

**CHURCH OF NIGERIA  
(ANGLICAN COMMUNION)  
PROVINCE OF NIGER DELTA  
DIOCESE OF EVO**

**DISCIPLESHIP (FOLLOW-UP) MANUAL FOR ALL CHURCHES**

**NOVEMBER 2010**

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# FOREWORD

We have been clear on it from the inception of our Diocese that Discipleship will be in the front burner. A situation where we have so many converts in the church but who do not properly understand what our faith is can simply not continue. The manual in your hand is the product of our sincere effort to stem the ugly trend.

You will recall that we had earlier directed through the Chaplain of the Sunday school and Discipleship Ministry, Rev. Cephaz Okarefe, that all our Churches set up Discipleship Units manned by competent Superintendents and Assistants otherwise known as Follow up unit leaders; and that every person presented to us for confirmation must be those who have successfully completed the follow up curriculum. With the release of this manual, we expect full compliance to this directive effective from January 2011. Our people must be disciplined properly, and this cannot be compromised because of the irreparable damage failure will cause to people in eternity.

The manual has been carefully designed, developed and thoroughly packaged by competent hands. We fully approve and commend it for use in all Churches in our Diocese and beyond.

+Innocent, Evo

# EDITORIAL

We all know about the Great Commission which is to proclaim the whole gospel to all people. We equally know about the great command which is to love one another as God loves us. But perhaps, what some may not be aware of, or sensitive to, is the great omission. We are making efforts to obey the Great Commission; and probably working on obeying the second, the great command. But there has been a glaring failure, unfortunately, when it comes to *discipling people for the LORD*. Those who understand the Great Commission of our LORD quite well will probably see this as a catastrophe of monumental proportion. This is probably why at the inception of the Diocese of Evo, the Sunday school and Discipleship Ministry (SSDM) was established by his Lordship, the Rt. Rev. I. U. Ordu, with a clear mandate to set up a discipleship system for the entire Diocese. This manual is one of the tools in the comprehensive process of executing that mandate and plugs the hole created by this unfortunate great omission.

It is structured into seven parts which are *The new Life* (six studies) *Growing in the new Life* (three studies); *Living out the new Life* (three studies); *Living out the New Life: The Role of The Holy Spirit* (four studies); *Challenges of the new Life* (four studies) and *Perfecting the new Life* (four studies). The concluding part (Part Seven) comprises of *General review, assessment, graduation and award of Certificates*. Each study is designed to end with *home assignment* which is meant for home work only. And these must be checked by teachers before the start of next lesson. In all there are a total of twenty-six studies, and they are structured to last for a minimum of seven months, and maximum of eight; and the entire curriculum requires between twenty six – thirty teachers to successfully implement. This calls for serious commitment on the part of all. Discipleship is serious business!

We have labored prayerfully to serve this spiritual menu for our people. It is open to review when necessary. We need to serve it with passionate zeal in our churches to bring the desired nourishment. And let those who are served eat with delight. Christ will certainly be glorified.

You asked for it. You waited for it. And here you have it!

Rev. Cephas Okarefe

Chaplain, SSDM, Evo

# PART ONE – THE NEW LIFE

## STUDY 1

**TOPIC:** SIN

**TEXT:** Gen. 3: 1- 24

*AIM: To help participants define and explain the word sin and live in victory over it afterward.*

**INTRODUCTION:** Sin is a topic that so many people today do not want to talk about. While some say / think it is obsolete, some others simply do not want to be confronted with the truth about their lives. But the truth is that this three letter word S-I-N has affected the whole of humanity and caused death to reign over all (Rm. 5: 12, 14). The Bible maintains that from Adam's disobedience, all mankind have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rm. 3:23). It is therefore very important that every true seeker of salvation understands what sin is, its effect, and God's response, with a view to cultivating the right attitude toward it.

### STUDY GUIDE

1. What does the Bible say sin is? 1 John 3: 4; 5:17a.
2. What is the origin of sin and its consequence to man, even the generation unborn?  
Gen. 2: 16, 17; 3:1-8; Rm.5: 12. i.e. the introduction of evil seed in man
3. Mention the things that sin through "this evil seed" produces in a man's life. Gal. 5:19-21; Rm.1: 28-32. Note that it is the evil seed that germinates sin.
4. List at least six consequences of sin from the following passages: Gen 3:7-10, 12, 16-19, 22-24; Isaiah 48:22; Eze. 18: 4; Rm.3:23; 5:10; 6:23; Rev.21:8 & 20:15.
5. What is God's remedy for sin? Gen. 3:15, Isaiah53:1-6; Matt.1:21; 1:29; John 3:8-16; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.
6. What does God require us to do about sin once we become saved? 1 Thess. 5:22; Eph. 5: 10-13; Prov. 28:13.

**CONCLUSION:** Our self righteousness cannot appease God. Only God has the capacity to save man from sin. And He has made the provision for us *only* in His Son. Once

saved, He commands us to live for Him and flee all appearances of sin. His grace which He offers to us free of charge makes this possible.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Ezek 18:4b – *“the soul that sinneth, it shall die”* (KJV)

**Home Assignment:**

1. Mention 4 sins in your life, which you have repented from
2. Is there any unforgettable ugly experience you had in the past because of those sins in your life? Please narrate such experience.
3. At what point in your life where you touched to seek God and the new life?

