



THE FAMILY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

"We gather, we reach-out to share God's saving grace"

Biblical Discipleship

Book 2

Topics:

5. The Word of God
6. Prayer
7. The Will of God
8. The Local Church

LESSON 5: THE WORD OF GOD

What is the Significance of the Bible in My Life?

What separates Christianity from any "religion" in the world is its claim to an absolute written authority from God. Having the word of God is essential to a Christian's growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. The standards by which a Christian is to govern his life in every detail are found in the pages of the word of God.

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the new Christian with the basics of the Bible and how it relates to his everyday life, so he can begin to understand how its principles are to guide every facet of his walk with Jesus.

1. The Word of God is active in salvation.
 - A. 1 Peter 1:23 says a man is born again "BY THE WORD OF GOD". The word of God is the agent which brings about the new birth.
 - B. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...". Romans 10:17 says, So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
 - C. James 1:21 says the word of God is "...able to save your souls".
 - D. Paul's summary of the gospel contains four parts in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4:
 1. Jesus Christ died for our sins
 2. Was buried
 3. Rose from the dead
 4. ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES
 - E. You must believe what the Bible says about sin, your condition and God's plan of salvation in order to be saved.

3. The Local church is primarily for weddings, funerals and religious holidays.

4. Only the leadership of the church is charged with any responsibility of meeting people's spiritual needs.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lessons.

9. How do these three stages of spiritual growth match up with the three stages of physical growth found in 1 John 2:12-14?

- A. child hood to
youth
- B. youth to
adult
- C. adult to
fatherhood

10. The Christian should be patient because growing spiritually is a process which can only be properly accomplished with the established institution of the local church.

11. When a Christian is looking for a local church to serve in, what are some qualities he should be checking for?

- A. Is there evidence of soul winning?
- B. Do they believe and teach the bible as the Word of God and the infallible guide for life.
- C. Is the membership encouraged to read and study the bible as much as the leadership?
- D. Do they minister to the needs of the people?
- E. Do they send out and support missionaries?

12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key memory verses:

Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Corinthians 12:27; 2 Timothy 2:2

NOTE: Many churches today are not fulfilling God's plan because their primary attitudes are:

1. In order to really learn the Bible, you need to go to a Bible College.
2. The primary purpose of a local church is to be a social or political organization.

II. Since you are saved by the word of God, it must be your absolute, infallible guide to tell you how to live. To illustrate:

- A. Every major purchase (car, appliance, etc.) is accompanied by an owner's manual which tells you how to operate it. If you don't go by the book, it won't work.
- B. The Bible is God's owner's manual" for your life. God would not save you and call to service without clear, exact directions; but you must go by the book.
Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 3:5-6.

III. What is the purpose of the word of God for a Christian?

- A. The word of God equips you for service, "that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 6:10-18.
- B. The word of God sustains you. This illustrated in the Bible as "spiritual food". See Job 23:12 and Jeremiah 15:16. It is a complete and balance diet.
1. Milk – 1 Peter 2:2
 2. Honey – Psalm 119:103; Proverbs 16:24
 3. Apples – Proverbs 7:2; 25:11
 4. Bread – Luke 4:4
 5. Water – Isaiah 55:10-11; Ephesians 5:26
 6. Meat – Hebrews 5:12-14, 1 Corinthians 3:1-2
 7. Vegetables – Psalms 78:24
- C. The Word of God keeps you clean to please God. Psalm 119: John 15:3

IV – Is the Bible completely reliable?

- A. It is completely reliable. This is a very critical point. It must be understood that all experiences are to be judged by an infallible standard which is greater than any experience. Peter said the word of God is completely reliable.

2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

- B. The universe was created by the spoken word of God.
Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 33:6; Genesis 1:3

V – How do I learn the bible?

- A. The Holy Spirit of God will lead and guide you into all truth. God may use other instruments to aid in teaching (books, CD, preachers, etc.) but ultimately, truth is revealed by the Holy Spirit.
John 14:26, John 16:13-15
- B. The Bible is learned by comparing scripture with scripture, relying on God's Spirit to teach you and not your own natural intellect. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God"
1 Corinthians 2:9-16

VI – A brief history of the Bible.

- A. A total 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.
- B. Written through more than 40 men.
- C. Fits together perfectly as if written by one man, because the author of all 66 books is the Holy Spirit.
2 Peter 1:21
- D. Written over a time span of about 2,000 years.
- E. Totally accurate in matters of history, of prophesy and of every issue of life.
- F. Not one contradiction.

