

**NEW MEMBERS PARTNERSHIP CLASS**

*"Teaching Biblical Principles For Everyday Victorious Living"*

**Pastor  
Michael Owens**

## CHAPTER ONE - CHURCH COMMITMENT

*Commit - to put into charge or trust, obligate, to pledge or assign to some particular use to be responsible for particular assignments(s).*

**C**ome to services made available whenever possible.

**O**vercome all negative attempts from others to fulfill obligations

**M**aintain the proper attitude towards God and Disciples of Christ Bible Fellowship vision.

**M**onitor the lifestyles of the people who influence you.

**I**nspire others to attend church regularly.

**T**ithe your time, talents and finances.

**T**ime is of essence in Disciples of Christ Bible Fellowship, so please be punctual.

**E**njoy all aspects of each ministry.

**D**isciplined lifestyle is a **must**.

## HOW TO FIND A GOOD CHURCH

As a new, or young, Christian it is important to find a good church. If church life was meaningless to you in the past, or is a foreign environment to you, you may wonder why finding a good church is so important. You may wonder what you should look for in a church. You may wonder what to do when you find a good church. Before we look at these areas, there is one golden rule that you must bear in mind at all times.

*The Golden Rule in How To Find a Good Church:* Realize that the perfect church does not exist!

**If you are looking for the perfect church, then you might as well stop now. Churches are made up of imperfect people with a desire to serve and follow a perfect God. God is perfect, churches are not. Besides, as one preacher said, "If you ever found the perfect church, you would ruin it the first day you attended!" With that in mind, here are some helpful hints on finding a good church.**

## REASONS TO FIND A GOOD CHURCH

Read Acts 2:41-42. From these verses, we can see four great reasons the first church gathered together; those reasons are valid for us today.

### **You need sound teaching**

The best and healthiest way to grow, as a Christian, is to feed on good doctrine. There is plenty of bad doctrine in the world and among false religions. You want to start your Christian life by being instructed and established in good Bible-based doctrine. Doctrine, which consists of the basic fundamental beliefs, is to a Christian what a solid foundation is to a building. With the proper foundation, the rest of the building will go up properly and will be secure. In the same way, with proper doctrine as our foundation, a Christian will grow up strong and healthy.

A good church will have a pastor, and possibly other leaders, who are gifted by God to teach the Word. These people are responsible to teach sound, biblical doctrine, just as the apostles did in the early church. Look for a church that teaches basic things such as: salvation by faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ; the Bible as the inspired Word of God; the Trinity as the three persons of the Godhead-Father, Son and Holy Spirit; the baptism in the Spirit; the importance of evangelism and discipleship; the goodness of God demonstrated by healing, the abundant life and the walk of victory in Christ. You will want to find a church where there is a spirit of faith, not an attitude of doom and condemnation.

## **You need fellowship**

God didn't create you to be a "lone ranger." He created you with a need, and a desire, for friendships of various levels. As a Christian, you need the other members of the Body of Christ for encouragement and fellowship. Sometimes we need spiritual fellowship, and at other times, we just need Christian friends with whom we can enjoy wholesome fun.

A good church ought to be like a family. When you were born again you became a member of God's family. He wants you to be involved with other members of the family of God. When you become a Christian, your natural family and friends don't always understand your life. A good church family will be there to support and encourage you in the Lord.

## **You need accountability**

The quality or state of being accountable: an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions.

Luke 16:10 – If you are determined to be faithful in the church, you must also be determined to become accountable.

## **You need the breaking of bread**

You might wonder what this means. In the early church, the term "breaking of bread" became the name for the institution of the Lord's Supper. It is during this ordinance of the church that we remember what the broken body and shed blood of Jesus means to us. We can thank Him for the healing which He provided for us through His broken body and for the forgiveness of our sin which He provided for us through His shed blood.

## **You need Prayer**

Faith-filled, Spirit-led prayer is one of the mightiest tools God has given us. As we yield ourselves to God's Spirit in prayer, we can find and follow His plan and purpose for our lives, our families, our church and our community. Prayer is our vital link to heaven and God's resources. A good church will place an emphasis on prayer. It is important to find a praying church: A church that teaches you how to pray and sets aside time for prayer.

## **WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A GOOD CHURCH**

Read Ephesians 4:11-16. This passage of Scripture teaches us some of the things that will be found in a good church.

### **Look for a church with a strong pastor**

One of the gifts that God gives to the Body of Christ is pastors. It is important to find a church with a strong pastor. A strong pastor is someone who has a definite call from God to be a pastor. A strong pastor will have a loving and caring heart like Jesus did when He looked upon the multitudes and saw that they were like a sheep without a shepherd. A strong pastor will be a leader with a vision for fulfilling what God has called his church to do. A strong pastor will teach and preach the Bible, not man's ideas, traditions or doctrines.

Generally speaking, churches that are run by boards, committees, elders or small controlling groups tend to have problems really moving ahead with God's plan. They tend to get bogged down in meetings, bureaucracy and politics. It seems to be God's best plan to have a church that is led by a strong pastor who is surrounded by those who can provide godly counsel and wisdom when called upon.