## STUDY 2

**TOPIC:** GOD'S REMEDY TO SIN: THE NEW BIRTH

**TEXT:** John 3:1-21

**AIM:** *To help the young Christian understand the new birth as God's sure remedy to sin and be able to explain it to others.*

**INTRODUCTION:** We will continue from where we stopped in study one by looking at the new birth as God's remedy to sin and by clarifying what it means to be born again – a reality that men have had to face down the ages, men like Nicodemus. This clarification is particularly important as so much misconception surrounds this topic. Some confuse it with baptism or confirmation or even some other denominational experience. The purpose of this study is to explore the different ways new birth or being born again is explained in the Bible and how the experience can be yours.

### STUDY GUIDE

1. What does it mean to have the new birth? John 3: 3, 6; Lk. 15:22; Eph. 2:1-6; Eze. 36:25-27.
2. Why do we need the new birth? John 3:3, 36; Rm. 3:23; 6:23 (cf. John 3:1, 10; Acts 10:2-6; Isaiah 64:6).
3. How can we experience the new birth? (Lk. 15:17, 18, 21; 1 John 1:8-10) ;( John 3:16; Gal.3:26); (John 1:12; Rm. 10:9; 1Pe. 1:23; Rev. 3:20).
4. Is there anything else we have to do? Eph. 2:8-9.
5. Are you born again? Share personal testimonies, if any.

**CONCLUSION:** Jesus said unto him, "Verily, verily I say to you, except a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God". This is a sure word from the Lord that no one can ignore. Except of course the person has deliberately chosen not to see the kingdom. And that would be too costly!

**MEMORY VERSE:** John 3:3 – *"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"* (KJV)

### Home Assignments:

1. John has been a very active person in your church. He attends Church programs and pays his dues. Does this alone indicate that John is born again? Back you answer with scriptures
2. What does it mean to be born again?
3. Are you born again? If yes, when and what is your new birth experience? If no, do you wish to be born again? (Please see the Co-coordinator).

## STUDY 3

**TOPIC:** Assurance of Salvation

**TEXT:** John 5:24-25; 1 John 5: 9-13.

**AIM:** *To help participants understand what assurance of salvation means (how to know you have the new life) and how to maintain it as a Christian*

**INTRODUCTION:** From our two previous studies, we have seen that a definite experience marks the beginning of the new life in the believer. Though testimonies may differ from one individual to another, assurance of salvation is common to all. What this means is that one can and should be sure of his salvation experience which is not based on feelings since it is by faith from start to finish (Rm.1:17). After all, feelings change, but God's word does not. You may not understand how it happened, but you *just know it is true!*

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. List nine things that take place when one receives the new birth? (Eze. 36: 25,); (Heb.8:12); (Eze 36:26, 27); (John 14:15-17, 23, 2 Cor. 6:16); (Rm. 8:1, 2; John 3:18, 5:24); (Rm.5:1, 2); (John 1:12, 13); (John 3:16, 1 John 5:11-13, John 10:27-28); (Eph. 4:2-7).
2. What assurance do we have that these things are true? Nu.23:19, Heb.6:17-19; 1 John 5:10.
3. What three convictions show that we have salvation? (1 John 5:10-13; 2 Cor.5:17; John 5:24; Heb. 7:25); (Rm. 8:16; Gal. 4:6, 7); (Matt. 7:16-20).
4. What do we do if we fall into sin after we have been saved? 1 John1: 8-9; 2: 1-2.
5. Now that you are saved and are sure of it, what should you keep doing? Col 2:6, 1 John 2:28; 1 Jn. 3:3.

**CONCLUSION:** The major hindrances to our assurance of salvation are sin, ignorance of God's word and unbelief. Avoid them. Ensure you don't lose your precious salvation and go back into sin. Keep yourself pure and undefiled all the time.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 1 John 5:13 *"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God". (KJV)*

### Home Assignment:

1. What do you understand by assurance of salvation?
2. What steps should you take according to 1 John 1: 8-9, if you fall into sin?

## STUDY 4

**TOPIC:** Faith

**TEXT:** Hebrews 11:1-6

**AIM:** *To help the young believer to develop strong faith in his daily walk with the Lord Jesus Christ*

**INTRODUCTION:** Faith is defined as trust, strong belief, unquestioning confidence (Advanced Learners Dictionary.) It is also defined as trust, confidence, and complete acceptance of a truth, which cannot be demonstrated or proved by the process of legal thought. It is the virtue by which Christians believe on the revealed will of God (Heb. 11:1.) It is the means by which the purpose of God is established in all things, in every place and at all times. Without faith it is impossible to please God and walk in his counsels. With faith we are sure of what is yet to be manifested and can be certain of them.

### STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Why is faith necessary in the life of a Christian?
  1. salvation, Eph. 2:8
  2. daily survival (our spiritual life depends on it), Habakkuk 2:4; Mark 5:34; Luke 5:20
  3. to relate with God and to carry out exploits in His name Heb. 11:6,33
  4. a commandment/instruction, Mark 11:22; John 20:29
2. What are some of the character traits of God, which makes us have faith in him?
  5. He does not tell lies, Numbers 23:19.
  6. He can do all things, Mark 10:27
  7. His goodness, Ps. 31:19
  8. His faithfulness, Heb. 11:11, 2Tim 2:13
  9. He loves us, John.3:16
3. Faith can result in pleasant and unpleasant experiences. Discuss Heb. 11:32-37.
4. What are the dangers of not having faith? Rom. 14:23; Heb. 11:6
5. What are the hindrances to faith?
  10. lack or inadequate knowledge of the word of God, Hosea 4:6.
  11. fear, II Tim. 1:7; Matt. 14:23-30
  12. doubt, James 1:6; Mark 11:23
6. How do we build up our faith?
  13. the word of God
  14. prayer
  15. patience
  16. Engaging God by deliberately applying the Word of God in our daily life.