VII – Read this famous anonymous quote concerning the Bible.

The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and its decisions are immutable.

- 5. List four basic similarities between the church body and the human body.

- A. Each member has a different function (vv 14-20)
- B. No one member can function alone (v 21)
- C. Each members contributions is important (vv. 22-24)
- D. A properly functioning body operates as a single unit (vv.25-27)

- 6. The first local church in the Bible was at Jerusalem. In Acts 2:41-47, we see the local church functioning. List the functional purposes found in this passage of scripture

- A. The teaching of the word of God
- B. Fellowship with other believers
- C. Prayer
- D. The observance of two ordinances of the church (Baptism & Lord Supper)
- E. To be a testimony of God's grace and power
- F. For mutual assistance and ministry
- G. To reach out into the community
- H. To glorify and praise God.

- 7. What is the most important priority of a local church?

- to edify (build up, teach, strengthen) the saints.

- 8. There is a proper order for you to follow in the participating in the church body. List the three general stages connected with spiritual growth.

- A. Observe and learn (the perfecting of the saints)
- B. Participate (the work of the ministry)
- C. Lead (the edifying of the body of Christ)

THE LOCAL CHURCH: LESSON 8

1. What are the three institutions God has established on earth?
 - A. Family
 - B. Civil Government
 - C. Local Church
2. List some things that a church is NOT
 - it is not a building
 - it is not a denominational of congregation
3. Define the following terms:
 - A. Local church: is a body of men and women who have been saved and called by God to serve in a specific area.
 - B. The church: is the body of Christ, the saved multitudes from every nations.
4. In 1 Corinthians 12:14-27, Paul teaches that in many ways the church body is similar **human body**. List five parts of the body that are mentioned in this passage of scripture.
 - A. Foot
 - B. Hand
 - C. Ear
 - D. Eye
 - E. Head
 - F. Nose

Read to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christians charter.

Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given to you in life, will be open at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who steal with his holy contents".

VII. Basic Questions.

- A. Where should I start reading?

As a young Christian, focus on the primary places which deal with your new relationship with your Heavenly Father. The Gospel of John, the Epistle of 1 John, and Psalm 119 are good places to begin.

 1. The Gospel of John is written that you might believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. John 20:31
 2. The Epistle of 1 John is written that you might have complete assurance of salvation. 1 John 5:3
 3. Psalm 119 is the greatest chapter in the Bible on a man's love for the word of God.
- B. What if I find something I don't understand?
 1. Don't get upset about it, God will reveal it to you in time when you are ready (John 16:12).
 2. Be sure you live what you do understand. God will not give you more than you are capable of handling. As you put into practice the things you are learning, God will entrust you with more.

THE WORD OF GOD: LESSON 5

1. The word of God is active in our salvation. Briefly explain how the following verses apply to this.
 - A. 1 Peter 1:23 – a man is born again by the word of God
 - B. Romans 10:17 – faith comes from hearing, and hearing from the word of God
 - C. James 1:21 – the word of God.....is able to save your souls
2. What are the four key elements of the gospel according to 1 Corinthians 14:1-4?
 - A. Jesus Christ died for our sins
 - B. Was buried
 - C. Rose from the dead
 - D. According to the Scriptures
3. What are the major purposes of the word of God in the Christian's life?
 - A. The word of God equips you for service
 - B. The word of God sustains you.
 - C. The Word of God keeps you clean to please God.
4. From 2 Timothy 3:16-17, we understand that all Scripture is profitable for the following

As your growth continues, you should reach the point where you can begin to minister to others in the same way you have been ministered to.

2 Timothy 2:2

- B. These three stages can be roughly compared to the stages of physically: childhood, youth, adult.
- C. BE PATIENT! This process takes time. Just be sure to remain faithful to God's established institution, the local church.

IV – Basic questions

- A. If God moves me to another location, how do I find the particular local church that God wants me to serve through?
 1. Pray about it. Ask God to show you which church to associate yourself with. James 1:5
 2. Observe the qualities of a particular church and compare them with the biblical requirements of a proper church.
 - a. Is there evidence of soul winning? Matthew 7:20: Acts 2:47
 - b. Do they believe and teach the Bible as the Word of God and the infallible guide for life? Titus 1:9
 - c. Is the membership encouraged to read and study the Bible as much as the leadership? Acts 17:10-12
 - d. Do they minister to the needs of people? Acts 6:1
 - e. Do they send out and support missionaries? Acts 13:1-3

II – What is the function of the local church?

