies to you!
 1. Teaching and baptizing means that Christ had ordered you to tell others about Him so that, like you, they will know the truth and choose to follow Jesus.
 2. Essentially, your commission is to lead others to Christ.
 3. This is your spiritual job from now until your last day on earth!
 4. 2 Timothy 2:1-4 ¹ Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. ³ Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.
- II. Sharing what you believe and why
 - A. You should always be ready to give an answer as to what you believe and why.
 1. 1 Peter 3:15-16 ¹⁵ but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: ¹⁶ having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.
 2. This is your testimony.

B. What you believe.

1. As a follower of Christ, you believe that Christ sacrificed Himself and set you free from the bondage of sin.
2. Now that you are free, you have been restored to a right relationship with God.
3. As you grow in your relationship with Jesus, your trust and faith in Him will grow.
4. This is good news...in fact, it's awesome news!
5. The more we study the Bible and allow the Holy Spirit to teach us, the more grounded we'll be in sound doctrine, and the less likely we'll be deceived by the false doctrine that some teach.
6. Ephesians 4:14 ¹⁴that we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

C. Why you believe.

1. It is natural for people to be cautious when you introduce them to Jesus.
2. It is also natural for your friends and family to wonder *why* you believe in Jesus.
3. Just as you would vouch for a friend that you introduced to another friend, you are to vouch for Christ by being able to explain what He has done for you and through you.
4. Colossians 4:2-6 ²Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; ³withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: ⁴that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. ⁵Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. ⁶Let your speech *be* always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

III. How to share your faith in God with others

A. Sharing Jesus may seem scary, but it should eventually become natural.

B. Consider someone close to you, e.g., your mother, father, spouse, children, etc.

C. When you speak to others about them, how do you speak?

1. What you say likely portrays your love and fondness for them.
2. You talk about them as a matter of fact, i.e., they are real and the things they do are real.
3. When you tell others about them, you do not worry that they will not believe you.
4. When you tell others about them, you do not worry that they will think you are silly because you love your mother, father, spouse, children, etc.
5. Such is the way you should talk about Jesus.
6. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 ¹ And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. ²For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: ⁵that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

D. Be mindful of the words you use.

1. Say "Jesus" not "God" because other religious people believe in god, just not the correct God.

- a. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus said we are to tell others about the God that is triune (also known as the Trinity). Jesus used the words "Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."
 - b. Followers of Islam, called Muslims, believe in a god called Allah, whom they consider the true god, but Allah is solo, not triune. Moreover, Muslims deny the deity of Jesus and believe He was just a good prophet who is now dead. Therefore, they worship the wrong god.
 - c. Followers of Hinduism, called Hindus, are on the other extreme. They believe in millions of gods. Again, none of these are the triune God that is the Creator and Most High God.
 - d. Not all religions are the same, the scripture clearly states that Christianity is different than all other faiths. John 14:6 ⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
2. Say that you "rely" on Jesus Christ, rather than "believe", because even demons believe.
 - a. James 2:19 ¹⁹Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.
 3. Say "follower of Jesus" rather than "Christian" because some people believe they are Christian but are not.
 - a. Matthew 7:21 ²¹Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

IV. Discipling others

A. Why should we disciple?

1. All authority has been given to Jesus and He delegates the responsibility of discipling to His followers according to Matthew 28:18-20 already reviewed above.
2. Just as a servant obeys his or her master, we are to obey everything that Christ commands.
3. Discipling others is part of God's will for your life.

B. Who should be disciplined?

1. New Christians.
 - a. 1 Peter 2:2-3 ²as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: ³if so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.
2. Christians who want to learn and grow.
 - a. 2 Peter 3:18 ¹⁸But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.

C. How should discipleship be handled?

1. Be gentle and affectionate, like a nursing mother.
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 2:7-13 ⁷But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: ⁸so being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. ⁹For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God. ¹⁰Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: ¹¹as ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his

children, ¹² that ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. ¹³ For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

2. Start with the basics, like a baby starts to drink milk before eating meat.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 3:1-2 ¹ And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ. ² I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.
 - b. Hebrews 5:11-14 ¹¹ Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. ¹² 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. ¹³ For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
3. There will be mutual growth for the disciple and discipler.
 - a. Proverbs 27:17 ¹⁷ Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

V. Summary

- A. Jesus has ordered you to lead others to Christ. It is a command, not a request. It should be taken very seriously.
- B. You should always be prepared to provide an answer to anyone regarding what you believe and why.
- C. Speak about Jesus as you would speak about a family member or friend that you love.
- D. Disciple others.

VI. Questions

- A. What is your commission from Christ?
- B. What do you believe about Jesus?
- C. Why do you believe in Jesus?
- D. How can you begin, or continue, to fulfill your commission?
- E. Are you willing to disciple another follower of Christ?

VII. Application

- A. Take some time to think about what Jesus has done for you and through you since you became a follower of Christ.
 1. Write down some key things that He has done.
 2. Memorize these things.
 3. Practice speaking these things aloud so that you get a “feel” for how to put His blessings into words.

B. Practice answering questions that you may receive as you witness for Christ. Here are some to get you started:

1. You seem at peace and happy. Why?
2. Why do you follow Jesus?
3. Why should I follow Jesus—what has He ever done for me?
4. What has He done for you?
5. Why do you believe in an invisible God?
6. How does your God speak to you?



LESSON 2: Sharing Jesus by Spreading The Gospel

What exactly is the Gospel / Good News?

Your commission is to spread the Gospel, but what exactly is it? Lesson 2 is designed to help you understand what the Gospel is, and Lesson 3 will help you understand how you can go about sharing the Gospel.

- I. What is the Gospel?
 - A. The Gospel in One Phrase.
 1. "Jesus saves."
 - B. The Gospel in One Sentence.
 1. The Gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ has saved you from your sins through his death, burial, and resurrection such that all you need to do is accept Him as your personal Lord and Savior to have eternal life.
 - C. The Gospel in One Minute.
 1. How to share the Gospel in one minute. <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/d9Mbm-JUmSQ>
 - D. The Gospel in One Verse.
 1. John 3:16 ¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
 2. Romans 10:9 ⁹that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
 - E. The Gospel in Two Verses.
 1. John 3:17-18 ¹⁷For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
 2. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 ³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:
- II. The Gospel in a Nutshell
 - A. The word "gospel" means "good news."
 - B. It occurs almost one hundred times in the Bible, exclusively in the New Testament.
 - C. The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ and His salvation from our sins.
 - D. God created mankind to live with Him forever, in obedience.
 - E. When Adam and Eve sinned, they separated themselves (and all mankind thereafter) from God.
 1. Isaiah 59:2 ²but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.
 2. Romans 5:12-15 ¹²Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: ¹³(for until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴Nevertheless death reigned

from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.¹⁵ But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

- F. God is so holy that we cannot be in His presence with our sin and live.
 - 1. Exodus 33:20²⁰ And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.
 - G. All of us have sinned and the punishment for sin is death and separation from God.
 - 1. Romans 3:23²³ for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
 - H. For us to go to Heaven where God dwells, our sin must somehow be removed or paid for.
 - 1. The first sin was atoned with blood when Adam and Eve killed an animal to garment their nakedness after disobeying God.
 - 2. The precedent of blood for sin occurred throughout The Old Testament until the perfect sacrifice of Jesus was made.
 - 3. Hebrews 9:12¹² neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.
 - I. Jesus paid for our sin debt with His blood. He died in our place. Jesus was in Hell for three days after His death and burial, and before His resurrection. He did this for you and me! As a result, God no longer condemns us to Hell—that is the “good news”!
 - 1. Romans 8:1¹ *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
 - J. This good news means that we have been reconciled to God through the blood of Jesus (called Salvation) and are now children of God who will live in His presence forever.
 - 1. Romans 5:10¹⁰ For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.
 - 2. John 1:12¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:
- III. Key foundational beliefs
- A. We are all doomed by our sin to an eternal punishment in Hell.
 - B. No one can “earn” their way to Heaven because no one is good enough.
 - 1. Romans 3:10¹⁰ as it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
 - C. Jesus declares that He is the only way to Heaven.
 - 1. John 14:6⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
 - D. Jesus loves us so much that he left His throne in Heaven to be born of the Holy Spirit to a virgin, live a life with all the troubles that we encounter, and undergo public torture and death on our behalf.
 - E. The reason the resurrection is an important part of the good news.
 - 1. Jesus' triumph over death demonstrates that through Him, we can also defeat death. That means when we leave this world, our soul joins the Lord in Heaven.
 - 2. God raising Jesus from the dead proved that Jesus' sacrifice was pleasing and acceptable to God.
 - 3. The promise of Scripture was fulfilled, once again demonstrating the truth of the Bible.

- a. Mark 9:31 ³¹For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.

F. Salvation is a gift from God. It is priceless, that is why it is FREE.

IV. Paul's description of the Gospel

A. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 ¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ² by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. ³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

B. Romans 1:16 ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

V. The Roman Road

A. There is a series of Scripture, all found within the Book of Romans in the Bible that describes the key elements of the Gospel. They are as follows:

1. [Romans 3:10](#), ¹⁰As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.
 2. [Romans 3:23](#), ²³For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.
 3. [Romans 5:12](#), ¹²Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.
 4. [Romans 6:23](#), ²³For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 5. [Romans 5:8](#), ⁸But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
 6. [Romans 10:9-10](#), ⁹That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
 7. [Romans 10:13](#), ¹³For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
- B. These Scriptures are referred to as "The Romans Road to Heaven" and can be used when fulfilling our commission by Jesus to share the key points of the Gospel.

VI. Summary

- A. The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ and how He has saved all humankind from sin.
- B. It is our commission to share the gospel, so we need to understand what it is.
- C. We can't 'save' anyone, that is the role of God Himself through the work of the Holy Spirit. Our role is to tell, to share the Gospel. Don't be discouraged if the people you share the gospel with reject Christ.
- D. Use Scripture, like the Romans Road to Heaven, to demonstrate to others what the Bible says about salvation.

VII. Questions

- A. Can you succinctly describe *what* is the good news?
- B. Can you explain *why* it is the good news?
- C. What other Scriptures do you think are useful for describing the good news?

D. Have you shared the gospel?

1. If so, how did it feel?
2. What could you do to improve on your experience for the next time?

VIII. Application

A. Put the Roman Road in your Bible.

1. Go to Romans 3:10, underline it and write Romans 3:23 next to it.
2. Then go to Romans 3:23, underline it and write Romans 5:12 next to it, and so on.
3. That way all you need to do is memorize where you start: **Romans 3:10**.



LESSON 3: Sharing Jesus through Personal Evangelism

How do I share my testimony?

Personal evangelism is you sharing the gospel with one or more people. Sharing your testimony can be a powerful way to share the gospel with others. Your testimony is how the Lord saved you and has carried you through various trials and “tests.” Just as you may share how a friend helped you through a situation, you are to share with others how the Lord helped you through various situations. The purpose of doing this is to fulfill your commission from Jesus to share the Gospel.

Often, an effective way to introduce the Gospel is to share how your relationship with Jesus has affected you. This, in turn, should prompt interest in the person with whom you are talking. It can answer their reasonable questions like “Why do I need Jesus?” and “What can He do for me?” The people in your sphere of influence know you as a real person with real issues. If you provide them with examples of how Jesus has helped you, then perhaps they can relate to how Jesus could help them.

- I. Your role
 - A. Your role is to share your story.
 - B. Talk about how Jesus has carried you through various trials and tests; this is the “test” of your testimony.
 - C. Share why your life is better with Him than without Him.
 - D. Remember the long-term picture and share why He is needed now and forevermore.
 - E. When you begin witnessing to others with how Christ saved you, you start by sharing what you have done, instead of starting with telling them what they must do to be saved. The plot begins with you as the sinner, moves to how you received forgiveness, then transitions to how everyone is a sinner (including the person or people you are witnessing too).
 - F. Follow these twelve steps for explaining the Gospel to others:
 1. Pray for divine appointments to fulfill your commission to share the good news. Then be ready.
 2. Draw on what you know.
 3. Listen carefully to people to understand what their level of understanding is.
 4. Meet them at their point of understanding and build from there.
 5. Be considerate of their culture, beliefs, skepticism, questions, etc.
 6. Treat them with courtesy and respect.
 7. If someone claims to believe differently than you, that is OK.
 8. Remember, it is the job of the Holy Spirit to convert souls, not you.
 9. Your job is to share the good news and what Jesus has done for you.
 10. Even if the person does not change their opinion, you did not fail.
 11. You have planted a seed. The Holy Spirit will bring along someone else to water it.
 12. Thank the Lord for answering your prayer to provide a divine appointment and ask for another.
 - G. Obey God and leave all the consequences to Him.
- II. The Holy Spirit’s (Holy Ghost’s) role

- A. When you put your faith in Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit entered your heart.
 - 1. Jesus said in John 14:16-17 ¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷*even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.
 - 2. Acts 1:8 ⁸But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
 - 3. Act 5:32 ³²And we are his witnesses of these things; and *so is* also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.
- B. The Holy Spirit empowers you to witness for Christ.
 - 1. Ministry and evangelism are not things you do on our own; you need the help of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. John 15:5 ⁵I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
 - 2. The Holy Spirit:
 - a. Is your partner and guide.
 - b. Sanctifies you to reject sin that hinders your effectiveness in evangelism.
 - c. Orchestrates opportunities for you to witness.
 - d. Draws people to Himself, and to you.
 - e. Testifies about Christ through you.
 - f. Uses the Gospel to bring about belief.
 - g. Convicts people of their sin.
 - h. Softens hearts and causes spiritual growth.
 - i. Converts souls to Christ.
- C. The Holy Spirit lives within us to make us holy and empower us to love God and our neighbors—this is essential to a life of fruitful evangelism.
 - 1. Matthew 22:37-40 ³⁷Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
- D. The Holy Spirit will give you wisdom of what to say to defend the Gospel.
 - 1. Luke 12:11-12 ¹¹And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and *unto* magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: ¹²for the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.
 - 2. John 14:26 ²⁶But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