**CONCLUSION:** Faith confirms the reality of God and changes situations and circumstances around us that are opposed to the purpose of God. Faith makes us do great exploits for the Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of God.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Heb. 11:6 (a) *“Without faith it is impossible to please him”*.

**Home Assignment:**

1. Hab 2: 4 says, “the just shall live by his faith”. Can you explain what that means
2. Can we obtain anything from God without faith? Explain your position with scriptures
3. How and when does faith come to us?
4. What is the difference between faith and feeling?

## STUDY 5

**TOPIC:** Love

**AIM:** *To help the new Christian know that God is love, and hence help him to walk with the understanding that we His children must wear love as our identity badge in our walk with Him*

**TEXT:** I Cor. 13:1-8, 13

**INTRODUCTION:** Love has been defined as warm, kind feeling; fondness; affectionate and tender devotion, or as having strong or deep tender feeling for somebody or something (Advanced Learners Dictionary). We can identify three kinds of love – *agape*, *phileo* and *eros*. *Agape* is love based on principles and not feelings, it is supreme. It is not hindered by the inability of the person being so loved, to reciprocate the tenderness. This is typically the God's kind of love, which surpasses all others (John 3:16).

*Phileo* describes the kind of fondness, friendship that is motivated by feeling. The best example of this is the relationship that exists among members of a family, parents towards their children, children among themselves, and vice versa. *Eros* is purely emotional and is typified by the attraction for the opposite sex.

In this study, our focus will be on *agape*, as this is the nature of God (I John 4:8). Since God has made us in His image, we are expected to exhibit this character to confirm God's work in us. Love is made practical by acts of kindness or generosity.

### STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What is love?  
Discuss the characteristics of love (I Cor. 13:4-7).
2. Why is it necessary for Christians to love God and one another?  
Deut. 6:5; I John 4:11-12, 19; John 15:12; 13:35
3. How can we demonstrate love for Christians and non- Christians?  
Rom. 9:1-3; I John 3:11, 18; Heb. 13:1-3; Gal. 6:10.
4. What are the dangers if love is not a part of one's Christian experience?  
I John 4; 18, 20; Luke 10:25-28; James 4:17.

**CONCLUSION:** Our Christian experience is made perfect in love for God and for our fellow men. When there is love in our lives, it becomes a means by which we can effectively convince people that we are indeed the children of God. It speaks the truth without fear or favour (I John 4:18); even the Christian's faith works by love (Gal. 5:6).

**MEMORY VERSE:** I John 4:8. *"He that loveth not knoweth not God for God is love"*

### Home Assignment:

1. Love is unconditional. Explain
2. Read 1 Cor 13: 4-8. List all the qualities of love in the passage.
3. Which of the qualities challenge you most and why?

## STUDY 6

**TOPIC:** Abiding in Christ

**TEXT:** John 15:1-8

**AIM:** *To help participants to remain steadfast in the Lord irrespective of the circumstance*

**INTRODUCTION:** Abiding in Christ means remaining in Christ come what may. It means depending on Christ for all achievements for without him we can do nothing. It indicates an intimate relationship that avails the abiding believer all the nourishment needed for survival and growth. Let us learn more from the study.

### STUDY QUESTIONS:

1.
  - a) Who is the true vine?
  - b) Who are the branches?
2.
  - a) Is it possible for the branch to exist and bear fruit without the main tree – the vine? John 15:4.
  - b) Explain the relationship between the branch and the Vine. John 15:4,5
3.
  - a) How do we abide in Christ? John 2:4-6; Col. 2:6-8; Gal. 5:16-18
  - b) What are the benefits of abiding in Christ? John 15:5, 7; Ps. 91:1; Col 2:9-10; Gal. 5:22-24; Ps. 37:3-5.
4. If we refuse to abide in Christ, what will happen to us? John 15:6; Rev. 3:16.
5.
  - a) What is it that glorifies God from John 15:8?
  - b) What does it mean to be fruitful? Matt. 5:16; Gal 5:22-23; John 15:16  
17. Witnessing.
6.
  - a) Why does God prune us? John 15:2; Heb. 12:10
  - b) How does God prune us? James 1:3-4; I Pet. 1:7; Heb. 12:6

**CONCLUSION:** The secret of abiding is relying totally on Jesus Christ for Who He is and what He did for us. We can do this through the power of the Holy Spirit as we pray, read and obey His word and desire for the Holy Spirit's manifestation in our lives. We abide in his love by faith.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (John 15:7).*

**Home Assignments:**

The Lord says we are the branches of the Tree.