- A. The first local church in the Bible was organized in Jerusalem (Acts 2:41-47). The believers there organized their church for the following purposes:
1. The teaching of the Word of God (v 42)
 2. Fellowship with other believers (v 42)
 3. Prayer (v 42)
 4. The observance of the two ordinances of the church: baptism (v 41), and the Lord's Supper (v 42)
 5. To be testimony of God's grace and power (v 43)
 6. For mutual assistance and ministry (vv 44-45)
 7. To reach out into the community (vv 46-47)
 8. To glorify and praise God (v 47)
- B. The single most important priority of the local church is to edify (build up, teach, strengthen) the saints. Ephesians 4:11-16

III – How do I function in the church body?

- A. During your Christian life, you should grow through three broad, general stages, as outlined in Ephesians 4:12
1. The perfecting of the saints – Observe and learn
Your first priority should be to submit to the teaching of the word of God to learn to be the man or woman God wants you to be.
 2. The work of the ministry – Participate
In time, you will naturally grow to the point where you can begin to serve and take on some basic functions through the already established ministries of your church. Matthew 4:19; James 1:22-25
 3. The edifying of the body of Christ – Lead

- A. To teach us what is true (NLT)
- B. To make us realize what is wrong in our lives
- C. It straighten us out
- D. Teaches us to do what is right

5. The Bible is likened to God's "owner's manual" for your life. Briefly explain why this is.

The Word of God is my guide and direction and light

6. Your physical body needs food in order to function properly. Your spiritual body needs food also. Give two scriptures references that show us this.

A. Job 23:12

B. Jeremiah 15:16

7. According to 2 Peter 1:16-21, the Bible is completely reliable. The bible judges all of man's experiences because it is an infallible standard.

8. According to Genesis 1 and 2, man's theory of evolution is a lie. What do we learn from the following verses regarding this subject?

A. Hebrews 11:3 – the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen. (NLT)

B. Psalms 33:6 – the Lord merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born. (NLT)

9. We learned, from lesson #4 the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth. The Bible is also learned by comparing scripture with scripture and depending on God's Spirit to teach us.

10. According 1 Corinthians 2:9-16, why can't lost people properly understand what the Bible teaches?

Because only those who have the Holy Spirit can understand what the Spirit means. The Holy Spirit is the one who will reveal to us what God wants us to know and learn.

11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

- to teach us that the Bible is reliable.

- the Bible is our light, guide and direction.

Key memory verse:

2 Peter 1:21; Psalm 119:9; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

NOTE: Many popular attitudes about the Bible are:

1. The Bible is just another religious book written by men.
2. The Bible can only be understood by the clergy or by years of formal education.
3. In order to understand the true meanings of the scripture, you must study Greek and Hebrew.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong, and why.

LESSON 8: THE LOCAL CHURCH

What is the Purpose of My Involvement in a Local Church?

God has established three major institutions on this earth: the family, civil government, and the local church. It is the local church which has been commissioned by God to carry out His purposes in reaching the lost and perfecting the saved. Therefore, God's plan for a Christian will always be fulfilled best when connected with the local church.

The purpose of this lesson is to impress upon the individual the central role which the church should play in his everyday life.

- I. What is the local church?
 - A. It is NOT a building. Acts 14:27
 1. We worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24)
 2. Our bodies are the temple of God (1 Corinthians 6:19)
 - B. It is NOT a denominational group of congregations.
 - C. A local church is a body of men and women who have been saved and called by God to serve in a specific area. The church is the body of Christ, the saved multitudes from every nation.
 1. In 1 Corinthians 12:27, Paul writing to saved people states clearly, .. "you are the body of Christ".
 2. Paul compares the church body to the human body in this passage – 1 Corinthians 12:14-27.
 - a. Each member has a different function (vv. 14-20)
 - b. No one member can function alone, (v. 21)
 - c. Each member's contribution is important (vv. 22-24)
 - d. A properly functioning body operates as a single unit (vv. 25-27)

LESSON 6: PRAYER

How Important Is Prayer In My Life?