### **Look for a church that teaches and perfects the believers for the work of the ministry.**

As a believer it is important to be a part of a church that is helping you to do the work of the ministry. By "work of the ministry" we mean anything that has to do with building up the Body of Christ. This includes the ministry of reconciliation (soul winning) that every believer has been entrusted with, as well as other areas of helps ministries, teaching and preaching. A good church will be teaching and equipping you so that you can function the place that God has designed for you.

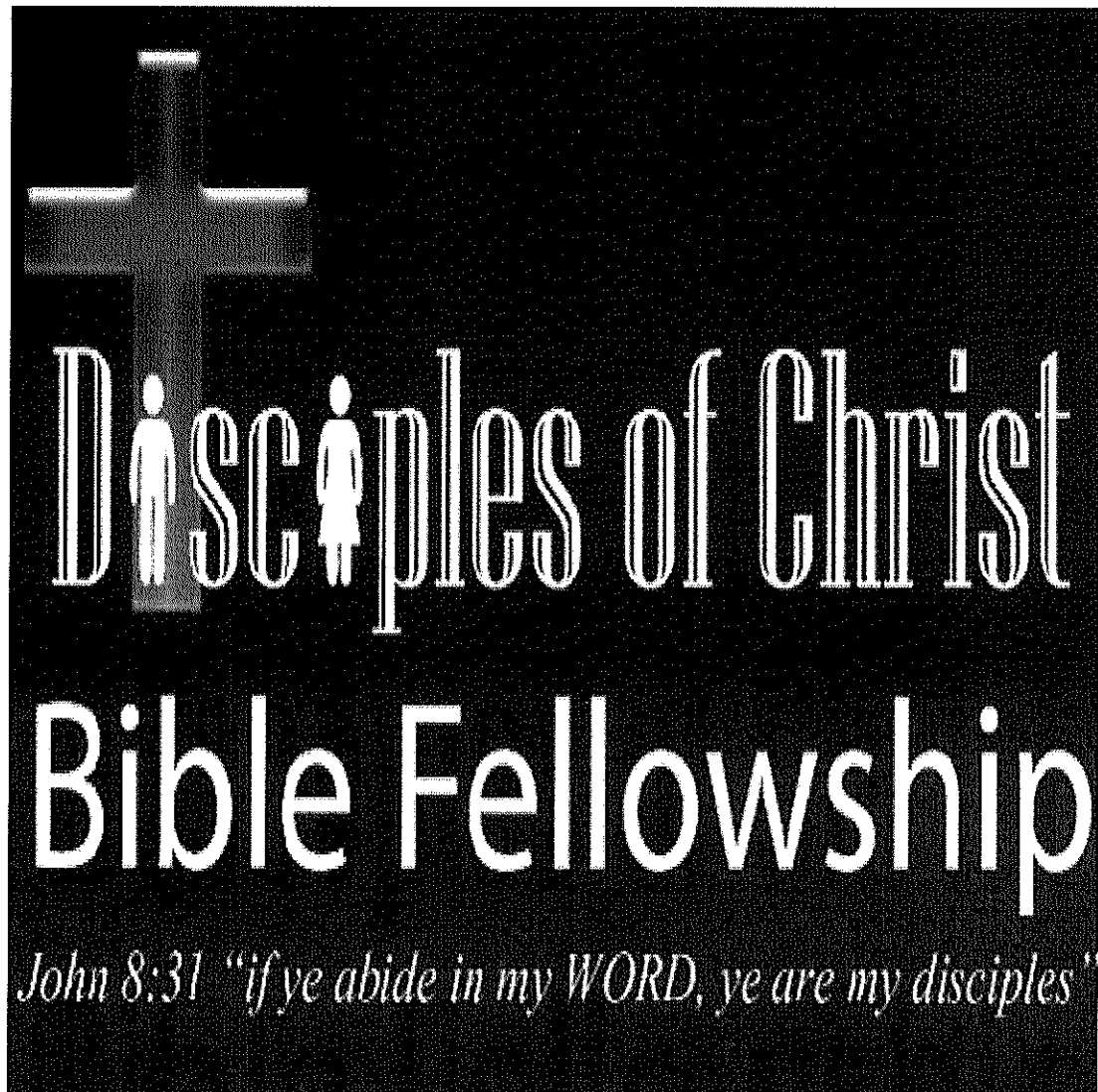
### **Look for a church that teaches and challenges you to grow up spiritually.**

As a new Christian, you are a "babe in Christ," but you don't want to remain a spiritual baby. Over time, and with the proper instruction, you should begin to grow spiritually. It is heartbreaking to see a person who has been a Christian for a good many years but who is still a baby, spiritually speaking. A good church will speak the truth in love and challenge you to grow. At times you will need loving correction, gentle instruction and occasional reproof to help you grow into mature spiritual adulthood. A good church will challenge you to develop your own personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This type of church will help make you a disciple of Christ, so you are developing a healthy dependence upon the Lord and His Word. A good church will provide anything necessary to teach and challenge you to grow up into Him.

## **Look for a church with a loving atmosphere**

There is just something about feeling “at home” in church. One of the joys of the Christian Life is to be a part of a church family that loves and cares for one another. This is the type of church that edifies itself in love.