- a. What does this mean to you?
- b. What is God's expectation from us as the branches
- c. What kind of fruit are we expected to bear. Cite scriptures

# PART TWO – GROWING IN THE NEW LIFE

## STUDY 7

**TOPIC:** The Reality of the New Life

**TEXT:** Rm. 6:1-18

**AIM:** *To help participants to define the new life, understand it, and learn from God's word how to live it.*

**INTRODUCTION:** With the experience of the new birth into God's family, you received a new life. You are now a new person for the rest of your life on earth and for all eternity. You now have a new nature (2 Cor. 5:17). If this new nature cannot be detected in your life, it is wise to take a closer look at your claim and make an honest self-evaluation (2 Cor.13:5). To live and be sustained in this new life is the challenge of this study.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How do you know someone has the new life? Lk.19:8-10; 2 Cor 5:17; Gal. 5:22-24; Eph.4:25-32. *Special note: Some restitution may require mature counseling.*
2. Point out from the following texts some of the possible hindrances to the new life; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Gal. 5:17; 1 John 2: 15-17.
3. What brings daily victory over the old life? Lk9:24-26; Rm. 6:6-7, 11-13, 19; Gal.2:20; 5:16; Col. 3:5-10.
4. What are the benefits of living out the new life? Rm.6:22; 2 Pe.1:8, 10-11.
5. How do we sustain the new life?
  - a. Jos. 1:8; Ps.119:7,11; 1Pe.2:1-2
  - b. Mat.26:41; 1Cor.10:12; Phil 4:6; Col.4:2; Ja.5:16; 1 Pet. 5:8
  - c. Mat.10:32-33; Rm.1:15-16
  - d. Prov.27:17; Heb. 10:25
  - e. Heb. 12:2; 1 Pe.2:21.

**CONCLUSION:** Everybody around us expects to see the evidence of our claim to a new life. And indeed, if it is genuine, it will show in our everyday normal life, be it in the home, office, market place, school or Church! No true child of God can hide or be hidden. Though the challenges are real, we are equally guaranteed victory if we do what we should.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 2 Cor. 5:17 *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* (KJV).

### Home Assignment:

1. 2 Cor 5: 17 says, you are a new creature. Can you explain what that means to you?
2. How can you ensure that you grow in the new life? Explain with scriptures

## STUDY 8

### TOPIC: The Word of God (our Spiritual Food)

**AIM:** *By the end of the study, participants should be able to identify, list, trust, embrace, obey, explain and demonstrate the promised value of the word of God.*

**INTRODUCTION:** When a baby is born, he grows physically by taking physical food. Similarly the spiritual life needs to be nurtured with spiritual food for spiritual growth to take place. That spiritual food is the WORD OF GOD which we can get only from the Bible.

### STUDY GUIDE

1. How did the Bible come into existence? Jer. 36: 1-2; Rev. 1:18-19; 14:13; II Pe.1:19-21; Deut.9:10. 2 Tim 3:16
2. Why was the Bible given to us? John 20:31; 2Tim 3: 15-17
3. What did Jesus say about the Bible in John 17:17?
4. What does the Bible say in 1 Pe.2:2?
5. Identify some of the truths about the Bible as the word of God from these texts: Jer.23:29; Heb 4:12; 2 Tim.3:16; Mat.5:18.
6. Find out from the following texts three things the Bible will do for you if you read it: Ps. 119:9, 11, 105; Acts 20:32.
7. How should we read the Bible? Jos. 1:8; Ps. 1:2; Deut.17:19; Isaiah 34:16a.
8. In what ways can we learn from the Bible?
  - I. Memorize verses of scriptures (Ps.119:11; Col.3:16)
  - II. Attend Bible study classes. It is part of making 'every effort' (2 Tim 2:15).
  - III. Listen to sermons (Col. 3:16-17).
  - IV. Meditate (Jos.1:8).
  - V. Accept and obey its teachings.

**CONCLUSION:** For the child of God, there is no alternative to His word. That is the way God has made it. You either read and obey it or forget about spiritual growth. Indeed, your eternity may depend on it!

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Thy word have I hid in my heart that I may not sin against thee"* (Ps. 119: 11) - KJV.

### Home Assignment:

1. What do you understand by the Word of God?
2. List and explain 5 ways you must use the bible to grow spiritually. Quote scriptures

## STUDY 9

**TOPIC:** Prayer

**TEXT:** Matthew 6:5-15

**AIM:** *That the participants may know what prayer is, identify the importance and demonstrate it in their personal lives by actually praying.*

**INTRODUCTION:** Every healthy person breathes to sustain life. In like manner, a healthy spiritual life is sustained by a life of unceasing prayers. Prayer, of course, has to do with the simple act of communion with God. The indispensable value of it informed this study.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What specific instructions do we have concerning prayer from our Lord? Matt. 6:5-15.
2. Point out some commands about prayer from these texts: Phil. 4:6-7; I Thes. 5:17.
3. Why should we pray? I Chron. 16:11; Matt. 26:41; Luke 18:1, 8; Jn. 16:24; James 1:5.
4. Who is the source of answer to our prayers? Dan. 6:10, 11, Jn. 14:13-14; James 1:5.
5. How should we pray? Matt 6:5-13
  - a. (i) Adoration - Psalm 8:1, 9, 103:1-2. (ii) Confession - I Jn. 1:8-9 (iii) Thanksgiving – Psalm 50:14 (iv) Supplication – I Sam. 1:10, 15.
  - b. Can you identify these, (A-C-T-S) from the Lord’s Prayer?
6. Identify the three different ways God answers prayer from the following texts:  
(a) Exodus 33:14 – 17 (b) Dent 3:23 – 26 (c) Hab. 2:2-3
7. Why are some prayers not answered? Jn. 9:31; James 1:6; 4:3, I Jn. 5:14-15