III. Be bold

- A. Boldly proclaim the Gospel and your testimony.
 - 1. Acts 4:29-31 ²⁹And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, ³⁰by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. ³¹And when

they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

- B. God is looking for boldness over intelligence and education.
 - 1. Acts 4:13 ¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.
- C. Bold faith produces power. Bold faith produces wisdom that is superior, not inferior to the 'wisdom' of non-believers.
 - 1. Acts 6:8-10 ⁸ And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. ⁹ Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called *the synagogue* of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen. ¹⁰ And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.
- D. God has your back.
 - 1. Romans 8:31 ³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?
 - 2. Joshua 1:9 ⁹ Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest.
 - 3. Hebrews 13:5 ⁵ *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*
- IV. Representing Jesus as a way of life
 - A. With practice and time, personal evangelism will become a way of life.
 - B. Focus your mind on your love for God and for your fellow man.
 - 1. This will drive away your fear.
 - 2. This will motivate you to obey God and reach out to lost souls.
 - 3. Obedience to God will trump your fear of men.
 - 4. 1 John 4:18 ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.
- V. Summary
 - A. Personal evangelism is simply sharing your story of salvation, it's your testimony.
 - B. God expects you to share the good news of Jesus with others—it is your official commission from Jesus.
 - C. Do not fear, for the Holy Spirit will help you with every aspect of evangelism.
 - D. Do your part and lean on the Holy Spirit to do all the rest.
- VI. Questions
 - A. What do you fear about evangelizing?

 - B. What are your greatest challenges to evangelism?
- VII. Application
 - A. Consider your personal evangelism like a life-or-death situation.
 - 1. The truth is that everyone you know and care about who has not accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior is destined for Hell.
 - 2. You can change the course of their future and prevent their doom.

3. You may be the only person who can.
 4. Show your love by being willing to suffer for their eternal good.
 5. This will help you to be bold.
- B. To increase your ability to evangelize, the best thing you can do is to improve your understanding of the Bible.
1. Start with studying the parables taught by Jesus.
 2. Understand the concepts of what the Bible teaches when you read.
 3. After you read a chapter in the Bible, get into the habit of asking yourself to summarize the key points of what you read.
 4. Retain these key points for later use when evangelizing.



LESSON 4: Sharing Jesus through Street Preaching

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How do I reach strangers for Christ?

While fulfilling your commission from Jesus to share the Gospel, the Holy Spirit will typically direct you to speak to people within your sphere of influence, e.g., your friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, etc. Sometimes, however, you may be directed to speak to strangers about Jesus. One form of this is street preaching.

Street preaching is a type of evangelism (covered in Lesson 9) and is also one of Amwell COB's ministries (covered in Lesson 10). The way street preaching typically works is: 1) a public place is identified, 2) one or more people go to that public place and loudly proclaim (preach) the gospel message to any who will listen. It is distinctly different from one-on-one evangelism, where you might be talking with a single individual, engaging them in a conversation, where they can share their thoughts and ask their questions. This is more of a one-way delivery of the good news that Jesus saves, reaching as many as you can, in a relatively short period of time. This lesson will get you more familiar with street preaching and how it works.

I. Why street preaching?

- A. Everyone needs to be saved, but not everyone goes to a church where they can learn about Jesus.
- B. Street preaching might be the only way they learn about the good news of salvation, and the street preacher has been called to leave the walls of the meeting house (church building) and try to reach the unsaved where they are out in the world.
 - 1. Romans 10:14-15 ¹⁴How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵and how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!
 - 2. Isaiah 6:8 ⁸Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.
- C. Street preaching follows the example of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as well as the example of several prophets and apostles.

II. How to get started

- A. Find a place where people gather and go to where the people are that you wish to interact with. Make sure you are not on private property where you could be asked to stop preaching or to leave that area.
 - 1. Acts 17:16-18 ¹⁶Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. ¹⁷Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him. ¹⁸Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babblers say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.

B. Start speaking about the Gospel, the parables, your favorite stories, or whatever topic you are approached with from the people.

1. Follow Peter's example in Acts chapter 2.

2. Acts 8:35 ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

III. Preparing to street preach

A. The way you communicate can be adapted to your audience, but your message should be the Gospel as clearly as you can share it. And preaching the gospel is the victory because you have been obedient to Christ. Results are nice, seeing people accept Jesus from your street preaching ministry would be wonderful. But if you define success by results, you will quickly become discouraged if you don't experience any results. God sees you as successful when you obey Him by street preaching, full stop. What God does with your obedience is entirely up to Him.

B. Remember the briefs about the Gospel covered in Lesson 2.

1. Try producing a 30-second speech to catch people's attention.

2. This can be especially helpful if you preach where you have a short duration with people, like at a stoplight.

C. Every street meeting should begin and end with prayer.

1. Before street preaching, consider praying for the following:

a. Power and filling of the holy Spirit

b. Good interactions with people

c. Fear of God to fall on the people

d. Hearts to be opened...and transformed

e. Protection from harm

f. Salvation of souls

2. After street preaching, consider thanking God for the following things He provided:

a. The opportunity to witness

b. Strength and courage

c. Protection

d. Wisdom to say what people needed to hear

e. Souls that were saved (or souls that will be saved after someone else waters the seeds that you have planted).

D. Put on the armor of God

1. Although Christians are to prepare daily for spiritual warfare, it seems especially fitting to put on the armor of God when preparing to preach publicly.

2. Ephesians 6:10-19 ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of

the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; ¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

IV. How to handle:

A. Questions

1. Hopefully, you will encounter people with questions as this is a good sign that they are engaged with you as the Ethiopian eunuch was with Philip in Acts 8:26-39.
 - a. ²⁶ And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. ²⁷ And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, ²⁸ was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. ³⁰ And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? ³¹ And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. ³² The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: ³³ in his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. ³⁴ And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. ³⁶ And as they went on *their way*, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷ And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.
2. Do your best to answer their questions clearly and succinctly.
3. Refer to Scripture that may come to mind.
4. Have a Bible with you so that you can be prepared for a request like, "Show me where the Bible says that."
5. Answer the best you can.
 - a. If you do not know, it is OK to say you do not know. After all, the Holy Spirit is the only perfect authority on the Bible.
 - b. If the person is agreeable, take their contact information so that you can follow up with them on the answer after you have had some time to research and/or consult other Christians.
 - c. If the person is not agreeable to giving their contact information, then give them your contact information and ask them to contact you in a week after you have had time to obtain the answer for them.

- B. Conflict
 - 1. Street preaching aside, any time you deal with the public there will be conflict.
 - 2. Know this going in and anticipate it.
 - 3. Always treat people with love and respect.
 - 4. Try to get your points across in a non-threatening way, e.g., do not raise your voice to them.
- C. Rejection
 - 1. Like conflict, rejection is inevitable.
 - 2. It is better to be rejected by men, rather than God.
 - 3. Remember from Lesson 3 that God has your back.
 - 4. If someone rejects your message, ask for their name, and then pray for them diligently in the future.
 - 5. The rejection is a rejection of Jesus, not you.
 - 6. Even an atheist should respect the fact that you care about them enough to get out to speak to them.
- D. Acceptance
 - 1. Pray with the person.
 - 2. Get the person's contact information.
 - 3. Ask if you can disciple them as a new Christian.
- V. Amwell's vision for our Street Preaching ministry.
 - 1. Unsaved people receive Christ as their Lord and get saved.
 - 2. Encourage other Christians in their faith, as they see brothers and sisters in the Lord involved in a street preaching ministry in their community.
 - 3. Inspire other Christians to begin a street preaching ministry in their churches or join the street preaching ministry that has already been established in their church.
- VI. Summary
 - A. Street preaching is a form of evangelism.
 - B. It is a way to fulfill your commission from Jesus to share the Gospel.
 - C. Prepare with prayer.
 - D. Anticipate questions, conflict, rejection, and acceptance.
- VII. Questions
 - A. How do you feel about street preaching?

 - B. What concerns do you have about street preaching?

 - C. How can street preaching be most effective?

 - D. Are you willing to try it?
- VIII. Application
 - A. For a modern coaching on street preaching, check out videos online made by Ray Comfort of Living Waters Publication.
 - B. Contact the ministry chairperson for street preaching at Amwell COB and ask if you can join the next street meeting.



LESSON 5: Sharing Jesus through Faith & Works

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Why do my works matter?

Faith and works are sometimes confused. In fact, some religions teach that the achievement of certain works will grant you a seat in Heaven. However, this is not true. People who follow this belief will be sorely upset when they die and discover there is no such thing as salvation by works.

“There is none righteous, no, not one,” states Romans 3:10. This means that none of us are good enough to go to Heaven. No amount of works or quality of works can get you to Heaven. Jesus taught very clearly that there is only one way to Heaven. Jesus said in John 14:6, “⁶ I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” Salvation only comes through Jesus Christ.

In summary, faith in Jesus gets you into Heaven and works demonstrate your allegiance to Jesus and may get you reward in Heaven.

- I. Works matter, but they do not save
 - A. Ephesians 2:8-10 ⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹ not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
 - B. You may wonder, “Well, if works do not save, then why are they important?”
 - C. James 2:17 ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
 - D. 1 Corinthians 15:58 ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.
- II. Be a friend, which can be hard work
 - A. Love one another.
 1. John 13:34-35 ³⁴ A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. ³⁵ By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.
 - B. Be someone that others can trust.
 - C. Be authentic, i.e., the same when others are watching and when they are not.
 - D. Show love and respect to everyone, especially those who are unlikable.
 - E. Befriend sinners. By your witness encourage them to turn from sin.
- III. Witness by living for Jesus, which can sometime feel like hard work
 - A. Be a pillar of integrity.
 1. Proverbs 10:9 ⁹ He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.
 - B. Do everything with a spirit of excellence.
 1. 1 Corinthians 10:31 ³¹ Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.
 - C. Become a model of forgiveness.

1. Matthew 18:21-22 ²¹Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? ²²Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.
 - D. Share the Gospel when possible.
 - E. Help others by using your time, talents, and treasure.
 - F. Remember that one day our works will be passed through the fire by Jesus.
 1. Works done for Jesus' glory rather than our own glory will be judged by Jesus as righteous.
 2. Rewards and crowns will be given for righteous works (more on this in Lesson 12).
- IV. Consider Life as a Race
- A. Hebrews 12:1-2 ¹Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - B. The rules.
 1. Everyone must race.
 2. There are two racetracks.
 - a. One is narrow – the racers are winners because this racetrack leads to life.
 - b. The other is wide – the racers are losers because this racetrack leads to death.
 - Mathew 7:13-14 ¹³Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.
 - c. In whom you place your faith determines which racetrack you are on.
 - Placing your faith in Jesus puts you on the narrow racetrack that leads to Heaven.
 - Placing your faith in anything (or anyone) other than Jesus puts you on the wide racetrack that leads to Hell.
 - d. You can switch racetracks at any point during the race.
 3. Winning is not like a typical race.
 - a. The first will be last.
 - Matthew 19:30 ³⁰But many *that are* first shall be last; and the last *shall be* first.
 - b. Those who focus only on themselves may think they will finish first, but they will finish last in God's eyes.
 - c. Those who stop to help others would take more time and would finish last in a physical race, but in this spiritual race finish first in God's eyes.
 - d. Mark 8:35 ³⁵For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.
 4. The finish line is your earthly death.
 5. Everyone has the chance to win.
 - C. The race.
 1. The focus of your race should be *how* you race, not the finish line.
 2. This race is life; therefore, how you race is how you live your life.
 3. Every person you meet along the racetrack is an opportunity to enhance your race.
 4. You were made to serve Jesus by serving others.

- a. It is OK to stop and help another racer.
 - b. It is OK to stop and get some rest so that you can continue running strong.
- D. The goal.
- 1. Your goal is to finish the race well.
 - a. 2 Timothy 4:7-8 ⁷I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: ⁸henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.
 - 2. Everyone who raced on the narrow racetrack wins and their names are recorded in the Book of Life (this happens at salvation).
 - 3. The stops you made during the race will be judged when the race is over to determine if you made them with the right motives (Christians don't get judged by God for their sins, but for their works).
- E. The moral of the story.
- 1. To have a fulfilled life, you must race on the narrow track of Christianity and use your gifts along the way to help others. When it is your time to die (i.e., cross the finish line), your "win" will be everlasting life with Jesus and your "trophy" may be a crown based on your works that Jesus judged as righteous.
 - 2. Revelation 20:11-15 ¹¹And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

V. Summary

- A. Faith in Jesus gets us to Heaven.
- B. Works are an expression of our love, appreciation, and obedience to Jesus.
 - 1. Works are either done for our glory or for the glory of Jesus.
 - 2. Works done for the glory of Jesus will one day be judged by Him as righteous.
 - 3. Jesus will reward righteous works.
- C. Life is like a race and our goal is to finish well.