A loving church family, led by a loving pastor, will be there when needs arise in your life. Perhaps there will be a time when you will need someone to perform a marriage, a funeral, water baptism, a baby dedication, hospital visitations or pray for you or those in your family who are sick. Perhaps you will need food, clothing or material things, at some time. When you are an active part of a local church, that church family will be there to help meet your needs. A church with an atmosphere of love, forgiveness and acceptance is the type of church in which you will grow and blossom.



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## CHAPTER TWO - HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

### A. THE BIG QUESTION

How do you know if you are a Christian? What must you do to be saved? Does going to church or being a good person make you a Christian or guarantee you eternal life? Does it really matter what you believe? These are all questions of eternal importance.

When it comes to eternal considerations, nothing matters more than making sure you qualify for eternal life in heaven. What are the qualifications?

### B. THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR ETERNAL LIFE

1 John 5: 11-13

Who grants eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_

Where is it found? \_\_\_\_\_

Who has eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_

Who doesn't have eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_

A person who believes in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, can \_\_\_\_\_ (choose correct word) that he/she has eternal life.

Hope

Guess

Wish

Feel

Know

Pray

**ETERNAL LIFE:** Eternal life is not only a quality of life, or a span of timelessness in which to live, but also it is a quality of life that includes abundance. It is the God-kind of life that Jesus lived.

### C. WHO IS JESUS?

Matthew 1:23-25

*"Jesus is God manifested in the flesh".*

1. What did Jesus say about Himself? John 14:8,9
2. What did others say about Jesus? John 1:1,14 (John) John 20:25-28 (Thomas)



## D. JESUS CAME FOR A PURPOSE?

John 10:10: “ I came that they may have life”.

## E. HOW DID JESUS DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION BENEFIT US?

1. Romans 6:4 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is sin and where did it come from? 1 John 3:8

**SIN:** To sin means, “to miss the mark”. We could understand sin in terms of archery – that is to sin means to miss the bull’s eye. When an arrow hits any of the outside the bull’s eye, it has missed the mark. In the same way, our fallen human nature (which we inherited from Adam, the father of the human race) has caused us to miss the bull’s eye of God’s perfection. We have missed the mark of God’s glory. The fallen human nature is a sin nature (a nature that misses the mark).

2. Who are sinners? (Romans 3:23) “for all have sinned and fallen short of Gods glory”.

There is a difference between our sin nature and our sinful acts. Sinful acts are the result of our sin nature. It is the sin nature that God is primarily concerned with. This inherited sin nature separates us from God. If God can change the sin nature in us, then our desire to commit sinful acts will also change.

3. What is the result of sin?

A. 1 John 3: 4 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Roman 5:12 \_\_\_\_\_

C. Romans 6:23 \_\_\_\_\_

**DEATH:** Three types of death are described in the Bible: spiritual death, physical death and the second death (also called eternal death). If a person is not born again, his spirit (or heart), the part of him that contacts God, is separated from God- he is spiritually dead. Spiritual death is not cessation of being; rather, it is a separation from God. Physical death occurs when life departs from the physical body. The second death will occur after the Great White Throne of Judgment when everyone who has not received the Lord Jesus Christ (whose names are not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life) will be cast into the lake of fire, eternally separated from God. (See Revelation 20:11-14).

a. What is man’s heart condition before Christ? Ephesians 2:1-3 Mark 7:21-23

b. What did God promise He would do to solve the problem of man's heart?

- Ezekiel 36:26-27 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you".  
\*Hebrew 8:10-13

## F. JESUS DIED FOR PEOPLE LIKE US

Jesus died for people like you and me. We might look clean and polished on the outside, but apart from Christ we are void of true life. Sin has been the problem of man's heart since the Garden of Eden, but Jesus came to solve the sin problem once and for all. Jesus came to give us a new heart (or spirit); but in order to do so, He had to give His life. Jesus hung upon a cross and gave His life so that we could have eternal life.

## G. GOD WILL GRANT US NEW LIFE

1. 2 Corinthians 5:17

What happens to a person who is in Christ? They become a new creature in Christ Jesus

What happens to a person's old life? Passed away, and behold all is new

2. John 3:1-6

Jesus told Nicodemus that a person cannot enter the kingdom of God unless he is what?

(vs 3.5) \_\_\_\_\_

**BORN AGAIN:** Being born again is also called the "new birth". When you are born again spiritually you received a recreated heart (spirit) from God; that is, your heart or spirit is born again is now in contact or in relationship with God. Another way to explain this is that when your spirit or heart is born again. God gives you a new nature.

This new heart (or spirit) gives you a new nature and brings you into a father/child relationship with God. You are actually transferred, or adopted, into the family of God. You become a child of God a member of His family through the new birth. A preacher once said that it isn't important what *church* you belong to, it's important which *family* you belong to.