**CONCLUSION:** Prayer is like a telephone link to heaven. It is the source of strength for the Christian – the reason we have the slogan that “a prayer less Christian is a powerless Christian”. Without prayer, we cannot have the power to live the spiritual life. In addition, we must note the important fact that *Prayer is made to the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit and according to God’s word.*

**MEMORY VERSE:** I Thes. 5:17. “Pray without ceasing”

**Home Assignment:**

1. In your own words, what is prayer?
2. What are 5 things that make your prayers to be answered? Quote scriptures
3. What are hindrances to prayers (List 5 with scriptures)

# PART THREE – LIVING OUT THE NEW LIFE

## STUDY10

**TOPIC:** Fellowship

**TEXT:** I John 1:1-4; Eccl. 4:9-12

**AIM:** *That the participant may be able to define fellowship, identify its importance and demonstrate commitment to it. They should also be able to state why we should not neglect fellowship of Christians, especially where one worships.*

**INTRODUCTION:** A fellowship is a gathering of people, who share common interests/beliefs. Harmful fellowships with some unhelpful beliefs also exist. Some of these include pouring of libation, denial of Christ as Lord and Saviour, elevation of writings of their founders above the Bible, denial of the Trinity, and use of the Bible for purposes other than standard for faith and conduct. Some of them are outright cultic in nature, like being very secretive. To us Christians, *Fellowship* which is rooted in strong saving faith in Christ provides opportunities for sharing, caring, encouraging one another in the faith, studying the scriptures, worship, etc. The scripture urges Christians not to neglect Believers' fellowship. But there are more instructions in the scriptures we shall see in this study.

### STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. (a) What instruction do we have in Heb. 10:25?  
(b) Why do you think this is necessary? Prov. 27:17, Eccl. 4:9-12, Matt. 18:20.
2. (a) Name the types of non-Christian groups you know.  
(b) What are the characteristics of these harmful non-Christian groups? Rom. 1:25;  
II Cor. 6:14, 17; I Tim. 4:1-2, I John 2:22, 23.  
(c) Mention some characteristics of Christian fellowships from the following texts: Matt. 18:20; Act 16:31; I Tim. 3:16-17; I John 5:6-8, Acts 2:41-47
3. What does the Bible say about the body of Christ (i.e. fellowship of believers)? John 17:20-23; I Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:4-6, 14-15.
4. (a) What role can you play in your church? Rom. 12:4-8, I Cor. 12:28-30  
(b) What role can you play in your Christian group or unit?
5. What should be our attitude to our leaders in the church/group/unit? Heb 13:7, 17

**CONCLUSION:** Gatherings of genuine fellowships are always in the name of Jesus. The Bible is regarded as sole authority in matters of faith and conduct. Holiness and salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ are emphasized, and Christ is the head and He is worshipped as such. A piece of firewood removed from others in the fire place will soon stop burning. But the whole bundle together will burn brightly. A single stick can be broken easily but not the whole bundle. Therefore, do not neglect Christian fellowship, church or study group. Do not be too occupied to attend church or Bible class. It is essential for your spiritual welfare.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching (Heb. 10:25) KJV.*

**Home Assignment:**

1. In your own words, what is fellowship?
2. According to Heb 10: 25, what are two principal reasons we must not miss a fellowship?
3. Read Matt 18:19-20, a. what is God's basic requirement for a fellowship to take place? b. What has God promised us in the passage? c. In your own thinking, what other things we consider today in fellowship, which are not too necessary for fellowship to take place? (mention at least 4)

## STUDY 11

### TOPIC: WITNESSING

**TEXT:** ACTS. 8: 6-37

**AIM:** *To enable the student understand witnessing, know why and how we should do it as Christians, and actually be an effective witness for Christ. The study will also help us to know what could happen if we don't do it.*

**INTRODUCTION:** Witnessing is telling other people about Jesus Christ, what He has done in our lives, and how He can pardon sins and change lives.

Just as physical exercise helps to keep the body fit and encourages growth and mental alertness, so also witnessing (one of our spiritual exercises) helps to keep us spiritually fit, and helps our spiritual growth and development.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Identify the command in these scriptures? Mt. 28: 19-20; MK. 16:15, 2Tim. 4:2
2. Who should carry out the above command? MK.16:14, LK.9:1-6
3. Why is it necessary for the Christian to witness?  
Prov. 11:30; Mk.16:15; John 4:35; Rom. 10:14.
4. How should we witness? Jn. 4:7ff, 4:28-30, Acts 8:26 ff, 2Cor.  
3:2-3, Matt. 5:16.

**NOTE:** You can also witness by going out to distribute tracts, provided the target audience is literate.

5. Identify the content of a typical witnessing message from the following:
  - Rom. 3:23(see also Jn. 8:34, 1Jn. 3:8)
  - Rom. 6:23
  - Rom. 5:8 (see also 1Cor. 15:3-4)
  - Rom. 10:8-10, (see also Rm. 1:16, John 1:12, Acts 3:19-20).
6. What must we do to witness effectively? I Thes. 5:17, Acts 1:8; 4:23-31
7. From what has so far been discussed, what could happen if we do not witness as commanded by the Lord? See also Eze. 3:17-19, Matt. 24:14

**CONCLUSION:** While it is necessary to witness for Christ by the life we live, we should regularly tell others about Him with our own mouth (or through tracts). Apart from the immense personal benefits we stand to gain, we help to save others and ourselves from obvious dangers.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Matt 10:32 – *“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven”* (KJV).