- A. The Holy Spirit
- B. The Word of God
- C. The Local Church

9. Before God will give His direction in your life, what must take place?

You must be in conformity to the will of God

10. Briefly explain the difference between the will of God and the plan of God.

- God's plan is the specific direction God will give in individual circumstances in our lives.

- God's will is to be conformed to the image of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

For us to understand the will and plan of God.

Key memory verses:

Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 3:17; 2 Peter 3:9

NOTE: There is much confusion today about the will of God. Some popular beliefs are:

1. The will of God is different for every individual.
2. The will of God has to do with specific, physical matters.
3. God has predetermined what will happen and man's free will has no bearing on the matter
4. Problems in a Christian's life are always the result of sin in his life.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these beliefs are false, and why.

Someone once said that a Christian is only as strong as his prayer life. There is a great deal of truth in this because prayer is simply your direct communication to God. When you read the Bible, God speaks to you; and when you pray, you speak to God. Your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ cannot grow without proper communication

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the individual with the basics of a proper prayer life so that these lines of communication can be open and effective in his life.

1. What is the purpose of prayer?

A. It is not to move God for you or change His mind; it is for you to be conformed to His will.

B. A proper prayer life results in peace of heart and mind - Philippians 4:6-7

C. To draw you close to God so He can prove His sufficiency for every need.

1. God is active in every detail of your life, and He knows exactly what you need even before you ask. (Matthew 6:8)

2. God allows needs to come into your life so He can draw you to Him to meet with Him. (Psalm 50:15)

3. The most dangerous time in your life is when every single need is met, and you have need nothing – including God. (Revelation 3:16-17)

4. God uses those needs to draw you to a place where He can bless you and reveal to you that your only real need is simply the Lord Jesus Christ and His grace. The classic of this tremendously important principle is Paul's thorn in the flesh. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

5. This is why it is absolutely essential to give thanks in everything, including and especially the needs and difficult times of your life. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
6. That is also why it is absolutely essential to develop a consistent prayer attitude where your first reaction in a difficult moment is to go to God in prayer. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

II. How do I pray?

- A. There are some basic guidelines.
 1. Pray always – develop a life style of prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1)
 2. Don't repeat the same words over and over (Matthew 6:7)
 3. Talk to the Lord as a friend. He is your friend! (John 15:13-14; Exodus 33:11)
 4. Realize that you have DIRECT access to God personally. You do not need to go through any man to talk to God. 1 Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 2:18
- B. Be sure to keep your basic relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ proper. There are some things in your life which will hinder your prayers.
 1. Unconfessed sin. (Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18)
 2. An unforgiving spirit (Matthew 6:14-15)
 3. Bitterness toward your mate (as well as others) 1 Peter 3:7

4. According to 1 Peter 5:10, God allows Christians to go through suffering so that they might be more:

- A. restored/perfect them
- B. supported
- C. strengthened
- D. firm foundation / established

5. God has given all men a free will, therefore, He will not force man to do anything. But when God offers an individual salvation of direction, and this is rejected, what is the result?

God permits man's free will to be exercised and man suffers the consequences

6. God has direct will for man. List seven things that God specifically will for us.

- A. God is not willing that any should perish
- B. We are to give thanks for everything
- C. We are to submit to every ordinance of man. However this must be balanced.
- D. We are not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Submission to the ordinances of man is to maintain a proper testimony to win them, while at the same time, your life is to be transformed to live by a higher standard to please God)
- E. God desires our sanctification.
- F. Our service is to be from the heart, with pure motives as if we were serving Jesus Christ.
- G. We are to redeem the time. Quit wasting time.

7. Summarize God's will for a Christian's life. Give scripture references to support your answer.

- To be conformed to the image of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:28-29; John 17:20-23; Ephesians 4:13-15)

8. What must be active in the life of a believer to fulfill God's will and receive His direction in life? The Holy Spirit of God, the Word of God, and the Local church

“mighty works”. Be what He wants you to be, and He will show you what to do.

V. Basic Questions

A. Why doesn't God reveal all the details of His direction for me now?

1. It would overwhelm you before you got started.
2. You may not be equipped to handle it yet.
3. You may not be the type of person God wants you to be yet.
4. God will reveal what you can handle when you can handle it.
5. This is illustrated by the old question asked of children, “What do you want to be when you grow up? If all the five year olds in north America were surveyed on this question, then forced to stick with their answer, in 20 years there would be nothing but firemen, policemen and nurses. As time goes on and you grow spiritually, your interests, talents, and desires will grow and change. Be patient and wait on God while fulfilling His specific will for your life.