Colossians 1:12,13

## H. IS JESUS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD?

1. John 14:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Did Jesus say He was “a way” or “the way”? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Acts 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_

## I. HOW DO WE RECEIVE SALVATION?

1. John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10

## J. CAN SALVATION BE OBTAINED THROUGH GOOD DEEDS OR BY BEING RELIGIOUS?

Ephesians 2:8,9 \_\_\_\_\_

**SALVATION:** This is the all-inclusive word of the **gospel!** The use of this word in the Bible includes forgiveness of sins; deliverance from danger, captivity, and judgment, health and healing of the body; help, welfare, safety, victory, freedom from prison, preservation of life and physical health; final and complete deliverance from all the curse, including death. Salvation is a free gift. Gifts are not earned, they are simply received.

**CONFESS:** We receive salvation by a combination of what we say with our mouth and what we believe in our heart. “To confess” means to acknowledge, to agree with and to say the same thing as. To confess our belief in Jesus as Lord means to acknowledge, and to agree and to say that Jesus is Lord.

## **K. HOW TO BE SURE YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN**

### **WE BASE OUR FAITH ON FACTS**

You may ask, "What if I have doubts whether or not I am born again?"

The enemy's first tactic is to cast doubt on the work God has done in your heart. He will try to plant thoughts in your mind to convince you that you are not really born again. One day you may really think you are saved and the next day you may not; therefore, you can see that your intellect is not a good judge to go by. The enemy may also try to make you feel as if you are not saved. One day you may feel very born again and the next day you may not. Therefore, your feelings or any emotional experiences you may have are not a good standard to go by.

How do you know that you are truly a born-again Christian? How do you know you have eternal life? How do you counterattack the enemy when he works against your mind and feelings? The first things you need to know is that your assurance of salvation is based on the authority of God's Word, not on your intellect or emotional feelings.

You must go by the facts. Facts do not change. What are the facts? God's Word contains the unchanging facts. God's Word is the only source of stability concerning your Christian life. God knows every fact; His Word contains the facts. Faith is our trust in God and His Word. Feelings are the result of our faith. We do not depend on feelings or emotions to be saved. We are saved by placing our trust in God.