## **Home Assignment**

1. Who is a witness?
2. Read John 4: 28-29, what should be the simple message of a witness?
3. Do you have such encounter as the woman of Samaria? If yes, what is your message?

## STUDY 12 (To be taken in two study sessions)

**TOPIC:** Quiet Time

**TEXT:** Ps. 63:1-end

**AIM:** *To help participants understand what quiet time is so they can practice it as part of the normal Christian life*

**Introduction:** Quiet time is a time one sets apart to commune with God. Silence is not the prevalent factor but communion. It is therefore a time set aside to be in the presence of God, talk to Him; listen to and hear from Him. A meaningful quiet time is the secret of a Christian's power, success and growth.

### STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What are the requirements and elements of a meaningful quiet time?
  - (i) Specific time set aside –Ps 63:1
  - (ii) Quiet place – Mk. 1:35; Lk. 4:42
  - (iii) The Bible and a jotter – Heb. 2:1-3
  - (iv) Talk with God
  - (v) Listen to God – Acts 13:2; Acts 10:9 –16 ( Test every spirit/voice/vision – I Jn. 4:1)
  - (vi) Discipline.
2. What is the purpose of a quiet time?
  - (i) To have fellowship and communion with God
  - (ii) Strength for the day – Eph. 6:11-13; Is. 40:31
  - (iii) Time for systematic Bible study – II Tim. 2:15; Hos. 4:6
3. How do you plan your quiet time?
  - (b) Plan out the available time.
  - (c) Follow a sequence or have a Bible study guide.
  - (d) Have a memory verse and meditate over it – Ps. 1:2; Josh. 1:8; Ps. 119:11
  - (e) Devote some time for prayers and have a prayer list.
4. What are the hindrances to an effective quiet time?
  - (a) Interference / distraction by friends, family members, GSM, etc.
  - (b) Tiredness and sleep. Luke. 22:45-46.
  - (c) Distractions of the heart.
  - (d) Sin. Gen. 3:8-11
  - (e) Lack of discipline
5. When should you have quiet time?

In the early hours of the morning. Ps. 63:1; Mk. 1:35; Noon, Evening Ps. 141:2; Any other convenient time.

6. What are the benefits of quiet time?
- (i) Guidance – Ps. 119: 105
  - (ii) Building up your faith – Jude 20
  - (iii) Amour against temptation – Ps. 119:11
  - (iv) Spiritual growth – Heb. 5:13-14

**CONCLUSION:** Spend a substantial part of your time with the Lord and you will find favour, life and blessings of the Most High God.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint – Isaiah 40:31.*

**Home Assignment:**

1. What does quiet time mean to you?
2. “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength”. What does it mean to wait upon the Lord?
3. Do you practice quiet time? If yes, what specific benefits has it been to your spiritual life? And what have been your challenges to effective practice of quiet time?

## STUDY 13

**TOPIC:** CHRISTIAN GIVING

**TEXT:** 2 Cor. 8: 1-15

**AIM:** *To challenge us to a lifestyle of giving in support of the work of the kingdom as Christians.*

**INTRODUCTION:** As we all know, part of the lifestyle of those who belong to the Kingdom is to spread the gospel by word and action. We all know that these costs money and materials. We cannot therefore avoid talking about this important subject of *Christian Giving* as we pursue this theme of *living the lifestyle of the Kingdom*. But we need to search the scriptures so that we may have clear biblical position on it. This is the essence of this study.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is Christian giving? 2 Cor. 8: 3-7.
2. Who should give in the church and why? Exo.35: 4-5, 21, 2Cor. 8: 4-5, 7; 13-15.
3. How should we give as Christians? Exo.35: 4-5; 1Chron. 29:3-9; Matt.6:1-4; 1 Cor.16:1-2; 2 Cor.9:6-7.
4. Point out from these passages some examples of giving that buttress the above stated position. Exo.35:20-21; Lk.21:2-4; 2 Cor.8:1-5.
5. What are the benefits of giving? Acts 20:35; 2Cor. 8:13-15; Eccl. 11:1; 2Cor.9:10-15; Lk. 6:38.

**CONCLUSION:** God commands giving and it is therefore part of our Christian responsibility. It should be done without show, but according to ability, willingly, liberally, cheerfully and proportionately. Giving brings more joy, happiness and fulfillment than receiving; and opens to the giver doors or opportunities for God's blessings. How we obey this divine command and carry out this responsible duty tells more about our commitment to the Lord than what we say.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 2 Cor. 8:7

**THOUGHT:** *Excel in this grace also!*

**Note:** Home assignment should be after study 16.

## STUDY 14

**TOPIC:** CHRISTIAN GIVING – TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**TEXTS:** GEN.14:17-20; LEV.27:30-32; Mal.3:8-11

**AIM:** *At the end of the study students should be able to –*

- 1. Tell the difference between tithes and offerings, why we should do them, and where we should pay them.*
- 2. Outline the blessings of tithing and offerings, and the danger of not observing them.*
- 3. Explain by word and action what it means to willingly serve the Lord with our tithes and offerings.*

**INTRODUCTION:** We are continuing our study on giving today with a look at tithes and offerings. What is tithe? What does scripture teach about it? Is it different from offerings? How? What should be our attitude towards it as Christians? We shall answer these questions and more in this study.

### STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What are tithes? Discuss: Gen.28:22; Lev. 27:32; Deut. 14:22.
  - a. Is God's work for us worth 10% (as in the tithe we are meant to give Him) or whatever offering we bring at any time? Discuss.
  - b. Why should we tithe as God's children? Gen. 28:22; Lev.27:30; Mal.3:8-11
2. How are our offerings supposed to be, as a matter of divine principle? Lev.1:3; Mal.1:6-8; Matt.5:23-24; Lk.6:38; 2Cor.9:6-7.
  - a. What are the benefits of tithing and giving offerings to the Lord? Luke 6:38; Mal.3:10-12.
  - b. What are the dangers of not tithing and giving offering to the Lord as Christians? Mal.3:8-9.
3. What is the purpose of tithe? Mal 3:10, Neh 10:38, 13:12,

**CONCLUSION:** There is a distinct difference between tithes and offerings. We need to note that the Lord requires both to be brought to Him.

The tithe is all the tenth of all the 'increase' (produce or earnings) that God gives to us. What does "increase" include? It includes everything that increases the value of earthly possessions that God places in our trust, whether it is earned income or gifts (Deut.14:22). The tithe of our increase is not ours to give to God; rather, it is God's for us to give back to Him as a matter of privilege.

Offerings on the other hand are gifts brought to God beyond/beside the tithes. Whereas the tithe was always ten percent of one's increase, but with certain offerings, God gave His people some discretion as to the amount or number of offerings to bring. The depth of our zeal for God is shown by our choices concerning Tithes and offerings. Whereas obedience in these matters can potentially open the door for us to prosper, disobedience has been known to be a curse and a source of many troubles. Let's be wise and be faithful.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *Mal 3:8-10 – “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.<sup>9</sup> Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.<sup>10</sup> Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”.(KJV)*

**Home Assignment:**

1. What have you probably heard about tithes and offerings before now?
2. What is supposed to be the right attitude towards tithes and offerings?
3. What decision have you taken?

# PART FOUR – LIVING THE NEW LIFE: THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## STUDY 15 (To be studied in two study sessions)

**TOPIC:** The Holy Spirit – Who He Is

**TEXT:** Jn.14:16-17; 15:26

**AIM:** *To introduce the person of the Holy Spirit to participants.*

**INTRODUCTION:** The Holy Spirit is a *person*. Jesus often spoke of him as a *he* and not as *it* (John 14, 15, and 16). But He is more than that. He is a divine person. This study is to introduce the person of the Holy Spirit, the third member of the Trinity – a theological term which denotes God's revelation in three persons in one.

### STUDY GUIDE

1. What are the names of the Holy Spirit from these texts?
  - The Spirit of God, Gen. 1:2
  - The Spirit of Christ, John 6:63, 1 Pet, 1:11
  - The Comforter, Helper, Paracletes John 16:7
  - The Spirit of truth, John 14:17
  
2. What are the symbols of the Holy Spirit?
  - Water. John 7: 37, 38
  - Fire. Acts 2:2-3, Heb. 12:29
  - Wind. John 3:8
  - Anointing. 1 John 2:20, 27
  - Rain, James 5:7
  - Dove. John 1:32
  - Seal. Eph. 1:13
  - Oil. Ps. 133:1-2
  
3. What the personality attributes of the Holy Spirit as revealed in the following passages?
  1. He speaks-Rev.2:7; Acts 13:2
  2. He intercedes-Rom.8:26
  3. He is the Spirit of Truth and He testifies about Jesus-John15:26
  4. He leads-Acts 8:29;Rom.8;14
  5. He commands-Acts16:6,7
  6. He guides-John16:13
  7. He appoints-Acts 20:28
  8. He can be lied to-Acts 5:3,4
  9. He can be insulted-Heb.10:29
  10. He can be blasphemed-Matt.12:31,32
  11. He can be grieved-Eph.4:30
  
4. What divine attributes of the Holy Spirit are revealed in the following passages?
  1. Eternal-Heb.9:14
  2. All-powerful-Lk.1:35

3. Present Everywhere-Ps.139:7
4. All-knowing-1Cor.2:10,11
5. Called God, Lord-Acts5:3,4; 2Cor.3:18
6. Creator- Gen.1:2
7. God *indwells* us (the Church) by the Spirit and He *stands in for Christ* until His second advent- John14:16,17; Ephe.2:22

**CONCLUSION:** The Holy Spirit is referred to in different ways in the bible. In some cases, symbolic references were made to Him. He is the third member of the Trinity, a divine personality. No one can become a Christian without Him. And no Christian can continue to be one without Him. He alone can empower the Christian for walk of faith and divine service.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Jn. 15:26

**Home Assignment:**

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?
2. List at least four symbols used for His person in the scriptures
3. Mention five personal attributes and five divine attributes of the Holy Spirit
4. Mention at least four other attributes of the Holy Spirit you know.

## STUDY 16

**TOPIC:** Baptism of the Holy Spirit

**TEXT:** Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4

**AIM:** *To alert and help the new believer to an experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit for effective Christian walk and service*

**INTRODUCTION:** When Jesus was to go back to the Father, one promise he made to the disciples was the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Towards the end of His work on earth, it was clear that his disciples could not continue the work with much success and live effective Christian lives, in the power of the flesh, except there is supernatural power and enablement from God.