VI. Questions

- A. How does faith differ from works?

- B. In the race of life, are you on the narrow or wide racetrack? How do you know?

- C. Do you find joy in serving Jesus? Why or why not?

VII. Application

- A. Begin to consider your life's work as a ministry keeping the following in mind:
 - 1. You are working for the Lord.

2. He has planted you where you are for this time and place.
3. God has designed a specific service for your personality, passion, and spiritual gifts.
4. He will give you opportunities to serve.
5. Your job is to be ready and willing to obey when He calls you to serve.
6. Be generous to others as God has been generous to you.
7. Using your gifts is the best way to find joy and fulfillment in your life.



LESSON 6: Community and Sharing Jesus

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How do I fit into society?

Everyone lives somewhere. Often, especially in our early years, we have little influence on where we are located. Nevertheless, God can use you wherever you are. In fact, God's plan for you involves where you are physically located (more on God's will vs God's plan will be covered in Lesson 7). As you begin to realize that God not only created you, but He also "planted" you where you are, you will begin to find more fulfillment in your life.

Psalm 1:1-3 ¹Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

I. Community

- A. A community is a social group whose members have something in common, such as a shared government, geographic location, culture, or heritage.
- B. Community can also refer to the physical location where such a group lives.
- C. Communities are critical because they are an important source of social connection and a sense of belonging.
- D. Participating in a community bonded by attitudes, values, and goals is an essential ingredient to enjoying a fulfilled life.
 - 1. John 13:1 ¹ Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

II. Humans are social creatures

- A. God's design is that human beings serve Him by serving one another.
- B. In Genesis 1:26-28, God created a male and female and gave them certain instructions.
 - 1. ²⁶And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ²⁷So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.
- C. We are called to be in the world, but not of the world.
 - 1. Romans 12:2 ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
 - 2. John 17: 14-18 ¹⁴I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. ¹⁶They are

not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. ¹⁸ As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

III. You were made for relationships

A. Relationship to God.

1. God created you because He wanted to have a relationship with you.
 - a. 1 John 1:3 ³ that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ
2. He created multitudes of angels to serve Him, so He did not make human beings to have more servants.
3. He set humanity apart to have an intimate and eternal relationship with every human being.
4. When humanity destroyed the relationship with God through sin, God loved us so much that He sacrificed His only son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for our sin and thus reunite us with Him.

B. Relationship to Others.

1. Relationships with other believers are the only thing you can take with you when you die, as you will spend eternity together in Heaven.
2. Relationships are the typical avenue through which we can share Jesus.

IV. Family

A. The basic building block of society is the family.

B. You were born into your family without the option to choose your relatives.

C. Your values are formulated in large part by how you were raised in your formative years.

D. The best manual on parenting is the Bible.

1. Proverbs 22:6 ⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

V. Your impact to society

A. People are watching.

1. People are watching you all the time, especially if they know you are a Christian.
2. It is imperative that you remember that as a Christian, you are an ambassador for Jesus Christ.
3. Your words, attitude and behavior should reflect His love, mercy, and excellence.

B. You are the face, hands, and feet of Jesus.

1. According to Jesus, your service (or disservice) to others is your service (or disservice) to Him.
2. Matthew 25:40-45 ⁴⁰ And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me. ⁴¹ Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² for I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: ⁴³ I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. ⁴⁴ Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto

thee? ⁴⁵ Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me.

3. Find ways to bless others.

VI. Summary

- A. God's plan for you involves where you are physically located; He physically "planted" where you are.
- B. God wants you to be "like a tree planted by the rivers of water" that is fruitful, i.e., using your spiritual gifts, within your community.
- C. God designed communities so that human beings serve Him by serving one another.
- D. God created you to have an intimate and eternal relationship with you.
- E. Jesus no longer walks the Earth. Now, you are His earthly representative to serve others for Him.

VII. Questions

- A. Which relationships are most critical to you?
- B. Who is the person(s) with whom you can discuss anything?
- C. How do you feel about your place, or fit, in society?
- D. How do you think you are viewed in your community?
- E. How can you bless others in your community?
- F. Re-read Psalm 1:1-3 at the beginning of this lesson. What "fruit" can you identify in your life that you provide to your community.

VIII. Application

- A. Begin to view your environment from the perspective of being "planted" by God in your community, workplace, etc. to fulfill your destiny and God's plan for your life.
- B. Look for ways to bless people in your sphere of influence.



LESSON 7: Sharing Jesus through Serving

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How can I serve Jesus?

Have you ever wondered, “Why was I created?” or “What is my purpose?” This lesson is intended to help you understand the answers to these questions. If you have already figured this out, then this lesson is a helpful review for you to discover more knowledge about the spiritual gifts that you possess.

- I. Your purpose is to glorify God with your service
 - A. Your purpose is defined by God’s will and God’s plan for your life.
 1. God’s **will** for your life is general, i.e., it is the same for you and every other human being.
 - a. God wants you to turn to Him and away from sin.
 - b. God wants you to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
 - c. God wants to have a personal, and eternal, relationship with you through the gift of salvation provided through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - d. God wants you to glorify Him with your life.
 2. God’s **plan** for your life is specific, i.e., it is unique to you.
 - a. God has created you to have a specific character, identity, and personality.
 - b. The Holy Spirit has blessed every believer with one or more spiritual gifts.
 - c. God wants you to discover your spiritual gift(s) and then utilize it to serve others, thus bringing glory to Him through your life.
 - d. God’s plan for you, your destiny, is revealed day by day through a personal relationship with Jesus.
 - B. You serve Jesus through service to others.
 1. Every day is an opportunity to serve others.
 2. Your family is your ‘first ministry’ and always will be. Whether you are a child in a family or are an adult with a spouse and children of your own. Have you been viewing your family as a mission-field and as the primary people group God has called you to serve?
 3. Be on the lookout for these opportunities and be ready to act when they come.
 4. To serve to the best of your ability, it helps to know what you have to offer others by way of your spiritual gift(s).
 5. Submitting to the authority of God and His scripture is the best way to identify your spiritual gift(s).
 6. Once identified, you can focus your service to ways in which you can best serve others and thus best glorify your Heavenly Father, as Jesus Christ exemplified.
 - C. Service brings fulfillment to your life.
 1. Jesus declares in John 10:10 that He came to provide you with life (that is eternal life through the free gift of salvation) and that you “might have it more abundantly.”
 - a. ¹⁰The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.
 2. The “abundant” life that Jesus promises to believers is predominantly found through “giving” yourself to others using your gifts in service to others.

3. Acts 20:35 reminds us that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."
- II. What is a spiritual gift?
- A. Definition: Spiritual gifts are divine enablements for ministry, given by the Holy Spirit, in some measure, to all believers and are to be completely under His control and to be used for the building of the body of Christ, all to glorify God through Jesus Christ.
 - B. Spiritual gifts are:
 1. For the benefit of others, not yourself.
 2. Provided and controlled by the Holy Spirit.
 3. Given to every Christian upon acceptance of Christ as your Savior, i.e., when you were given the Spirit, when you were "born again".
 - C. A spiritual gift is a big part of how you fulfill your destiny and purpose.
 1. Your purpose is to glorify the Father.
 2. Using your gifts is the way you glorify Him.
 3. Therefore, it is imperative that you understand what your gift(s) is and how to use it.
- III. Biblical references to spiritual gifts
- A. 1 Corinthians 7:7, 12:1-31 & 14:1-25
 1. God wants us to know about spiritual gifts.
 - a. "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." I Corinthians 12:1
 2. There are a variety of gifts.
 - a. "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit." I Corinthians 12:4
 3. Every believer possesses at least one gift. It is also possible to possess multiple gifts.
 - a. "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." I Corinthians 12:7
 4. Your use of your gift is essential to the Church.
 - a. "¹⁴For the body is not one member, but many. ¹⁵If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? ¹⁸But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." I Corinthians 12:14-18
 - B. Ephesians 4:7-13
 - C. Romans 12:1-8
 - D. 1 Peter 4:10-11
- IV. Categories of spiritual gifts (Courtesy of www.learnreligions.com/what-are-spiritual-gifts-700787)
- A. Ministry Gifts – The ministry gifts serve to reveal the plan of God. They are characteristic of a full-time office or calling, rather than a gift that can function in and through any believer. The ministry gifts can be explained with a five-finger illustration:

1. Apostle¹ – An apostle establishes and builds churches; he is a church planter. An apostle may function in many or all the ministry gifts. He is the "thumb," the strongest of all the fingers, able to touch every finger.
2. Prophet – Prophet in the Greek means to "forth tell" in the sense of speaking for another. A prophet functions as God's mouthpiece, speaking forth God's Word. The prophet is the "index finger," or pointer finger. He points to the future and points out sin.
3. Evangelist – An evangelist is called to be a witness for Jesus Christ. He works for the local church to bring people into the body of Christ where they can be disciplined. He may evangelize through music, drama, preaching, and other creative ways. He is the "middle finger," the tallest one who stands out in the crowd. Evangelists draw a lot of attention, but they are called to serve the local body.
4. Pastor – The pastor is the shepherd of the people. A true shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The pastor is the "ring finger." He is married to the church; called to stay, oversee, nurture and guide.
5. Teacher – The teacher and the pastor are often a shared office, but not always. The teacher lays the foundation and is concerned with detail and accuracy. He delights in research to validate truth. The teacher is the "pinky finger." Though seemingly small and insignificant, he is designed specifically for digging into tight, dark places, shining light, and picking apart the Word of truth.

¹1 Corinthians 1:22, ²²For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

The Apostles of the New Testament were given, by the Holy Spirit, some of the same spiritual gifts demonstrated by Christ. These gifts were the evidence needed by 1st Century Jews, Religious Leaders, and the Nation of Israel as 'Signs' that the persons endowed with these wondrous works were chosen by God to represent Him:

- Matthew 10:1 & 8 – They (Apostles) performed miracles.

¹ And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

⁸ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

- Ephesians 3:5 – The Holy Spirit worked through them to write the New Testament.

⁵ which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

- Ephesians 2:20 – Under the Apostle's leadership, the Church was established.

²⁰and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;

Apostles were those chosen by the Lord who were eyewitnesses to His resurrection.

- Acts 1:22

²² beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

- Acts 10:40-42

⁴⁰him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; ⁴¹not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, *even* to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God *to be* the Judge of quick and dead.

Paul was an exception to the eyewitness qualification because he met the resurrected Christ on the road to Damascus.

The office of Apostle was for the first century Jewish church.

- B. Manifestation Gifts – The manifestation gifts serve to reveal the power of God. These gifts are supernatural or spiritual in nature. They can be further subdivided into three groups: utterance, power, and revelation.

Utterance – These gifts **say** something:

1. Prophecy – This is the "forth telling" of the inspired Word of God primarily to the church, for the purpose of confirming the written Word and building up the entire body. The message is usually one of edification, exhortation, or consolation, although it can declare God's will in a particular circumstance, and in rare cases, predict future events.
2. Speaking in Tongues² – This is a supernatural utterance in an unlearned language which is interpreted so that the entire body will be edified. Tongues may also be a sign to unbelievers.
3. Interpretation of Tongues – This is a supernatural interpretation of a message in tongues, translated into the known language so that the hearers (the entire body) will be edified.

Power – These gifts **do** something:

1. Faith – This is not the faith that is measured to every believer, nor is it "saving faith." This is special, supernatural faith given by the Spirit to receive miracles or to believe God for miracles.
2. Healing – This is supernatural healing, beyond natural means, given by the Spirit.
3. Miracles – This is the supernatural suspension of the natural laws, or an intervention by the Holy Spirit into the laws of nature.

Revelation – These gifts **reveal** something:

1. Word of Wisdom – This is supernatural knowledge applied in a godly or correct way. One commentary describes it as "insight into doctrinal truth."
2. Word of Knowledge – This is supernatural knowledge of facts and information that can only be revealed by God for the purpose of applying doctrinal truth.
3. Discerning of Spirits – This is the supernatural ability to distinguish between spirits such as good and evil, truthful or deceiving, prophetic versus satanic.

² 'Tongues' were a gift from the Holy Spirit to:

1. Communicate the Gospel to people of all different nationalities.

Acts 2:6, ⁶ Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

2. Act as a 'sign' to the 1st century Church in order to unify and build up the new Jewish believers who comprised the Church.

- a. An 'interpreter' was required to validate what was being spoken.

1 Corinthians 14:27-28, ²⁷ If any man speak in an *unknown* tongue, *let it be* by two, or at the most *by* three, and *that* by course; and let one interpret. ²⁸ But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

- b. Paul notes in 1 Corinthians 13:8 that over time, 'sign gifts' would no longer be a necessary part of Christian worship.