### **L. TAKE THE ASSURANCE TEST**

#### 1. Facts

Do Bible facts ever change? \_\_\_\_\_

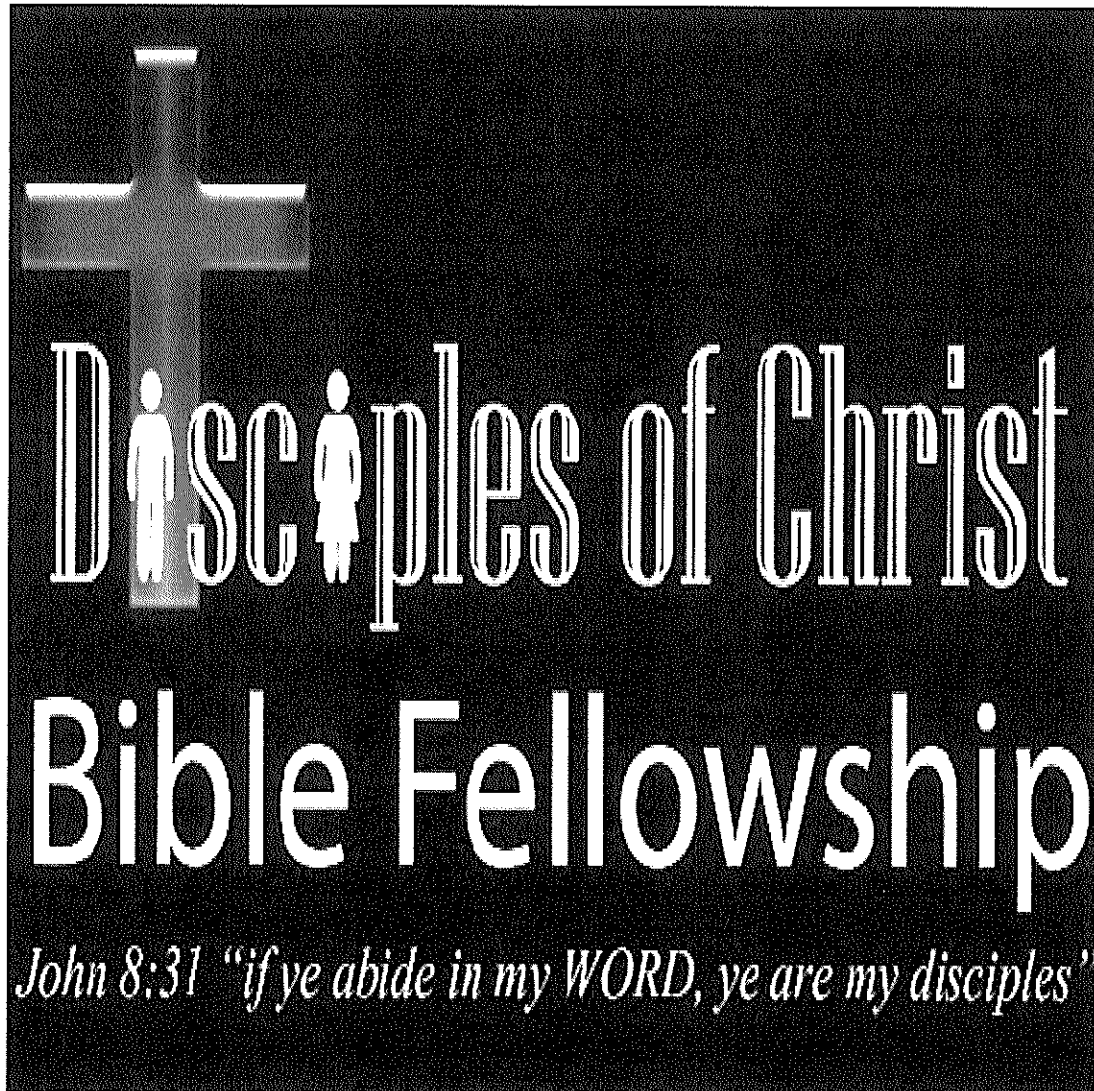
#### 2. Feelings

Do our feelings ever change? \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. Faith

What happens if our faith is in our feelings? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **CHAPTER THREE -HOW TO PRAY**

### **A. What is Prayer?**

Prayer is effective communication between God and His people.

James 5:16 \_\_\_\_\_

### **Two Categories of Prayer**

#### **Corporate prayer**

A Combined group of believers coming together in unity for prayer

1. Acts 12:1-16 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Acts 16:16-26 \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Personal Prayer**

Mathew 6:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

### **B. Different kinds of prayer**

#### **1. Petition Prayer**

An earnest and formal spoken request to our Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus in the spirit, according to his word.