THE WILL OF GOD: LESSON # 7

1. List the things that the will of God is NOT.
 - The will of God is not physical, but spiritual.
 - It is not connected with a set of rules, location or specific ministry.
 - The will of God is not to be confused with the plan of God for your life.
2. God also has a specific PLAN for your life, which involves His DIRECTION.
3. Briefly explain the permissive will of God.
God occasionally allows things to happen to accomplish some larger purpose. (He does not necessarily approve of)

4. Not asking (James 4:2)
5. Asking with selfish or other wrong motives. (James 4:3; Prov. 21:13)
6. Insensitivity to the Word of God. (Proverbs 28:9)

III. There are four basic types of prayer (1 Timothy 2:1)

- A. Supplication – specific requests. Philippians 4:6 says, “.....let your requests be made known to God”. Too many prayers are wasted because they are so general. For example: God please give me a blessing. Which one? How do you want me to bless you?
- B. Prayer – this is the summation; the term used to classify all communication with God.
- C. Intercessions – prayers for others. This is important to keep your motives pure and keep your selfish eyes off yourself.
- D. Giving of thanks – Psalm 100:4 makes it clear that we enter the presence of God through thanksgiving and praise.

IV. Keep track of your prayer requests.

- A. Making a list will help you remember what to pray for. Otherwise your prayer life will not be consistent.
- B. Keeping a list of answered prayers is tremendously important to reinforce our faith in God's ability to answer prayer.

V. Basic questions

A. Does God answer all my prayers?

Yes, but not always the way you may want Him to, or at the time you want Him to. As we learned in lesson one, God is your Heavenly Father and all His ways are perfect. There will be times when in His infinite wisdom, the best answer to prayer will be “NO” or “NOT YET”. In those times, simply trust Him.

B. How important is it to pray for others?

1. Paul prayed for others continually, (Romans 1:9) and requested prayer on many occasions. (Hebrews 13:18; 2 Thessalonians 3:1)
2. Samuel said it was a sin against God not to pray for others. (1Samuel 12:23)
3. An example of effectual prayer for others is how a preacher from England named George Mueller prayed for the salvation of several people for up to 60 years. When he died, some were still lost. However, there were some saved at his funeral, and many others were saved within the next year.
4. Keep at it. The full results of your prayers will never be known completely in this life.

PRAYER: LESSON 6

1. What is something prayer does NOT accomplish?
 - It is not to move God for you or change His mind, it is for you to be conformed to His will.
2. What is the result of a good prayer life?
 - A proper prayer life results in peace of heart and mind
3. Prayer keeps you close to God so He can prove His sufficiency for your every need. What do the following verses teach us about God and our needs?
 - A. Matthew 6:8 – God is active in every detail of your life, and He knows exactly what you need even before you ask.
 - B. Psalm 50:15 – God allows needs to come into your life so He can draw you to Him to meet with Him.
4. Give the situation that is most dangerous for a Christian to be in.
 - When every single need is met, and you have need nothing including God.

- f. Ephesians 6:5-8 – our service is to be from the heart, with pure motives, as if we were serving Jesus Christ.
- g. Ephesians 5:15-17 – we are to redeem the time. Quit wasting time. Make use of the small amount God has given you.
2. Summarizing God’s will for your life: The will of God is the same for every person on earth, to be conformed to the image of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. Romans 8:28-29
 - b. John 17:20-23
 - c. Ephesians 4:13-15

III. How can I find God’s direction in my life?

Three things must be functioning in the life of a Christian for him to fulfill God’s will and receive His direction

- A. The Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit which indwells you must have free course in your life to direct you. (Galatians 5:25; John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10)
- B. The Word of God. The Word of God is your absolute authority in every detail of your life. You must learn to saturate your mind with God’s thoughts. (Philippians 2:5; Romans 12:1-2; Isaiah 55:6-11)
- C. The Local Church. The local church is organized to equip Christians for ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

IV. How does God give His direction in details of my life?

- A. You must be in conformity to the will of God before He will direct you in the specifics of life. Your priority should be to fulfill the general will of God in your daily life, and then trust Him to guide you in the detailed plan, step by step.
- B. God is infinitely more interested in your being the type of person He wants you to be than in your doing for him all the

b. From lesson one we learned that our Heavenly Father will never make a mistake in His dealings with His sons. Matt. 7:11, Rom. 8:28