1 Corinthians 13:8, ⁸ Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

- C. Motivational Gifts – The motivational gifts serve to reveal the personality of God. These gifts are practical in nature. They describe the inner motivations of the Christian servant and can be illustrated as parts of the human body:
1. Prophecy – Those with the motivational gift of prophecy are the "seers" or "eyes" of the body. They have insight, foresight, and act like watch dogs in the church. They warn of sin or reveal sin. They are usually very verbal and may come across as judgmental and impersonal; they are loyal to truth over friendship, serious, dedicated.
 2. Ministering/Serving/Helps – Those with the motivational gift of serving are the "hands" of the body. They are concerned with meeting needs; they are highly motivated, doers. They may tend to over commit but find joy in serving and meeting short-term goals.
 3. Teaching – Those with the motivational gift of teaching are the "mind" of the body. They realize their gift is foundational; they emphasize accuracy of words and love to study; they delight in research to validate truth.
 4. Giving – Those with the motivational gift of giving are the "arms" of the body. They genuinely enjoy reaching out in giving. They are excited by the prospect of blessing others; they desire to give quietly, in secret, but will also motivate others to give. They are alert to people's needs; they give cheerfully and always give the best that they can.
 5. Exhortation/Encouragement – Those with the motivational gift of encouragement are the "mouth" of the body. Like cheerleaders, they encourage other believers and are motivated by a desire to see people grow and mature in the Lord. They are practical and positive, and they seek positive responses.
 6. Administration/Leadership – Those with the motivational gift of leadership are the "head" of the body. They can see the overall picture and set long-term goals; they are good organizers and find efficient ways of getting work done. Although they may not seek leadership, they will assume it when no leader is available. They receive fulfillment when others come together to complete a task.
 7. Mercy – Those with the motivational gift of mercy are the "heart" of the body. They easily sense the joy or distress in other people and are sensitive to feelings and needs. They are attracted to and patient with people in need, motivated by a desire to see people healed of hurts. They are truly meek in nature and avoid firmness.

V. List of Spiritual Gifts from the Bible with scriptures and applications

Scriptures	Applications
<p>Administration. The extraordinary ability to sort out resources and persons for effective church ministries and to organize and implement them into ministry projects until completion with eventful results. <i>Luke 14:28-30, Acts 6:1-7, Romans 12:8, 1 Corinthians 12:28</i></p> <p>Apostle. The extraordinary ability to adhere to the personality of Jesus Christ and his missionary tradition. <i>Acts 15:1-2, Galatians 2:1-10, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 3:1-13; 4:11; 2 Corinthians 12:12.</i></p> <p>Battle. The extraordinary ability to use</p>	<p>Administration. Board member; Committee Chair; Homemaker; Office manager; Take part in the organization of a project: community or church: family day; Sunday School picnic; conference; advertising campaign; neighborhood canvassing blitz.</p> <p>Apostle. Moderator; conference minister; leader; president; executive secretary; peacemaker; trouble-shooter; problem solver</p>

spiritual, physical, and/or psychological energies with righteous force enough to confront and overcome evil that hinders the church's mission to do God's will.

*Deuteronomy 31:6, Joshua 1:6-18, 2 Samuel 10:12, Daniel 10:19,
Acts 23:11, 1 Corinthians 16:13, Ephesians 6:10-17,
1 Thessalonians 2:2, 1 Timothy 6:12*

Craftsmanship. The extraordinary ability to use physical materials and artistic skills to create, mold, carve, sculpt, draw, design, paint, repair, or photograph items necessary for spiritual nurture, faith development, and caring ministries.

Exodus 35:20-35; 36:1-3

Discerning Spirits. The extraordinary ability to differentiate between good and evil, right and wrong, and what is God, human nature, or evil, and to use this knowledge for the protection and health of the body of Christ.

*Matthew 7:6, Acts 5:1-11; 8:22-23, 1 Corinthians 12:10,
2 Peter 2:1-3, 1 John 4:1-6*

Evangelism. The extraordinary ability to give such a persuasive witness to the love of God as expressed in Jesus Christ that it moves others to accept that love and to become disciples of Christ.

*Acts 8:5-6; 21:8, 1 Corinthians 3:5-6,
Ephesians 4:11,
1 Timothy 2:7, 2 Timothy 4:5*

Exorcism. The extraordinary ability to use faith, prayers, spirit-music, or other spiritual gifts to liberate persons from debilitating and hindering forces and evil circumstances to free them to use their gifts effectively to serve the body of Christ.

*1 Samuel 16:14-23, Matthew 8:16-17; 12:43-45, Mark 1:23-25; 16:17,
Luke 9:1, 49-50; 10:17; 11:24-26, Acts 5:16;
8:6-8; 16:16; 19:11-12,
1 Corinthians 2:6-8; 10:20-21, Ephesians 6:10-18,
Colossians 1:13-15; 2:20*

Exhortation. The extraordinary ability to counsel, inspire, motivate, encourage, and strengthen others in and through their efforts to live out God's will.

*Acts 4:36; 11:19-26; 14:22, Romans 12:8, 1 Thessalonians 2:11,
1 Timothy 4:13, Hebrews 10:25*

Battle. Minister; influential religious/spiritual figure; leader of counter-cultural group

Craftsmanship. Artist or artisan; creative homemaker; cook; handyman; calligrapher or illustrator; interior design; landscape designer or gardener; icon painter, woodworker

Discerning of Spirits. Spiritual direction; counseling; healing ministry; intercessory prayer

Evangelism. Apologetics; lector; religious writing; evangelism; missionary; political, social, or cultural change agent; ministry to a rescue mission, jail, nursing homes; after school clubs; vacation Bible school; visitation programs

Exorcism. Priest; intercessory prayer minister; healing minister

Exhortation. Counseling (bereaved, depressed, sick, oppressed); spiritual direction; mentoring; parenting; small group facilitator; Deacon-care programs; nursing home, hospital visitation ministries

Faith. The extraordinary ability to extend one's basic or saving faith to serve corporate and individual needs specifically related to the life and ministry of the church.

Matthew 17:19-21, Mark 9:23, Acts 11:22-24, Romans 4:18-21, 1 Corinthians 12:9, Hebrews 11

Giving. The extraordinary ability to manage one's resources of income, time, energy, and skills to exceed what is a reasonable standard for giving to the church.

1 Kings 17:8-16, Mark 12:41-44, Luke 8:1-3; 21:1-4, Acts 4:32-37, Romans 12:8, 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Healings. The extraordinary ability to cure or to be cured of ill conditions that hinder effective ministries for Christ.

Luke 5:17; 6:19; 9:2,11,42, Acts 3:1-10; 5:12-16, 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28, 1 Peter 2:24

Helps. The extraordinary ability and eagerness to aid and assist others in need to such an extent that the helper receives as much as the persons helped.

Psalms 21:1, Mark 15:41, Luke 8:2-3, Acts 9:36, Romans 16:1-2, 1 Corinthians 12:28

Hospitality. The extraordinary ability to extend caring and sharing to persons (strangers) beyond one's intimate circle to demonstrate and establish the unlimited and inclusive companionship of Christ.

Matthew 25:35, Acts 16:14-16, Romans 12:13, 1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:8, 1 Peter 4:9-10

Humor. The extraordinary ability to bring laughter and joy to situations and relationships to relieve tension, anxiety, or conflicts and to heal and free emotions and energies needed for effective ministries.

John 13:6-15, 1 Corinthians 12:12-24, Galatians 5:12

Intercessory Prayer. The extraordinary ability to know when, and for whom or what to pray with effective results.

Faith. In conjunction with a planning or building committee; Prayer ministry structured to test this gift: regular & consistent prayer time, specific agenda: projects & needs, accurate journal with specific requests & dates & answers; Exceptionally generous giver, fundraiser, entrepreneur, founder, innovator, visionary, intercessory prayer, healing, prayer team, parenting, leader of cutting-edge organization or group

Giving. Exposure to the needy members of the family of God: Deacon-care programs: senior citizen ministry, widows, shut-ins; Period where you trust God to supply a certain amount above and beyond your regular giving to meet a particular need; Fund-raising; Board member of charitable organizations; exceptionally generous giver; philanthropist; financial expert; creative worker for social and economic justice, hospitality

Healings. Healing prayer ministry; medical professional; counseling; intercessory prayer; helping professional; caregiver; spiritual director; pastoral staff

Helps. Jobs to be done to free people with other gifts: photocopies; running off the bulletin; filing; cataloging, telephoning, preparing a mailing, setting up chairs; preparing crafts for children's activities; driving the van for seniors; Administrative assistant secretary; support staff; volunteer; ghost writer/editor; mentor; pastoral staff; teaching; parenting; spiritual direction

Hospitality. Hospitality industry; hospitality committee/usher; hospitality in your home; receptionist; organizing conference/retreat; work with homeless/poor

Humor. Board or committee member; Leader; Teacher/preacher; parent; trouble-shooter; visiting the sick, shut-ins

Intercessory Prayer. Group intercession; healing prayer team; prayer walking; spiritual direction; parent; personal intercessor for leader; prayer chain or prayer group;

Luke 22:41-44, Acts 12:5, 12; 16:25-26, Romans 8:26-27, Colossians 1:9-12; 4:12-13, 1 Timothy 2:1; 4:5, James 5:14-18

Interpretation. The extraordinary ability to hear, comprehend, and translate spiritual messages given to others in wordless phrases or utterances unfamiliar as a known language or to decipher and translate spiritual messages from another who speaks in a known language but not recognized by the interpreter.

Luke 24:27, Acts 2:14-21, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 30; 14:5, 13, 27

Knowledge. The extraordinary ability to ascertain and to understand the universal and timeless truths of God and to link them with the church in its mission through Christ for justice and righteousness in the world.

Acts 5:1-11, Romans 11:33, 1 Corinthians 12:8, 2 Corinthians 11:6, Ephesians 3:19, Colossians 2:3

Leadership. The extraordinary ability to envision God's will and purpose for the church and to demonstrate compelling skills in capturing the imaginations, energies, skills, and spiritual gifts of others to pursue and accomplish God's will.

Luke 10:16, Acts 7:10, Romans 12:8, 1 Timothy 3:4; 5:17, Titus 3:8, 14, Hebrews 13:17

Martyrdom. The extraordinary ability to stand firm on divinely inspired convictions and divinely directed ministries without equivocation or ulterior motives.

Acts 6:10, 15; 7:54-60, 1 Corinthians 13:3, 1 Thessalonians 2:2, 1 Timothy 6:12

Mercy. The extraordinary ability to identify with and feel the physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional pain or distress of others and to feel the absolute necessity to do something to relieve them.

Matthew 20:29-34, Mark 9:41, Luke 10:33-35, Acts 11:28-30; 16:33-34, Romans 12:8

Miracles. The extraordinary ability to do powerful works that transcend our perception of natural laws and means to free the church or individuals from conditions that restrict needed ministries.

Genesis 18:14, Mark 9:38-40; 16:17-18, Luke 1:37,

counseling; community activity

Interpretation. Prayer groups; intercessory prayer; healing ministry/counseling/spiritual direction

Knowledge. Teaching; preaching; scholarship; philosophy; technology and science; educational conferences, retreats; apologetics; writing; home schooling; leadership (especially education or high-tech organization)

Leadership. Pastor of a large parish; leader of community activities; head of organization/group; chairperson of any board/committee; founder of a new movement/organization/group; innovator; small group leader; teaching/preaching; family life; plan youth outings, social events, or program; visitation

Martyrdom. Any activity where a person disregards personal reputation and physical well-being to do God's will and accept persecution and even death

Mercy. Death in a family; illness; calamity; hospital visitation; nursing homes visitation; visitation of shut-ins; medical professional; prison ministry; pastoral work; volunteer; social work; work with the poor or homeless; missionary

Miracles. Healing ministry; intercessory prayer

Acts 4:30; 5:1-10; 5:12; 13:11, 1 Corinthians 2:4; 12:10, 28

Missionary. The extraordinary ability to go beyond race, culture, subculture, creeds, nationality, or lifestyle to serve the basic human and spiritual needs of certain neglected peoples.

Matthew 25:37-40; 28:19-20, Acts 8:4-8; 13:2-12, Romans 10:14-17, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Pastor. The extraordinary ability to carry varieties of spiritual, physical, and social concerns for groups and individuals and to persist over long periods of time and circumstances with effective caring.

Matthew 18:12-14, John 10:1-30, Acts 20:28, Ephesians 4:11-14, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Peter 5:2-4

Prayer-Praise Language. The extraordinary ability to pray to or praise God with beneficial wordless phrases or utterances (aka speaking in tongues) not familiar as a known language, and with such a joy-filled intimacy with Christ that faith is strengthened and ministries become effective.

Acts 2:1-13; 10:44-46; 19:1-7, Romans 8:26-27, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; 13:1; 14:4-5, 22, Ephesians 6:18

Prophecy. The extraordinary ability to link biblical truths and God's will for today's living and to be an instrument for revealing or interpreting historic or current messages from God for righteous and just living in today's world.

Acts 2:14-36; 11:28; 15:32; 21:9-11, Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10; 14:3, 6, 24, Ephesians 3:1-6; 4:11-14

Service. The extraordinary ability to elevate any deed or service that aids the church or another person to a form of worship without concern or desire for rank, popularity, position, or recognition.

Matthew 4:11, Mark 1:31, Luke 10:40, John 12:2, Acts 6:1, Romans 12:7, Galatians 6:2, 10, Titus 3:4

Singleness. The extraordinary ability to offer God and the church a life free from marriage, family responsibilities, and sexual frustrations to spend time and energies necessary for certain Christian ministries.