1. John 16:22-24
2. Mark 11:24-25
3. 1 John 5:14-15

#### **2. Intercessory Prayer**

Romans 8:24-28 \_\_\_\_\_

#### **3. Prayer of Dedication**

Mark 14:32-42 \_\_\_\_\_

#### **4. Prayer of Agreement**

A. Amos 3:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Mathew 18:18-20 \_\_\_\_\_

#### **5. Authoritative Prayer**

A. John 14:10-14 \_\_\_\_\_

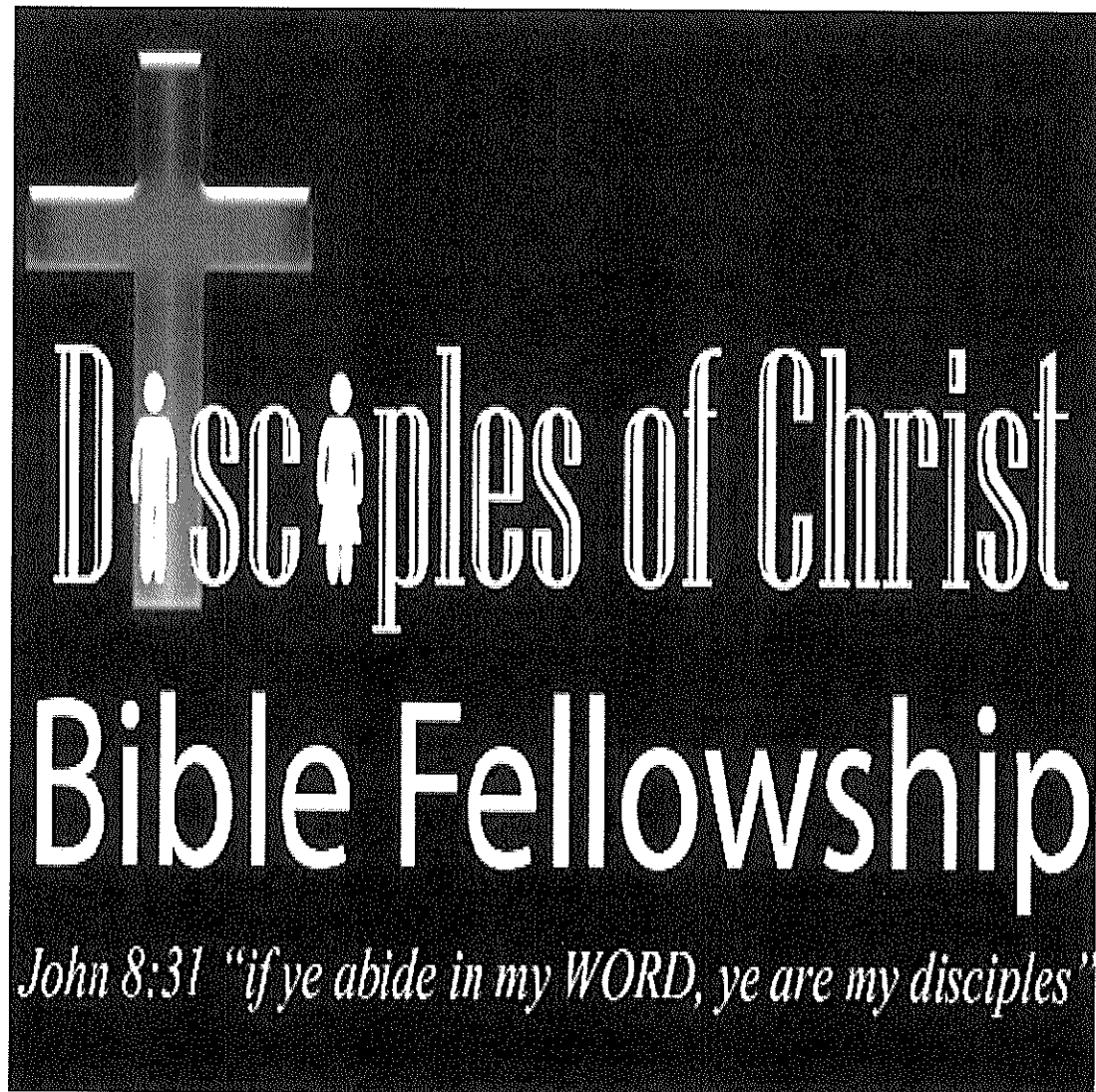
B. Acts: 3:1-8 \_\_\_\_\_

C. Acts: 13:8-12 \_\_\_\_\_

D. Acts 14:8-10  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **6. Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Phil. 4: 6 – 7  
\_\_\_\_\_



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## **CHAPTER FOUR - HOW TO LIVE A VICTORIOUS OVERCOMING LIFE**

### **A. GOD BLESS YOU**

God wants you to experience a life of abundance. Remember that Jesus said in John 10:10: **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.** What does it mean to experience abundance? What is abundant life? We know that abundant life begins when we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord, and we are born again. This is the beginning of life as God intended it to be, but it does not stop there. The abundant life, by definition, means the abundant, God-kind of life. What kind of life does God have?

God wants you to prosper in your spirit, in your soul (which is your will and the mental and emotional part of your personality) and in your body. Abundant life includes spiritual fulfillment, mental and emotional peace and physical healing and prosperity. Sometimes Christians are given the false impression that poverty, lack, oppression, sickness and tragedy in the life of a Christian with abuses so the Christian will demonstrate more nobility and humility than he would have if his life had been one of blessing and abundance. Maybe you've heard believers say things like. "The Lord is using the disease to teach me something." "God must have had a reason for allowing us to have the accident." This tragedy is God's way to getting my attention. "Insurance companies even call tornadoes, hurricanes and natural disasters" acts of God." The Bible does not teach that.

When we use the phrase "God bless you," we have to ask ourselves, what are we really saying? Does God want Christians to be blessed? Let's look at the Scriptures.

#### 1. John 10:10

What type of life Jesus say He came to bring? \_\_\_\_\_

Abundantly: "Superabundant (in quantity) or superior (in quality)." The implication is excessive and beyond measure. To have more, to have enough and to spare, increase, a surplus!

#### 2. 3 John 2

What did the Holy Spirit inspire to Apostle John to wish for Christians? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Proverbs 10:22

What does God's blessing do for believers? \_\_\_\_\_

What does "he addeth no sorrow with it" means? \_\_\_\_\_

Should we be ashamed, apologetic or feel guilty if we are blessed with abundance? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Deuteronomy 11:21

If we obey the Lord's command, He promises long life for us and our children. In addition, He says that our days can be like the "days of Heaven".

5. Psalm 103: 1-5

In verse 2, what are we to remember?      Gods benefits  
What benefits are listed in these verses?

## **B. WHY DOES GOD WANT US TO BE BLESSED WITH ABUNDANCE?**

There are two basic reasons God wants us to experience the blessing of the abundant life.

**First:** God loves us and wants us to enjoy life.

**Second:** God loves others, and He wants us to be a channel so He can bless others through us.

**God wants you to be blessed and to be a blessing.**

It's a fact that the more you have – in spiritual and material things – the more you can give to others.

1. 1 Timothy 6:17,18

God admonishes the rich to be aware of two things. This Scriptures tells us that "God gives us richly all things." For what purpose?

2. Deuteronomy 8:11-18

As we (believers) prosper in life, we are told to remember a few things.

Who gives us the power to get wealth? God

Why does He give us power to get wealth? "Confirm/Establish His Covenant"

**TO ESTABLISH HIS COVENANT:** God has always wanted His people to prosper. In the Old Testament we see the incredible wealth, well-being and health of God's people. As people blessed the Lord, their lives were a testimony of God's goodness, and they had the resources necessary to perpetuate God's covenant and to bear the truth of His Word.

God wanted His people under the Old Covenant to be blessed and prosperous. How much more does God want is His people under the new and better covenant (Heb. 8:6) to be blessed with abundance?

3. 2 Corinthians 9:7,8

Whom does God love? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Matthew 6:33

What does this verse tell us? \_\_\_\_\_

### C. WE MUST LEARN TO BE CONTENT

While God does want us blessed, at the same time, He wants us to be content in all circumstances. We are to expect and look forward to God's great blessings while being content with our current lot in life. This is not always easy. Trust God for an increasing measure of the abundance life, and don't allow yourself to grumble with discontent in your present status in life.

1. Philippians 4:11-13

What did Paul say he had learned? (v.11) \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 6:6

GODLINESS + \_\_\_\_\_ = GREAT GAIN

## 2. Hebrews 13:5

Concerning contentment, what does God tell us in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

### **D. TWO AREAS OF ABUNDANT LIVING: HEALING AND PROSPERITY**

The subjects of divine healing, health and prosperity have caused no small stir among churches and denominations. Those who believe in healing and prosperity through faith have been labeled the “health and wealth” believers, the “name it and claim it” group, the “confess it and possess it” Christians. While there have been abuses in these areas by misguided Christians, there is a solid biblical basis for believing that God Himself wants believers healed and healthy in their bodies and prosperous in material and financial matters.