2. God allows men to make their own choices in life, both good and bad.

a. Paul's trip to Jerusalem – Acts 21:4-14. God warned him three times not to go, but then allowed him to go to teach him obedience.

b. Hitler – God did not necessarily approve of him murdering 6 million of His chosen people, but allowed it as the beginning of the restoration of the Jews, and to return them to their homeland.

c. Man has a free will. God will not force anyone to do anything. God offers salvation and lays down the principles for a godly life, but if a man exercises the free will God has given him and rejects salvation. God permits that man's free will to be exercised, and the man suffers the consequences.

Galatians 6:7-8

B. The directive will of God

1. There are certain things God specifically wills.

a. 2 Peter 3:9 – God is not willing that any should perish. All lost people are out of the will of God regardless of what else they may do.

b. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – we are to give thanks for everything.

c. 1 Peter 2:13-15 – we are to submit to every ordinance of man. However, this must be balanced by the next point.

d. Romans 12:1-2 – we are not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Submission to the ordinances of man is to maintain a proper testimony to win them; while the same time, your life is to be transformed to live by a higher standard to please God)

e. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 – God desires our sanctification

5. According to 1 Thessalonians 5:18, we are to give thanks in everything. This includes the NEEDS and DIFFICULT TIMES of our lives.

6. What should be your first reaction in a tough situation?

Go to God in prayer

7. There are some primary principles concerning prayer. Briefly explain them from the following verses.

A. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 – develop a consistent prayer

B. Matthew 6:7 - Don't repeat the same words over and over

C. Exodus 3:11 - Talk to the Lord as a friend

8. List the attitudes that will interfere with your prayer life.

A. Unconfessed sin. (Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18)

B. An unforgiving spirit (Matthew 6:14-15)

C. Bitterness toward your mate (as well as others) 1 Peter 3:7

D. Not asking (James 4:2)

E. Asking with selfish or other wrong motives. (James 4:3; Prov. 21:13)

F. Insensitivity to the Word of God. (Proverbs 28:9)

9. What are the two ways that help you keep your prayer requests in order?

- A. Making a list will help you remember what to pray for. Otherwise your prayer life will not be consistent.
- B. Keeping a list of answered prayers is tremendously important to reinforce our faith in God's ability to answer prayer.

10. God answers your prayers, but not always the way you expect. His answer will sometimes be NO or NOT YET .

11. Man is instructed not to pray to idols or other men.

Explain, 1 Timothy 2:5 in light of this truth.

- we have a direct access to God and that is our Lord Jesus Christ

12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson

- prayer is our direct communication to God

- our personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ cannot grow without proper communication.

Key memory verses: 1 Timothy 2:5; Psalm 66:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:18

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are

1. Man should pray to idols, saints or other men.
2. If you pray long enough or hard enough, God will change His mind and do what you want
3. The best prayers are to those which have been written by others and are just said by you.
4. Prayer must be at set time in a set format.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why?

LESSON 7: THE WILL OF GOD

How Do I Find God's Will For My Life?

A famous preacher once said that a successful man is a man who finds out what God wants him to accomplish with his life and then fulfills it. That is a very profound statement. The true measure of man's success is not his social status or bank account, of his influence and fame. It is simply doing what God wants him to do.

The purpose of this lesson is to give the individual a clear understanding of what the will of God is, as revealed in the Bible, so he can begin to accomplish those things God would have him to accomplish.

- I. What the will of God is NOT:
 - A. The will of God is not physical, but spiritual. It is never connected with a set of rules, a geographical location, or a specific ministry.
 - B. The will of God is not to be confused with the plan of God for your life. God has a specific plan for your life individually. That plan is the specific direction God will give in individual circumstances of your life.
- II. There are two aspects to the will of God, His permissive will, and His directive will
 - A. The permissive will of God. It must be clearly understood that God occasionally allows things to happen. He does not necessarily approve of in order to accomplish some larger purpose.
 1. Occasionally, things happen in a Christian's life which do not appear to be good.
 - a. God will allow suffering in the lives of His children to perfect them, although He would prefer that they did not have to suffer. 1 Peter 3:15-18; 2 Corinthians 12:6-10; 1 Peter 5:10.