Missionary. Missionary/lay volunteer; work with foreign students/refugees/immigrants; work with racial/cultural/linguistic minority groups; inner city work; racial justice; reconciliation/peace-making; pastoral work; teaching; preaching; evangelism

Pastor. Priesthood; leader of small faith-centered organization or group; pastoral staff; prayer group leader; facilitator of small Christian community; parenting; teacher cell leaders and small group leaders who will "pastor" small groups of people in large parish; widows; shut-ins; elderly; Sunday school class; Bible study; neighborhood cell group; nursing home visitation team; disciple; new converts; one on one group; marriage preparation

Prayer-Praise Language. Prayer groups; charismatic masses; intercession, healing teams

Prophecy. Prayer group; intercessory, healing prayer teams; counseling; spiritual direction; teaching/preaching; writing; influential religious/spiritual figure; leader of counter-cultural group/organization. Most consistent concentrated opportunity: short series of prayer meeting; short-term youth workers; Sunday School class; local rescue mission

Service. Exceptional volunteer; handyman/woman; administrative assistant; trouble-shooter; critical committee member; homemaker; community activist; support staff; service worker; ombudsman/woman; eager implementer; short-term projects

Singleness. Priesthood; lay missionary; work with the poor; ministry to single adults; frees person for total dedication to any work or calling

*Isaiah 56:3-5, Matthew 19:10-12; 22:27-30,
1 Corinthians 7:7, 27-28, 32-35*

Spirit-Music. The extraordinary ability to create or perform lyrics and musical tunes as messages from God to inspire others to Christian service, to win others to Christ, or to tell the story of God's love and grace.

*2 Chronicles 5:11-14, Psalm 57:7-9,
1 Corinthians 14:15, Ephesians 5:19*

Suffering. The extraordinary ability to endure hardship, pain, and distress with an amount of joy and fortitude to inspire others to endure their suffering and to lead others to accept God's offer of salvation made possible in Christ's suffering.

*Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, John 18:11,
Romans 8:17,
2 Corinthians 11:23-27; 12:1-10, Philippians
1:29, 1 Peter 4:12-14*

Teaching. The extraordinary ability to discern, analyze, and deliver biblical and other spiritual truths to help others to comprehend and accept the clear calling of God to live justly and righteously.

*Acts 13:1; 18:24-28; 20:20-21, 1 Corinthians
12:28, Ephesians 4:11,
1 Timothy 2:7, 2 Timothy 1:11, James 3:1-12*

Voluntary Poverty. The extraordinary ability to live a simple, conservative, and unencumbered life free of material responsibilities to devote large amounts of time, energy, and skills to essential ministries.

*Mark 1:18, 20; 10:21, Acts 2:45; 4:34-35,
1 Corinthians 13:3, 2 Corinthians 8:9*

Wisdom. The extraordinary ability to make concrete, practical, and specific applications of divine knowledge received directly from God.

*Acts 6:3, 10; 7:10,
1 Corinthians 1:18-27; 3:18-19; 12:12-26,
Colossians 1:28; 3:16, James 3:13-18, 2 Peter
3:15*

Spirit-Music. Choral/instrumental performance; professional musicians; music therapy/music education; media work; worship/music ministry

Suffering. Sick; shut-ins;

Teaching. Public school/adult education teacher; tutoring/volunteer teaching; creating curriculum; educational leadership; home-schooling/ parenting; writing; apologetics; counseling/spiritual direction; Sunday School classes; children's church program; youth programs; nursery programs; after-school clubs; prayer meeting; disciple new converts

Voluntary Poverty. relief and development worker; exceptional giver; contemplative; prophetic vocation; intercessory prayer

Wisdom. Leadership; pastor/pastoral staff; administration; teaching/preaching; writing; spiritual direction; counseling; helping profession; developing technology; practical innovator; fund-raising; parenting

VI. Summary

- A. God's will and God's plan for your life defines your purpose.
 1. God's will is the same for all people: to turn from sin, accept Jesus, have a personal relationship with Him, and glorify Him through service to others.
 2. God's plan is specific to you: to identify, develop and use your spiritual gifts to serve Him.
- B. Your spiritual gift(s) is a big part of how you fulfill your destiny and purpose, thus it is imperative that you determine what it is.

- C. When a person receives the Holy Spirit through acceptance of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, they are indwelt with at least one spiritual gift.

VII. Questions

- A. What are spiritual gifts?

- B. Why do you have spiritual gifts?

- C. Who provides your spiritual gifts?

- D. Who gets spiritual gifts?

- E. When are spiritual gifts provided?

- F. How many gifts can a person have?

- G. Do you know what is your spiritual gift(s)?

- H. Are you using your spiritual gift(s)?

VIII. Application

- A. Identify your spiritual gift(s) – reference the next lesson for further information.
- B. Focus on your gift(s) and learn all that you can about it.
- C. Consider how your gift(s) makes you a valuable and productive human being.
- D. Consider how, as a child of the Most High God, how He would have you serve with your spiritual gift(s) as part of His vision and mission for the Church.

IX. Homework

- A. Complete the 112-question spiritual gifts survey in Lesson 8 along with scoring and graphing the results following the instructions.



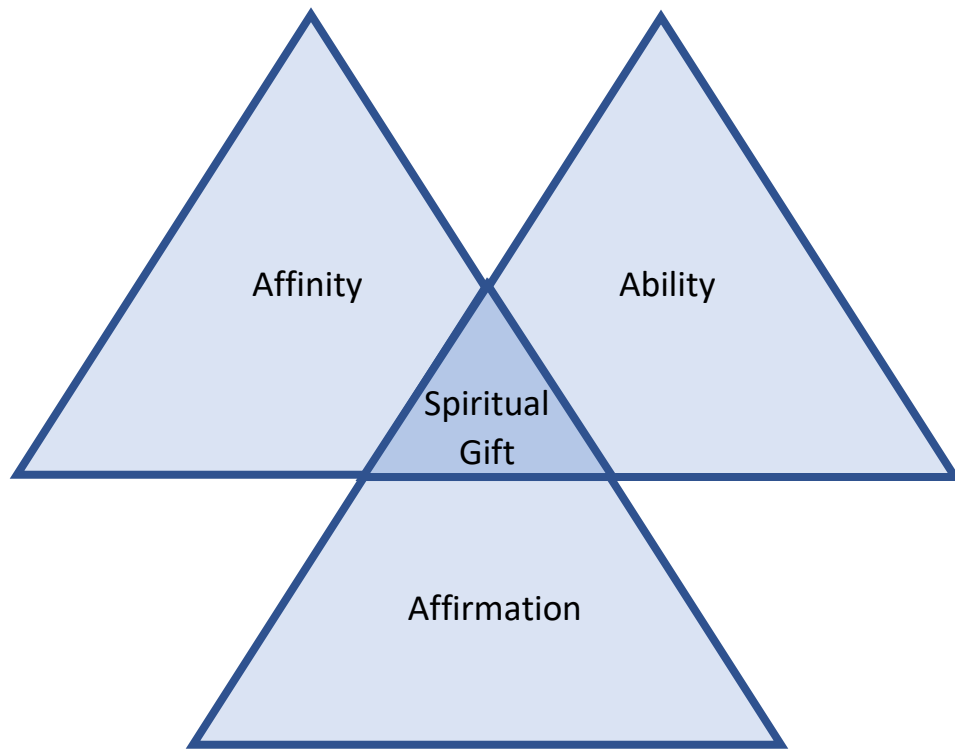
LESSON 8: Spiritual Gifts Assessment

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What is my gift?

Now that you understand spiritual gifts, you will learn in this lesson how to determine your gifts for service to fulfill your purpose of glorifying your Heavenly Father.

- I. Pray
 - A. Your first step toward identifying your spiritual gift should be prayer.
 - B. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your spiritual gift(s) to you.
 - C. Remember, the Holy Spirit gave you your gift(s) and He will reveal it to you—just ask.
- II. Meditate and study the scriptures that discuss spiritual gifts:
 - A. I Corinthians 12
 - B. Romans 12
 - C. Ephesians 4
 - D. I Peter 4
- III. Follow this formula: Ability + Affinity + Affirmation = Spiritual Gift
 - A. Ability – What you are naturally good at.
 1. Often, spiritual gifts complement the natural abilities you already have. God often takes a natural talent and supercharges it for His purposes.
 2. What things make you feel energized, satisfied, or joyful?
 3. In what areas have you experienced success?
 - B. Affinity – What you feel passionate about.
 1. In what things do you have a personal interest?
 2. Consider issues that concern you, hobbies, etc.
 3. Do any of these things align with any spiritual gifts?
 - C. Affirmation – Ways people have testified that God has used you.
 1. Others will see your gift in action.
 - a. Ask people who know you well to help you identify your spiritual gift.
 - b. Go through the list of spiritual gifts with them.
 2. In what areas have you consistently received positive feedback from others?
 3. In what ways do people typically relate to you? For example:
 - a. Do people seem to frequently be open to you about sensitive matters? If so, you might have the gift of encouragement.
 - b. Do others often ask you for help with accomplishing short-term tasks? Do you find that you naturally gravitate toward helping others? If so, perhaps you have the gift of helps.
 - D. When these three categories (Ability, Affinity & Affirmation) converge, it is typically an indication of a spiritual gift.



- IV. Re-read the List of Spiritual Gifts from the Bible with scriptures and applications (see previous lesson) and select the spiritual gift(s) that seems to describe you best.
 - A. Select a “primary” spiritual gift
 - B. If possible, select up to four more “secondary” spiritual gifts
- V. Take a spiritual gift assessment.
 - A. Several spiritual gift assessments can be found online...for FREE.
 - B. The following spiritual gift survey is courtesy of Gil Stieglitz from Principles To Live By www.ptlb.com/discover-your-spiritual-gifts.
 1. Complete this Spiritual Gifts Survey.
 - a. Answer each question naturally and spontaneously.
 - b. Answer each question from 1 to 5, where 1 represents the lack of interest or desire, 3 being sometimes you do and sometimes you do not, and 5 is where you think it is the most exciting or necessary statement made. Please, try to stay away from answering 3 too many times.
 - c. Choose your response as follows:
 - 5--Highly characteristic of me/definitely true for me
 - 4--Most of the time this would describe me/be true for me
 - 3--Frequently characteristic of me/true for me-about 50 percent of the time
 - 2--Occasionally characteristic of me/true for me-about 25 percent of the time
 - 1--Not at all characteristic of me/definitely untrue for me
 - d. Take your time and enjoy a test that you cannot fail!

_____ 1. I seem to have the ability to determine when someone is telling the truth or when they are lying.

_____ 2. I enjoy working with Ministry leaders in the menial tasks so they may work on the larger task of the ministry.

_____ 3. I enjoy setting goals and objectives and continually monitor the results of these goals.

_____ 4. I find that I can reassure people when they are discouraged, troubled, or unsure of themselves.

_____ 5. I am usually more concerned with how to apply God's principles for my life than just knowing about them.

_____ 6. I love taking a group of people through the process of learning God's word and helping them apply it to their lives.

_____ 7. I enjoy talking to others about how and why I became a Christian.

_____ 8. I like to share about God's righteousness with those around me - even if they are not Christians.

_____ 9. I have a special burden for the elderly, shut-ins or those who are disabled.

_____ 10. I can see when someone needs help getting a job done and join in so that I can show them how to be more effective.

_____ 11. When I see someone in need, I often feel a strong burden to help that person in need.

_____ 12. Even though I could have just met a person, I can usually know their motivation and why they are doing something.

_____ 13. Despite my circumstances, I know that God will always work things out.

_____ 14. I am willing to often come along someone and help them through difficult times providing directions and guidance.

_____ 15. I find that I remain strong in a group of non-Christians and use that strength to share Christ with that group.

_____ 16. I know, for a fact, that God will work through me even though I do not have clear direction from the Lord.

_____ 17. I can at times see or sense the presence of evil spirits.

_____ 18. People always seem to depend on me to decide how the groups goals are achieved.

_____ 19. I find that I can naturally encourage those around me with my words and little gestures of reassurance.

_____ 20. I know that God's resources can overcome every obstacle which the body of Christ faces and give my resources to help overcome them.

_____ 21. I have a burden to explain the Scriptures to people and they can easily understand what I tell them.

- _____ 22. I can naturally make people feel comfortable and welcomed in my home.
- _____ 23. I enjoy researching Biblical passages and ideas, knowing that there is a wealth of information yet to be discovered.
- _____ 24. I voluntarily maintain a lower standard of living so that I may give to the Lords programs and ministries.
- _____ 25. I find that all I want to do is declare God's will to people around me.
- _____ 26. In a group of people, if a decision needs to be made, they usually look to me for the final answer.
- _____ 27. I usually can see past peoples' circumstances and comfort the person who is in need despite what they have been through.
- _____ 28. I enjoy taking on the various helping positions in the ministries of our Church.
- _____ 29. If a missionary were coming to town and needed a place to stay, I would offer my home.
- _____ 30. I enjoy finding new truths in the Scriptures by myself and cannot understand why other people do not see them also.
- _____ 31. I enjoy evaluating results from studies and finding ways to implement the good ideas into my life and ministry.
- _____ 32. I enjoy leading people to achieve goals or objectives that have been set out before us.
- _____ 33. It is easy for me to solve problems by applying God's principles to the situation.
- _____ 34. I find myself desiring to search for those who are lost in order that I can share Christ with them.
- _____ 35. I know that God will answer my prayers, even when they seem impossible and unlikely.
- _____ 36. I find that I can counsel people, using God's Word, who are confused about certain situations and my advice be right.
- _____ 37. When I listen to people talk about Biblical issues, I can sense when statements are unbiblical even though I cannot prove it.
- _____ 38. I find myself able to see past most of the activity and see the workings and details of the project.
- _____ 39. I get excited about the idea of sharing my faith with a non-Christian and answering their questions.
- _____ 40. I enjoy giving my money to benefit those who are doing the work of the Lord
- _____ 41. I enjoy inviting people to my house and sharing what God has blessed me with.
- _____ 42. People seem to turn to me for directions and ask my opinion about difficult circumstance in their life.