You might wonder, *If it is God’s will for Christians to be healed and prosperous, why are so many Christians sick and poor?* Perhaps these thoughts will shed some light on the subject.

The Bible teaches that God is not willing that anyone perish, but that all should come to repentance. God loved the world so much that He sent His only Son that whosoever would believe in Him would not perish but would have everlasting life. (John 3:16.) It is God’s will for all to be saved. Yet, we know that not everyone will be saved. Why? Simply because they refuse to believe God’s Word; they refuse to believe in and receive Jesus Christ as Lord.

In the same way, we can see that the Bible teaches us it is God’s will for all believers to have life and have it more abundantly. God wants us to prosper and be in health as our soul prospers. It is God’s will for all believers to enjoy the abundant life – which includes healing and prosperity. Yet, we know that not everyone will experience healing, health and prosperity. Why? Many Christians refuse to believe God’s Word on the subject. Many Christians would rather believe their experience, or the experience of other Christians, than to base their beliefs on God’s Word.

On the other hand, there are times when believers do believe God’s Word on the subject, but they are still not living in total health and prosperity. Why is this? There can be various reasons, but let’s look at a few common reasons.

One reason could simply be a demonic attack in the areas of healing and prosperity. If the devil can defeat a Christian in these areas and “wear down” their faith, then he has accomplished a double victory. First, the Christian who became weary in well-doing, and who cast away his or her confidence in God’s Word in these areas does not experience the blessing of healing and good health, nor abundant prosperity. Second, the devil has successfully silenced this Christian from preaching or ministering to others in these areas. There is no doubt that in these areas the Christian must patiently fight the good fight of faith to obtain the promises. It is not always easy to do, and oftentimes takes perseverance and requires longsuffering.

Another reason could simply be a misunderstanding of, or impatience, with regard to the law of *sowing and reaping*. Although this chapter does not include an in-depth look at God's laws of giving and receiving; nonetheless, *giving is the way to abundant living!* We will reap what we sow. (For further study please see: Gen 8:22, 2 Cor 9:6; Gal. 6: 7-9, Luke 6:38, Mal 3:10,11.) As we tithe and give offerings to the work of God we are sowing into God's Kingdom. Like any seed that is planted, a period of time will usually pass before we see any evidence of that growing seed. It was growing all the time, but often we have to wait a season or two to see and reap the full harvest or our seed on a consistent basis. Of course, our harvest will be in direct proportion to the amount we have sown. Again, we shall reap if we don't faint. This too is an area where faith and patience must be exercised on a regular basis.

Let's look at the Scriptures a little more closely. Most Christians will agree that God has the power to do anything. God has the ability to heal and prosper anyone he chooses. The real question in the mind of many believers is this: Is it God's will to heal and prosper everyone? We know God is able, but is He willing? Can we prove from the Bible that it is God's will to heal and prosper every believer? Let's look at these Scripture.

1. God's will is revealed in our redemption.

Galatians 3:13,14

What has Christ already redeemed us from? \_\_\_\_\_

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**THE CURSE OF THE LAW:** The term "the law" usually refers to the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. According to these five books we can see that the curse of the law, or the result of breaking God's law, is threefold. – Poverty, sickness and eternal death. Jesus through His death, burial and resurrection redeemed us from this curse. In other words, He freed us from the bondage of poverty, the destruction of sickness and disease and the eternal separation from God, if we will only believe and have faith in Him as our Redeemer.

What do these Scriptures tell us could now come on the Gentiles (nonbelievers) through Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

**THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM:** We can see from a study of Abraham's life that the promise of the blessing of Abraham was first given in Genesis 12:1-3,5. Ultimately through Abraham's seed the Lord Jesus Christ would be born. Through Jesus Christ all of mankind would be blessed. In addition, the blessing of Abraham included blessings on him personally – on his body, on his name, on his family – and through him to others. In observing Abraham's life we see him as a man blessed of the Lord. He was blessed with a healthy, long life, as noted in Genesis 24:1. He was very rich, as mentioned in Genesis 13:2 and 24:34,35. He was a blessing to others, and he tithed ten percent of all that he had, as described in Genesis 14:18-20. His family was blessed, and his son Isaac received the blessing of Abraham. We can

clearly see the blessing of Abraham included **health** and **wealth**. That blessing of Abraham is for us today, because in Christ we are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise. (See Galatians 3:16,29).

**E. WHAT ABOUT SICKNESS AND POVERTY?**

Deuteronomy 28

1. Deuteronomy 28:1-14

What are some of the blessings that come on believers as they obey God's Word

2. What are some of the curses found in Deuteronomy?

A blessing is not a curse. A curse is not a "blessing in disguise." God's blessings are true blessings. When God calls something a curse, it is a curse! We can clearly see that healing; good health and prosperity are God's will for every believer. To be healthy and prosperous is a blessing. Health and prosperity are part of the abundant life Jesus came to bring.