_____ 43. I am not afraid to stand up against evil people and tell them what the Bible says about their actions.

_____ 44. I enjoy getting other people to learn Biblical facts and information that I have learned.

_____ 45. Many times, I find that I know the godliest direction to take before others do and encourage the group in that direction.

_____ 46. People usually come to me when they have a difficult Bible passage that they need explained.

_____ 47. I enjoy sharing with others Biblical truths that can be applied to their lives to make them more fruitful.

_____ 48. I enjoy being with a group of people as they are praying earnestly to the Lord.

_____ 49. I have a large library of books to help me learn about my faith and how to affect others with it.

_____ 50. After I learn a principle from the Bible, I immediately begin to think about how I can share this information with others.

_____ 51. I enjoy being in front of a crowd, telling them about Jesus and what he can do for them.

_____ 52. I seem to be able to influence people's choices by giving them better ways of accomplishing their goals.

_____ 53. My heart aches when I see someone else hurting, and though I cannot help them, I try to comfort them with my presence and gentle words.

_____ 54. People are often impressed with my ability to trust God for all my needs.

_____ 55. I would rather work behind the scenes at an event than up in front of the crowd.

_____ 56. I enjoy digging into facts and finding principles that are in the Bible.

_____ 57. If I saw a person in need of a place to stay or food, I would offer what I have in my home.

_____ 58. I would rather lead a group of people than to assist someone else in leading.

_____ 59. I do not know how, but I can usually tell when someone is being demonically influenced or if it is just a mental illness.

_____ 60. I can easily lead a group of people making corporate decisions.

_____ 61. I frequently find myself looking for ways to express God's truths through everyday experiences and illustrations.

_____ 62. I sense an urgency to warn people about the upcoming judgment that they will face but also about the love that Jesus has for them also.

_____ 63. I enjoy setting goals and planning out ways to achieve those goals that I have set.

_____ 64. I seem to be able to empathize with those who need comforting and reassurance.

_____ 65. I seem to have insights into spiritual matters that others do not seem aware of, and these insights generally turn out to be correct.

_____ 66. People often tell me how much I have helped them through their tough times.

_____ 67. I can easily motivate people to use their gifts that God has given them.

_____ 68. I enjoy finding ways to organizing ideas, things, time, and people for the most effective results.

_____ 69. Others often come to me for counsel about questionable matters, trusting in my judgments.

_____ 70. I can explain to non-Christians about Jesus Christ so that they can understand and decide to follow him.

_____ 71. I am never satisfied when someone gives me a superficial answer to a serious biblical question.

_____ 72. I like to minister to those who are hurting or are outcasts.

_____ 73. My counsel to others usually turns out to be the best solution for their situation.

_____ 74. I am usually not nervous when I share with a group of people about what Jesus has done for me.

_____ 75. I have compassion for those who are depressed, brokenhearted, or confused.

_____ 76. When situations are tough, I seem to be the one to remind people that God is still working.

_____ 77. I enjoy working with plans and projects more than working with groups of people.

_____ 78. I find that I can motivate people, individually or as a group, to accomplish different types of tasks.

_____ 79. As God gives more to me in ways of material possessions, I turn around and give it to others who are in need.

_____ 80. People often say how much I have helped them, even though it seems that I have not helped them very much at all.

_____ 81. I am aware of the actions of angels and evil spirits and how they are influencing or even controlling people.

_____ 82. I look for, or make, opportunities to share my faith with someone around me.

_____ 83. Even in difficult situations I can usually discern the correct action to take just by applying what I know about God's word.

_____ 84. Even though I cannot work on a Church project, I enjoy providing monetary support to help it.

_____ 85. I enjoy preparing lessons for people so that they can learn about the Bible.

- _____ 86. Even when I am outnumbered, I will proclaim God's Word in an effective manner.
- _____ 87. I find that it is easy and not burdening to visit those who are hurting, ill, or depressed.
- _____ 88. People tell me that I talk too much about Jesus and my Christian life.
- _____ 89. I have learned that I do not need to wait for clear evidence before deciding and I can trust God for the results.
- _____ 90. I can sense or see the activity of evil spirits against people and ministries.
- _____ 91. I get discouraged with things and people when they are not as organized as I think they could be.
- _____ 92. I find when I give advice, that I am more concerned with the "how to's" instead of the "why's."
- _____ 93. I have a burden for people who have given up because they have become discouraged or detached.
- _____ 94. I like to teach others about things that I have learned through my studies of the Scriptures.
- _____ 95. I give to others even though I know that will cause me to live at a lower standard.
- _____ 96. People often comment on what a good host I am when they visit my home.
- _____ 97. I like being a helper in the classroom making sure that things run smoothly for the teacher.
- _____ 98. When I tell others what God has done for me it seems people naturally are curious to ask more questions.
- _____ 99. I like it when people ask me questions about the Bible that are tough to answer, and I must research the answer to give an adequate response.
- _____ 100. I do not find it burdensome to be around someone who is suffering because I can comfort them in their time of need.
- _____ 101. Cleaning, serving, and ushering are things that I can do very naturally.
- _____ 102. Money is not as important to me as supporting God's work, and I show this by giving regularly.
- _____ 103. I know that my house is God's house, and I open my home to those who God brings to me.
- _____ 104. I often feel a compulsion to preach God's Word to those who are around me.
- _____ 105. I can usually understand and help people who are weighed down by problems but for me I am usually not drained by helping them.
- _____ 106. I know and can prove God answers my prayers.
- _____ 107. I feel more comfortable in assisting Ministry leaders in their job instead of leading a ministry.

_____ 108. I often feel compelled to invite strangers into my home so I can show what God has done for me.

_____ 109. I feel that the money that I have is not mine, but is God's, and I freely give to His ministries.

_____ 110. I think it is great when people ask me questions about the Bible that are difficult to answer.

_____ 111. I have a desire to shelter those who do not have a place to stay and need my assistance.

_____ 112. I enjoy volunteering for the trivial jobs found in the Church.

2. Score your survey results.

- a. Place in each box your numerical response (1-5) to the question number.
- b. For each gift, add the numbers in the boxes and put the total in the "Total" box.

Administration	Discernment	Evangelism	Exhortation	Faith	Giving	Helps
3.	1.	7.	4.	13.	20.	2.
31.	12.	34.	14.	16.	24.	28.
38.	17.	39.	19.	35.	40.	55.
60.	37.	62.	64.	48.	79.	80.
63.	59.	70.	66.	54.	84.	97.
68.	65.	82.	67.	76.	95.	101.
77.	81.	88.	93.	89.	102.	107.
91.	90.	98.	105.	106.	109.	112.
Total:	Total:	Total:	Total:	Total:	Total:	Total:

Hospitality	Knowledge	Leadership	Mercy	Prophecy	Teaching	Wisdom
22.	23.	10.	9.	8.	6.	5.
29.	30.	18.	11.	15.	21.	33.
41.	46.	26.	27.	25.	44.	36.
57.	49.	32.	53.	43.	47.	42.
96.	56.	45.	72.	51.	50.	69.
103.	71.	52.	75.	74.	61.	73.
108.	99.	58.	87.	86.	85.	83.
111.	110.	78.	100.	104.	94.	92.
Total:	Total:	Total:	Total:	Total:	Total:	Total:

3. Graph your survey results.

- a. For each gift place a mark across the column that corresponds to your Total for that gift.
- b. For each gift shade the column below the mark that you have drawn to create a bar graph that depicts your survey results.
 - Gifts for which the bars are tall are the ones in which you appear to be strongest.

- Gifts for which the bars are short are the ones in which you appear not to be strong.

40														
35														
30														
25														
20														
15														
10														
5														
0	A D M I N I S T R A T I O N	D I S C E R N M E N T	E V A N G E L I S M	E X H O R T A T I O N	F A I T H	G I V I N G	H E L P S	H O S P I T A L I T Y	K N O W L E D G E	L E A D E R S H I P	M E R C Y	P R O P H E C Y	T E A C H I N G	W I S D O M

4. Review the definitions:

- Administration – The special ability to effectively evaluate a situation, plan and organization a response, and follow through with the plans and objectives.
- Discernment of Spirits – The special ability to know the source of an idea, plan, or question. At times even the ability to see, smell, or sense the presence of angels or demons.
- Evangelism – The special ability to share your faith in God and the forgiveness in Christ with others that brings them to Christ.
- Exhortation – The special ability to come alongside someone in their time of need and to bring comfort, encouragement, and reassurance to their walk with Christ.
- Faith – The special ability to trust God knowing that He will answer and provide even when all other factors seem to point to a different conclusion.

- f. Giving – The special ability to give of your material possessions for the needs of the saints without regret or second thought.
- g. Helps – The special ability to work behind the scenes to ensure the proper functioning of another ministry.
- h. Hospitality – The special ability to give food, shelter and of your life’s activities to those who are in need or are in the service of our Lord.
- i. Knowledge – The special ability and desire to dig for Scriptural truths, to analyze those truths, and prepare them in a way so that the lay person can understand.
- j. Leadership – The special ability to lead a group of individuals in a way in which you do not lord over them but are able to manage them to accomplish a specific task.
- k. Mercy – The special ability in which you can sympathize with a hurt or suffering person, and to protect that person from further harm.
- l. Prophecy – The special ability to proclaim the word of God with authority and assurance that when those around hear the gospel that they feel compelled to act upon what you have just said.
- m. Teaching – The special ability to take Biblical truths and present them in such a way in which others can learn them and apply them to their own lives.
- n. Wisdom – The special ability to rightly divide a course of action, through application of Biblical truths and standards, and apply them to any situation.

5. Review your results with the person discipling you.

X. Summary

- A. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal and help you grow your spiritual gift.
- B. Meditate on Scripture to determine your spiritual gift.
- C. Look at what you are good at, passionate about, and known for by others to investigate your spiritual gift.

VI. Questions

A. How are spiritual gifts complementary to natural abilities?

B. Spiritual Gift Formula – Use the lines below to write the results of your self-evaluation:

1. Ability: _____

2. Affinity: _____

3. Affirmation: _____

C. Spiritual Gift Survey – List your top five spiritual gifts in order of the highest scores:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

D. How were the results of your formula similar or different from your survey?

1. How do the results reflect what you expected?

2. How do the results represent what you did not expect?

E. What is your biggest takeaway from this lesson?

VII. Application

A. Now that your spiritual gift(s) have been revealed, put them to work in the Church so that you may be a blessing in the Lord's work.

B. Develop your spiritual gift throughout the remainder of your life. Consider ways to keep growing and exercising your gift to master it to your fullest potential.

C. Serving Jesus is a life-long commitment...an *eternal* commitment. Therefore, consider how you may utilize your gift in the Lord's kingdom to come, the Millennial Kingdom. Consider also how your gift(s) may be similar or different to how you can use it now.



LESSON 9: Sharing Jesus by Serving at Amwell

What types of ministry service may I consider?

All Christians are called to serve with their spiritual gifts to glorify their Creator. This typically occurs through active participation in one or more ministries at your local Church. Some people, however, receive a special calling from the Holy Spirit to serve in a specific full-time or part-time ministry role. The purpose of this lesson is to familiarize you with various roles within ministry service. Responsibilities for Amwell COB church offices are adapted from the Amwell Church of the Brethren Constitution & Bylaws.

- I. Pastor – As Jesus Christ is the shepherd of the global Church, the pastor is the shepherd of the local church congregation, and has the following general responsibilities:
 - A. Shall be one who has been called by the Lord.
 - B. Shall be responsible to the church for proclaiming the Gospel, according to the written Word of God, to the church and community.
 - C. Shall provide spiritual and administrative leadership for the church and pastoral care in meeting the needs of persons in the church and community.
 - D. Lead congregational services.
 - E. Supervise other members of the church staff according to the staff organization.
 - F. Provide leadership for the observance of the church ordinances.
 - G. Serves as an ex-officio member of all committees.
 - H. Conduct sermons and Bible studies.
 - I. Conduct funeral services.
 - J. Conduct wedding ceremonies for couples who follow scripture that a marriage is a sacred oath between one man and one woman of like-minded faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - K. Counsel with and assist in training deacons for their responsibilities.
 - L. Jeremiah 3:15 ¹⁵and I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.
- II. Evangelist – An evangelist is called to be a witness for Jesus Christ to serve him by preaching.
 - A. He may serve in a global capacity or at the local church level.
 - B. Their goal is to preach the Gospel in an effective way that people can understand and ultimately lead them to salvation.
 - C. They often travel around from place to place trying to persuade people to become Christians.
 - D. They may evangelize through music, drama, preaching, and other creative ways.
 - E. Evangelists typically preach to large crowds of people with the Gospel message.
 - F. Luke 10:2 ²Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly *is* great, but the labourers *are* few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.
- III. Missionary – A missionary is called to leave their home and travel to a new area to promote Christianity or provide services to people such as education, literacy, healthcare, and economic development.
 - A. They may often travel to another country.
 - B. They may need to learn a new language and culture.
 - C. Missions can be short-term or long-term assignments.
 - D. Missionaries are supported by their church or mission organization.

- E. They make disciples and train them as to how to live out their faith.
- F. Sometimes serving in areas hostile to Christianity, missionaries are brave people who are willing to lay down their life for the sake of the Gospel.
- G. A well-known missionary in the Bible was the Apostle Paul.
- H. Matthew 28:18-20 ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

IV. Amwell COB Offices

- A. Deacon – At Amwell COB, Deacons have no term limits and thus serve for life. There is also no limit to the number of Deacons.
 - 1. Assist the Pastor in preparing for the Ordinance of Baptism.
 - 2. Prepare and assist baptism candidates by providing classroom training.
 - 3. Assist with personal relations in the Church to free the Pastor to preach and pray.
 - 4. Assist with the needs of the Church and the community.
 - 5. Assist with developing peace and harmony within the Church.
 - 6. Serve the congregation.
 - 7. Attend meetings as they are called and be faithful in their attendance of Church meetings and activities.
 - 8. Serve, as the Pastor requires, in the Worship Service with special requirements for Communion and Love Feast.
 - 9. In the spirit of Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1 and II Thessalonians 3:6 will prayerfully and lovingly work with the Pastor to maintain Church discipline.
 - 10. Work with the Pastor to welcome new members.
 - 11. Make visitations.
 - 12. Work with any group, leader, or program of the Church to act as a resource or sounding board.
 - 13. Deacons, with the advice and consent of the Pastor, are also responsible for missions, benevolence, and the resolution of grievances and problems.
 - 14. At Amwell COB, the wives of Deacons also have responsibilities as Deaconesses.
- B. Trustee – An elected position. There shall be a minimum of five Trustees and an odd number of Trustees.
 - 1. Arrange for maintenance and care necessary to keep the church property neat and orderly in appearance as well as in proper operating condition.
 - 2. Hire and supervise the custodian.
 - 3. Hold in trust all church property and shall be responsible for the operation of the corporation known as Amwell COB.
 - 4. Provide for the care of all Amwell COB legal documents.
 - 5. The trustees shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer real estate or buildings without a specific affirmative vote of the Church. This vote may be taken at the annual business meeting or at a special meeting called for the purpose of buying, selling, mortgaging, leasing, or transferring real estate or buildings.
 - 6. Plan for future needs regarding church facilities.
 - 7. Working with the treasurer, shall make arrangements for financing capital improvements.
 - 8. Prepare an annual budget for presentation and acceptance at the annual business meeting.

- C. Treasurer (and Associate Treasurer) – Elected positions.
 - 1. Receive and deposit all church offerings and other income.
 - 2. Post all income and disbursement in duly prepared electronic files that are regularly backed up.
 - 3. Maintain a file of correspondence, invoices, receipts, tax files, reports, etc.
 - 4. Prepare and issue disbursements checks. All checks issued by any entity of the church shall be issued by the Treasurer or Associate Treasurer.
 - 5. Prepare periodic financial and investment reports for review by the COS.
 - 6. Prepare an annual financial report for the Board of Trustees and the annual business meeting.
 - 7. Receive and answer queries concerning financial matters.
 - 8. The Treasurer's books shall be audited annually by the insurance company and/or an internal auditing committee appointed by the Chair of the Deacons and the Chair of the Trustees as directed by the Board of Trustees.
- D. Church Clerk (and Associate Church Clerk) – Elected positions.
 - 1. Attend the annual business meeting, monthly COS meetings and any unscheduled meetings called for the congregation and assist the Moderator in preparing and disseminating the meeting agendas and minutes.
 - 2. Request letters of membership admission from other churches.
 - 3. Issue letters of dismission as authorized by the Pastor.
 - 4. Coordinate and preserve on file all communications relevant to the business of Amwell COB, e.g., the weekly church bulletin, web site, etc.
 - 5. Issue phone and email blasts to the Church as directed by the Pastor and COS.
 - 6. Submit records to the Church Historian for filing.
 - 7. Manage the Church calendar and ensure updates are posted at the Church and on the Church web site.
 - 8. Maintain and update the following lists:
 - a. Active Member List
 - b. Non-Active Member List
 - c. Leadership List
 - d. Ministry List & Profiles
 - e. Missionary List & Profiles
- E. Ministry Group Leaders – Elected positions.
 - 1. Coordinate activities and written reports among the Amwell COB ministries within their group and provide updates at the COS and annual business meetings.
 - 2. The grouping of Amwell COB ministries will be covered in Lesson 10.

V. Summary

- A. All followers of Christ are expected to serve in some sort of ministry service, typically through their local church.
- B. Pastor, evangelist, and missionary are roles that require a special calling from the Lord.
- C. Amwell COB has several elected roles that serve specific functions within the overall ministry.

VI. Questions

- A. Do you feel a special calling to gospel ministry, i.e., pastor, evangelist, or missionary?
- B. Do you see how your spiritual gift(s) could be utilized in any of the Amwell COB church offices? If so, which ones?

VII. Application

- A. Prayerfully consider and ask the Holy Spirit to guide and direct the type of service He wants you to provide. This may include any of the aforementioned roles or active participation in any of the Amwell COB ministries you will review in Lesson 10.



LESSON 10: Amwell COB Ministry Review

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In what Amwell COB ministry can I serve best?

In a way, spiritual gifts are like tithing. Most Christians have heard about spiritual gifts, but few Christians understand God expects His children to use their spiritual gifts in the local church. Your Heavenly Father wants you to give of your time, talents, and tithes. You are to do this where you are “planted,” i.e., in your local community, or Church, and you are to do it with a joyful heart.

The purpose of this lesson is to familiarize you with the various ministries at Amwell Church of the Brethren for you to determine with which ministry(ies) you should serve to glorify your Heavenly Father using your spiritual gifts in service to Jesus Christ.

- I. Why you should serve in the local ministry of your Church
 - A. First, if you are a born again Christian and follower of Jesus Christ, then you need to be united with a Bible-believing Church. Hebrews 10:25 instructs that we should not be “forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.”
 - B. As we learned in Lesson 7, spiritual gifts are divine enablements for ministry, given by the Holy Spirit, in some measure, to all believers and are completely under His control to be used for the building of the body of Christ (i.e., your local Church) all to glorify God through Jesus Christ.
 - C. We are to be good stewards of anything the Lord provides to us, including our gifts. 1 Peter 4:10¹⁰As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
 - D. Therefore, you should be actively engaged in the support of your local Church with your time, talents, and tithes.
- II. How ministry service should work (these short stories are adapted from and courtesy of www.preceptaustin.org/spiritual_gifts#Gift):
 - A. Animal School
 1. Romans 12:6 ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;
 2. A group of animals decided to improve their general welfare by starting a school. The curriculum included swimming, running, climbing, and flying. The duck, an excellent swimmer, was deficient in other areas, so he majored in climbing and flying, much to the detriment of his swimming. The rabbit, a superior runner, was forced to spend so much time in other classes that he soon lost much of his famed speed. The squirrel, who had been rated "A" as a climber, dropped to a "C" because his instructors spent hours trying to teach him to fly. And the eagle could no longer soar to the treetops because he had to learn how to swim. What happened to this group of animals portrays what often occurs in our churches.
 3. Moral of the Story – Your gift needs to be suited to your ministry. Some of us serve in the wrong areas, or too many areas, such that our tasks are not done well. As a result, the whole church suffers. If God made you a teacher--be a teacher. Study diligently and do

your best. If He's given you the gift of mercy, serve cheerfully and do not expect others to do what you do. Accept your spiritual gifts. Cultivate your capabilities. Stop comparing. Enjoy being you. Use what you have. Offer your gifts back to God and build up His church by doing the right job.

B. Part of the Crew

1. Ephesians 4:16 ¹⁶from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.
2. Have you ever watched a pit crew in action at an auto race? In less time than it takes for most of us to put our seatbelt on and adjust the mirror, the crew can change four tires, fill the gas tank, wash the windshield, give the driver a drink, and make vital adjustments to the car. It happens so quickly and efficiently because each crew member knows his job and does it right.
Speaking at a chapel service before the race, chaplain Max Helton said to the drivers and their crews, "Imagine all the people it takes to put on a race. What if they all wanted to drive? It would be chaos." It is the same with the crew. If everyone wanted to change tires and no one wanted to fill the gas tank, the car would not have a very long ride. Likewise, in the body of Christ we all have been equipped with different skills to do certain tasks. We cannot all be pastors or teachers. Some of us must "change the tires" and "wash the windshield." And each job is as important as the other.
3. Moral of the Story – For the body of Christ to fulfill its purpose, we each need to concentrate on our part and do it the best we can.

C. Be like the Bee

1. I Corinthians 12:18 ¹⁸But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.
2. The honeybee has one of the most highly developed social structures in the animal kingdom. At the heart of the hive, which may house as many as 80,000 bees, is the queen. Without her, the colony has no future. But the 80,000 do not just sit around watching their queen. Each bee has a specialized duty to fulfill.
The forager bees encounter the perils of the outside world to collect food. The guard bees protect the hive entrance from intruders. The undertakers are responsible for removing dead bodies from the hive. The water collectors bring in moisture to regulate humidity. The plasterers make a kind of cement to repair the hive. And the fanners station themselves at the entrance and fan the scent outward to signal the location of the colony to lost or disoriented bees. The scout bees keep the hive alerted to opportunities and dangers of the outside world. The variety and specialization of the worker bees seem endless.
3. Moral of the Story – In a similar way, the Lord has given special, spiritual gifts and tasks to all the people in His church. No one has been called merely to sit around. Everyone can do something. The work of the church will not get done unless all of us do what God has called us to do.

D. Don't Just Sit There

1. 1 Corinthians 12:7 ⁷But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

2. A well-known coach was once asked, "How much does college football contribute to the national physical-fitness picture?"

"Nothing," the coach replied abruptly.

"Why not?" the startled interviewer asked.

"Well," said the coach, "the way I see it, you have 22 men down on the field desperately needing a rest and 40,000 people in the stands desperately needing some exercise."

A similar situation exists in many churches today. When you compare the members who merely attend with those who actively participate, you often find a rather pathetic situation. It is not unusual to have a small group of diligent Christian workers struggling "down on the field" while others in the congregation are acting like spectators, "sitting on the sidelines, eating hot dogs and popcorn."

3. Moral of the Story – God's strategy for the accomplishment of His program is not like a sports event. He does not call for the job to be done only by the "professionals." In the game of life, all believers have their own positions and spiritual gifts that they must exercise for the profit of all.

III. Leadership structure

- A. Amwell COB's governing body is called The Circle of Servants.
- B. There are four Ministry Group Leaders at Amwell COB who are part of the Circle of Servants. They are responsible for coordinating activities and written reports among the Amwell COB ministries within their group and providing updates at the COS and annual business meetings.
- C. Each ministry at Amwell COB is led by Chairperson who reports into a ministry Group Leader.
- D. Each member of the Amwell COB congregation should actively serve in one or more ministries of the Church.

IV. Amwell COB ministries are grouped as follows:

- A. Fellowship Ministries are related to spiritual encouragement of the church body:
 1. Youth
 2. Camp Swatara
 3. MIKE CARES
 4. Morning Star Craft
 5. Men's Ministry
 6. Women's Ministry
 7. Women's Banquet
 8. Annual Birthday
 9. Meals on Heels
- B. Community Ministries are related to external outreach:
 1. Busy Bees
 2. Fund Raising
 3. Helping Hands
 4. Web
 5. Herman Kapp
 6. Angel Tree
 7. Food Pantry
 8. Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child
 9. Friend's Day

10. Street Preaching
- C. Education Ministries are related to edification of the church body:
 1. Vacation Bible School
 2. Premarital Counseling
 3. Discipleship
 4. Historian/Librarian
 5. Church Directory
 6. Sunday School
 7. Children's Church
 8. Financial Peace University
 9. Bible Study
- D. Worship Ministries are related to worship services:
 1. Music
 2. Audio
 3. Visual
 4. Bulletin
 5. Chorister
 6. Service Leader
 7. Ushers/Greeters
 8. Church Sign
- V. Summary
 - A. Be a good steward of your spiritual gift(s).
 1. Continually develop your spiritual gift day by day.
 2. Align your service with your spiritual gift.
 - B. Other people may have the same gifts, but the way you manifest yours is unique.
 - C. Amwell COB has about three dozen specific ministries in which you can serve.
 - D. Don't just be a "pew warmer;" get active and be blessed from seeing how God will use you.
- VI. Questions
 - A. Which ministries do you feel most closely relate to your spiritual gift?

 - B. Which of these ministries piques your interest?

 - C. Do you know who is the chairperson of this ministry?
- VII. Application
 - A. Find a ministry that matches your spiritual gift and interest.
 - B. Contact the ministry chairperson to ask how you can help.



LESSON 11: Sharing Jesus through Secular Work

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How do I serve both Jesus and my boss?

Many of us are called to a full-time secular vocation, so how do we go about serving Jesus at work? How can we serve both Jesus and our boss? This lesson is designed to answer these types of questions.