**F. REMEMBER, GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE**

1. 2 Corinthians 2:14

When does God want us to triumph? \_\_\_\_\_

Define "always" in your own words. \_\_\_\_\_

2. 1 Corinthians 15:57

What does God give us through Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe victory \_\_\_\_\_

3. Romans 8:37

What does God say we are through Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe someone who is more than a conqueror.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. 1 John 5:4,5

If we are born of God and believe that Jesus is the Son of God what are we promised?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Psalms 34:19

Does God promise us that we will never face any difficulty? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Philippians 4:13

What does God say you can do through Christ's strength? \_\_\_\_\_

### **G. RECOGNIZE THERE ARE TWO KINGDOMS**

The Bible teaches there are two kingdoms. These two invisible kingdoms are opposed to one another. Each kingdom has a king, as well as subjects, a governmental system and a strategy. It will help you as you learn to spiritually discern these kingdoms.

1. Colossians 1:13

What power was over you before you received Jesus as Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 2:1-3

Before you became a Christian, whose power and kingdom were you under? \_\_\_\_\_

3. John 3:3

Who can see the kingdom of God? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Romans 14:17

What three characteristics describe the kingdom of God? *Righteousness, peace, joy*

### **H. REALIZE YOUR AUTHORITY OVER SATAN AND HIS KINGDOM**

By now you have noticed that you have an enemy. Satan called the devil, is the adversary of the Christian. Satan's main goal is to blind the minds of unbelievers so that they do not receive Jesus as their Lord. Once a person has confessed Jesus as his Lord, Satan's next goal is to

paralyze the effectiveness of that Christian's witness by seeking to destroy his faith and causing him to doubt the validity of his own salvation, the Bible, or any facet of his faith.

Since the very beginning, Satan has been trying to become a god. When the true and only God Almighty – our Father – cast Satan out of heaven to the earth, Satan began trying to destroy God's creation – man – to get back at God. However, there was one Man Satan could not destroy through sin and that Man was Jesus Christ! Jesus totally defeated Satan and has given us the legal right to His victory through His name.

Satan and Jesus are archenemies. It is not surprising that Satan is our adversary. We need not be afraid of Satan, but we do need to be aware of his devices so that we take authority, in the name of Jesus, over any of his attacks.

1. Discern Satan and his schemes
- A. Ephesians 6:12

Recognize that you are in an invisible wrestling match; but remember, Satan is a defeated foe. Jesus Christ, in His death, burial and resurrection, overcame and defeated Satan. The fight that the Christian is called upon to fight is the good fight of faith (1 Tim 6:12).

- .1 John 3:8

What was Jesus' main purpose in coming to earth?      *"To destroy the works of the devil"*

- .Colossians 2:15

What did Jesus do to Satan and his host?      *"Dis-armed the rulers and authorities"*

- Ephesians 1: 20-22

Where is Jesus seated now?      *"At Gods Right Hand in heavenly places"*

2. Recognize your authority over the devil

Jesus has granted you a position of authority over the devil. For example, in a secular job when you are in a position of authority you have the right to grant privileges to those who are under your authority. You can send one of your employees to represent you in a meeting or to speak for you in certain situations. You can send someone on an assignment, in your name, to act as your representative. By granting someone this right, you are giving him or her authority to act as you would act, to speak on your behalf and to represent you properly.

In a real sense, everyone your representative contacts or speaks with knows that you are the one who will be responsible for fulfilling any promises he makes. Everyone knows that your representative could not possibly fulfill the promises he or she makes in your name, but they expect you, the one in authority, to make the promises good!



In the same way, Jesus Christ is in a position of authority as the King and Lord of the universe. He has the right to grant authority to anyone He wishes. Jesus has granted authority to every believer. He has given every believer the right to use His name. Jesus has given us “the power of attorney” to use His name to defeat the devil. As we exercise our authority through God’s Word and in the name of Jesus, Jesus is responsible to make His promises good.

1. Mark 16:17

Jesus gave us authority in His name. What did He tell us to do in His name concerning the devil and demons? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Luke 10:18, 19

Jesus gave us power to overcome what? \_\_\_\_\_

3. 1 John 4:4

God lives inside of you. What does this verse say about God inside of you and the devil in the world? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Ephesians 2:6

We saw earlier that Jesus has raised up far above all the power of the enemy (Eph. 1:20:22). Where does this Scripture say we have been raised and seated? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Be familiar with your spiritual weapons

James 4:7

What two things are we told to do? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Know how to exercise your authority over the enemy

God has given us real weapons with which we can fight the good fight of faith and enforce the enemy's defeat in our lives. Our weapons are tested and guaranteed to overcome Satan. God has not left us helpless; He has given us weapons in order to fight the good fight of faith.

2 Corinthians 10 4;5

What type of weapons do we have? \_\_\_\_\_

What do our weapons do?

We can see from this passage that much of our enemy's attack is aimed against our mind: in thoughts, imaginations and, eventually, strongholds. It is important that we spend time thinking upon God's Word and do not allow the devil any foothold in our thought life

Always remember that the weapons that God has given you are mighty! Remember to quote the Word of God, claim the blood of Jesus, use the name of Jesus and speak words of faith to overcome all the wiles of the evil!