- I. How to pair secular work and serving Jesus
 - A. Think of it this way, your supervisor is your boss, but Jesus is your Ultimate Boss.
 - B. You are under the authority of both, but your allegiance and responsibility are primarily toward Jesus.
 1. Jesus is the one in control of your hiring, firing, promotion, demotion, lateral job moves, etc. For followers of Christ, no human being is in control of these things in your life, Christ is.
 2. Jesus is a perfect leader. He will never ask you to do anything that is wrong, beyond your abilities, or not suited for you to do.
 3. Your boss, on the other hand, is an imperfect human being, just like you. He or she will make mistakes and sometimes these may affect you.
 - C. If you meet the expectations of Jesus, you will naturally meet the expectations of any supervisor.
 1. The standards of your Ultimate Boss are higher than those of your boss; therefore, if you follow the instruction of Colossians 3:23 to serve at your job to please Master Jesus, then your earthly master should be pleased too.
 2. Colossians 3:22-25 ²²Servants, obey in all things *your* masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: ²³and whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; ²⁴knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.
- II. Working with excellence (adapted and courtesy of www.InTouch.org daily devotion of December 21, 2022, "In the Workplace")
 - A. God blesses those who choose to labor with integrity, honoring Him with their finest efforts.
 - B. God's plan for us includes work of various kinds. Not only are we to help others and be involved in mission-related pursuits; we are also expected to serve our employers.
 - C. Regardless of your boss's actions or temperament, the Lord is our ultimate authority, and one way we honor Him is by doing our job with integrity. He expects that whether we work in transportation, technology, education, or any other field, we will conduct our tasks with excellence.
 - D. To do anything else dishonors God. Lazy employees might abuse company time, execute duties poorly, or do the bare minimum. Often their focus is exclusively on the paycheck. But work is not simply about receiving a wage; the Lord wants His followers to better themselves and their organization. Certainly, these outcomes are rewards in and of themselves. But God also shows favor to His followers who choose diligence and integrity.

- E. Wherever the Lord places us is where we are to work for His glory. So, as children who want to please our heavenly Father, let us offer our finest efforts in all we do.
- III. Difficulties at work
- A. Even when you choose to labor with integrity, it does not mean you won't have difficult times at work.
 - B. You may experience stress, conflict, and setbacks, even if you are exactly where God wants you to be.
 - C. Gold cannot be purified if it does not go through fire. A teabag must be placed in hot water. As disciples, we understand that God will allow tests and even suffering in our lives for our good, not to destroy us.
 - D. James 1:3 ³ knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
 - E. When tough times come, speak with God in prayer and share your heart with Him. Talk with your Pastor and other trusted Christian family members and friends to see what advice they share. Then hang in there until the difficulties pass, or until God clearly reveals a change is required.
- IV. Shining your light
- A. Your workplace is a perfect place to shine your light for Jesus; it is your mission field.
 - B. The fact is, you may be the only Christian that your co-workers know.
 - C. If they see that you perform your job with excellence and joy, they may be intrigued to ask you why.
 - 1. This is your opportunity to witness.
 - 2. Be ready to explain why you work with a sense of excellence and joy.
 - 3. Be prepared to speak the name of "Jesus" as your source of motivation, strength, joy, etc.
 - D. As a believer, you have the responsibility to be employed in both the Church and the world as authentic salt and light ambassadors for Christ.
- V. Military service
- A. You may desire to pursue a career in military service.
 - 1. Military service is an honorable vocation.
 - 2. Several Biblical heroes were military leaders.
 - B. The official position of the Church of the Brethren is that all war is sin and that members seek the right of conscientious objection to all war.
 - 1. A conscientious objector is opposed to serving in the armed forces and/or bearing arms on the grounds of moral or religious principles.
 - 2. A conscientious objector is not a coward, or draft dodger.
 - C. There are other options within military service that do not require a soldier to kill other human beings.
 - D. As with the choice of any vocation, pursuit of a career in the military should be done prayerfully and of course, following the guidance of the Holy Spirit to direct you to fulfill His plan for you.
- VI. Choosing the right vocation
- A. Remember the difference between God's will and God's plan for your life that we covered in Lesson 7?
 - 1. Your secular job is part of God's plan for you.
 - 2. It is part of how He wants to use you in the world.

3. As discussed in Lessons 9 & 10, you are to utilize your spiritual gifts for ministry service at church.
 4. Likewise, you are to utilize your spiritual gifts in your vocation.
- B. Pairing your spiritual gifts with the right vocation is the best formula for success and enjoyment at work.
1. Research has shown that four out of five people have jobs that do not match their abilities.
 2. This is likely why so many people are unhappy with their job.
 3. Imagine if everyone had a job that was perfectly suited to their abilities and spiritual gifts—workplaces would be much happier and productive.
 4. The common hiring criteria, i.e., education and experience, are of less value in predicting how well you will perform in a particular position.
 5. What makes you either fit or unfit for a job is your aptitude for certain types of work.
 6. Thus, the right kind of spiritual giftedness is essential to your effectiveness at work.
- C. You will function best and accomplish the most for the Lord when you do what you have been spiritually gifted to do.

VII. Summary

- A. You are under the authority of both Jesus Christ and your boss.
1. Jesus is a perfect leader, but your boss is not, so give him or her some grace to be human.
 2. If you please Jesus and meet His expectations, then you will naturally please your boss.
- B. Serve with a spirit of excellence at your job.
- C. Encountering difficulties at work does not mean you are in the wrong place. Hang in there until God gives you clear direction about staying or leaving your job for another one.
- D. Your workplace is your mission field.
- E. Carefully choose a vocation that is aligned with your spiritual gift(s).

VIII. Questions

- A. Do you know any Christians at your workplace?
- B. How does working with “a spirit of excellence” resonate with you?
- C. In what ways are your spiritual gifts matched (or not matched) well with your job?
- D. Would it bring you more fulfillment to begin working for the Lord as your Ultimate Boss rather than working for your boss?

IX. Application

- A. As with serving in ministries, investigate vocation options that match your spiritual gift(s) and interest. Make sure that your vocation can also provide the income and lifestyle you desire.



LESSON 12: Sharing Jesus by Describing the Christian's Glorious Future

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Why should I be excited for my future?

As a Christian, you should always think eternally. God created you in His image as an eternal being. When your body dies, your soul continues to live for eternity. Your soul will either reside in Heaven or Hell, for eternity. This is a huge concept to get your mind around, but for followers of Jesus Christ it is your glorious future!

Being eternally minded is contrary to how the unsaved world trains people to think. The unsaved world is consumed with a person's mortal timeline, from birth until death. We are encouraged to plan for getting an education, then securing a job, investing during our working years in things like IRAs, 401Ks, etc, so that we can then retire as comfortably as possible. Our 'golden years' are about hobbies, travel, fun, and other self-centered rewards. But a Christian is to be consumed with a different timeline that begins at birth and then goes throughout all eternity. With that very different timeline in mind, and the fact that we are to be Christ-centered, not self-centered, in how we live and invest our lives, how we plan is very different from how an unsaved person plans. It's not that education, work, and saving for retirement are wrong, they are prudent. However, many of the things we have already studied in Discipleship II should factor into our thinking and be part of how we invest our lives. Growing closer to Christ, sharing Christ with others, serving other people, being a vital part of our local church, these are critical to the quality of life for a Christian, as well as being obedient to the Lord regarding how we are to live our lives for Him.

The Bible provides a multitude of prophecies. Many of these have already been fulfilled—each one gives credibility to the trustworthiness of Scripture. However, several prophecies are still to be fulfilled. The purpose of this lesson is to inform you of the key events yet to come that directly involve your future. Since the time of Christ's return may be soon, Christians should always stay motivated to lovingly share Jesus with others, so they can get saved and secure their eternity in Heaven before it is too late.

Be encouraged and keep the big picture in mind.

I. Future Events

A. Rapture

1. At an unknown time, and perhaps in the very near future, in a fraction of a second, an event called the "Rapture" will occur.
 - a. The bodies of all the true believers will arise from their graves to be in Heaven.
 - b. All true believers still living will be extracted from the face of the Earth and into Heaven.
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 ¹⁶For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

- c. Also leaving the Earth for Heaven will be the Holy Spirit, who has served as the Comforter to believers ever since Jesus left the Earth.
 2. You should be watchful and ready to make your trip to Heaven at any time.
 - a. Matthew 24:44 ⁴⁴Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.
- B. Judgement of Christ
 1. Once all true believers are in Heaven, each will be judged for rewards. This will take place in Heaven while the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation is taking place on earth.
 - a. 2 Corinthians 5:10 ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 ¹⁰According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. ¹¹For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. ¹⁴If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.
 2. While love for Christ should be our primary motive for serving Him, God knows people are motivated by incentives as well. In fact, He made us that way, which is why His Word makes exciting promises for those who walk in His way.
 3. The Bible describes the types of rewards, or crowns, that will be provided by Jesus based on whom He judges has earned them.
 - a. **Crown of life/martyr's crown** – granted to believers who stand firm and endure trials without giving up or losing heart. They do not recant their faith, but remain faithful until death.
 - James 1:12 ¹²Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.
 - b. **Crown of victory/Imperishable crown** – given to those whose great desire is to walk obediently before God. Through struggles and even failures, they continue to die to their flesh, yield from fleshly lust, and follow the Spirit.
 - 1 Corinthians 9:25-27 ²⁵And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. ²⁶I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: ²⁷but I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.
 - c. **Crown of righteousness** – bestowed upon those who long for Christ's appearing and live righteously through Him.
 - 2 Timothy 4:6-8 ⁶For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: ⁸henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

- d. **Crown of glory/elder's crown** – provided to those who shared His Word with others, namely elders and pastors who serve Christ faithfully.
 - 1 Peter 5:2-4 ²feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. ⁴And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.
 - e. **Crown of rejoicing/exultation** – for believers who ministered through the power of Jesus to become winners of souls for Christ.
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 ¹⁹For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? ²⁰For ye are our glory and joy.
- C. Marriage Supper / Great Tribulation
1. The reason for the Rapture is to extract the Christians (i.e., “saints”) before God unleashes His wrath upon the earth during the second half of the 7-year period called the Great Tribulation.
 2. In Heaven, during the second 3.5 years of the Tribulation is taking place on earth, the Bride of Christ, i.e., all true believers, will be married to Jesus followed by a ceremony called the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.
 - a. Revelation 19:5-8 ⁵And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. ⁶And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. ⁷Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. ⁸And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.
- II. Millennial Kingdom
- A. After the Great Tribulation is completed on Earth, Jesus will return to Earth with His Bride, defeat the armies that have gathered to destroy His people the Jews, bind Satan and rule for 1,000 years.
 - B. Part of the mission of Jesus is to establish a kingdom.
 1. John 18:37 ³⁷Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.
 2. It is the same kingdom about which we speak in the Lord's Prayer; Matthew 6:10 ¹⁰Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.
 - C. Remember the importance of identifying, developing, and using your spiritual gifts.
 1. One day, the Lord will judge your works.
 2. Your responsibility within the Millennial Kingdom will be tied to how you utilized your spiritual gifts.
 - a. Matthew 25:21 ²¹His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.
 - D. Reigning with Jesus

1. Romans 8:17 declares that we are joint heirs with Christ. As such, we will reign with Jesus in His kingdom according to the responsibilities with which He instills us.
 - a. Revelation 20:6 ⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.
 - E. Satan Conquered
 1. At the end of the thousand years, Satan will be released for a final battle with God in which he will lose and be thrown into the lake of fire forever.
 - a. Revelation 20:7-10 ⁷ And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, ⁸ and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea. ⁹ And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. ¹⁰ And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.
 - F. Great White Throne Judgement
 1. After Satan's defeat, God will judge all non-believers and subject them to their eternal punishment in the lake of fire because they had not accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
 - a. Revelation 20:11-15 ¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.
 - b. Revelation 21:7-8 ⁷ He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. ⁸ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.
- III. Eternal Kingdom
- A. Heaven and Earth Renewed
 1. The Lord will renew Heaven and Earth for our abode.
 - a. Revelation 21:1 ¹ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.
 - B. Perfect City and Perfect Life
 1. Our new habitation will be perfect and everything about our new life will be perfect with never-ending fulfillment in the presence of God.

- a. Revelation 21:2-4 ²And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. ⁴And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.
 - b. Revelation 22:1-5 ¹And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. ²In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. ³And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: ⁴and they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads. ⁵And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.
2. The supreme reward is for us to manifest God's glory throughout eternity. We will experience joy in His presence forever.
 - a. Revelation 22:12-14 ¹²And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. ¹³I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. ¹⁴Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

IV. Summary

- A. Keep the big picture, the eternal picture, in mind. This eternal mindset will help you fully and appropriately plan your life and it will provide you with encouragement to persevere to the end.
- B. Christians will be raptured from the Earth prior to the Great Tribulation.
- C. At the Judgement of Christ, the earthly works of believers will be passed through fire to determine who gets rewards of crowns.
- D. All believers will be officially married to Jesus Christ.
- E. As joint heirs, we will return to Earth and reign with Jesus for a thousand years.
- F. At the end of the millennial reign, Satan will be defeated and all people throughout history who rejected Jesus Christ will join Satan in the eternal lake of fire.
- G. A glorious habitation and everlasting future await those who call on the name of Jesus to be their Lord and Savior.

V. Questions

- A. How does the knowledge of the future events described in this lesson impact you?
- B. Which crown(s) do you think you may be qualified?
- C. What do you think Jesus may assign you to do in His kingdom?
- D. How does knowledge of these future events motivate you to live for Christ?

VI. Application

- A. Your glorious future is such good news that you cannot keep it to yourself. If there was a great sale at your local store for an item that everyone could use, you would tell all your family and friends about it. The Good News of Jesus is so much more important to share!
- B. Now that you know the truth of how things are going to turn out, you must share it with those around you. Do not worry about trying to convert people, let the Holy Spirit handle the conversions. Just do your part to **share** Jesus!