In Acts 2:1-4, this promise was fulfilled and the disciples experienced the baptism of the Holy Ghost. In this study we are going to discuss how one can receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

### STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Why is the Holy Ghost Baptism necessary in the life of a Christian?
  - a) For effective witnessing- Acts 1:8
  - b) For boldness – Acts 4:31
  - c) For effective Christian living
  - c) For deep understanding of the word of God – John 16:13; 14:25-26
  - d) Effective prayer life – Romans 8:26-27Discuss Peter's experience before and after Pentecost – Luke 22:55-62; Acts 2:14-17.
2. Who is qualified for the Holy Ghost baptism? 1Cor 12: 7
3. How can one receive Holy Ghost baptism? John 7:37; Luke 11:9-13; Acts 19:1-6; 10:34-46.
4. What visible manifestations sometimes accompany Holy Ghost baptism – Acts 2:4; 19:6, 10:44-46? Which must necessarily follow, Acts 1:8?

### CONCLUSION:

Holy Ghost baptism is a promise that has been fulfilled by God himself. This promise, as we have seen, is for you provided you have truly repented from your sins and received Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. It is important to mention that the Lord himself is the baptizer. All you have to do is to desire it, and ask Him to baptize you. The Bible says He will do so.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Acts 1:8 *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

**Home Assignment:**

1. Who should be baptized with the Holy Spirit and why?
2. Pray in a quiet corner without interference for the Lord to baptize you with the Holy Spirit today!

## STUDY 17 (To be taken in two study sessions)

### TOPIC: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

TEXTS: Gal 5:22, Eph. 5:9

**INTRODUCTION:** The fruit of the Holy Spirit is the product of the Christ life implanted into the Christian's heart at the time of the new birth. This fruit in the life of a believer is a display of the characteristics of God Himself. They are life breaking through the bark and scales of our old nature as a flower for a fruit to appear out of a bud. The Fruit is an evidence of the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit and the continuing work of grace. This will of the Holy Spirit to see us manifest this character of God is in direct opposition with the sinful desires of the flesh. Therefore we must not obey the sinful lust of the flesh but rather submit our members to God as instruments of righteousness.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read Gal. 5:22-23 and point out the nine graces that make up the fruit of the Holy Spirit? Provide a simple explanation of each one:
  - **Love** every aspect of the fruit of the spirit is a feature of Love. Love provides the gateway to the other graces. Love is the true point of contact between God and man. It is the mark of a true disciple of Jesus Christ.
  - **Joy** is an inner assurance of the heavenly father's love.
  - **Peace** an inner calmness of mind, security, harmony, freedom from strife, disturbance and disagreement, God's supernatural rest in the midst of conflict.
  - **Longsuffering** (extended Patience) is hopeful forbearance over a long period of suffering, irritating circumstance or provocations
  - **Gentleness** is kind and mild mannered disposition towards others.
  - **Goodness** is divine love or action towards others
  - **Faith** is long and undeviating attachment, loyalty or steadfastness
  - **Meekness** is as Humility means lack of pride and recognition of a low position. The root of meekness is unconditional surrender to Christ as your king.
  - **Temperance** is self control in every area of life.
2. What are the conditions for manifesting the fruit of the Spirit?
  - Living a surrendered life. Gal 5:24, Rom 6:11
  - Submitting to God's divine will Ps. 143:10, Ph4:8, 2 Pet 1:3-12
  - Dying daily to self John 12: 24, 1Cor 9:27, Ezekiel 36:26
  - Abiding in Him John 15:5
3. Discuss some of the hindrances to fruit bearing as listed below:
  - The Flesh Gal. 5:19-21
  - Selfishness Hosea 10:1
  - Deceitfulness Heb. 3:13
  - Sin

**CONCLUSION:** The manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is for use in the Body of Christ here on the earth while the maturing of the fruit of the Holy Spirit is eternal and takes the believer to heaven. It is a noble experience to be exercised sufficiently in the production of the graces of the fruit of the Holy Spirit before coveting the spiritual gifts for a well - rounded Christian walk.

**Memory verse:** *John 15:8 “Herein is my father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples”.*

**Home Assignment**

1. What actions are you asked to take in PS 34:14
2. What actions are suggested which gave a picture of how to pursue peace in Rom 14:17-19 and Eph 4:32
3. What are the characteristics of love from 1Cor 13

## STUDY 18

**TOPIC:** Gifts of the Holy Spirit for Christian Service

**AIM:** *To help the new believer gain insight into the existence of these gifts of the Holy Spirit and hence help him to desire same for effective Christian service.*

**TEXTS:** I Cor. 12:1-11; Eph. 4:1-14

**INTRODUCTION:** Every believer is blessed with at least a gift (Eph. 1:3). These gifts which are distributed to all as the Spirit wills are meant for edification of saints and building up of the Church. Every gift, no matter how small it may look, is very important in the Church just as every part of our body is as important as the other. It is therefore necessary that we discover our individual gifts and use them for the benefit of others and growth of the Church. These gifts are grouped under spiritual gifts and ministerial or ministry gifts. Spiritual gifts confer supernatural ability to perform God's work and ministry gifts enable believers to perform the responsibilities of certain offices in the house of God. In this study, we will discuss how one can discover his/her gift and use it for Christian service.

### STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Name the different gifts as mentioned in the following passages and group them under spiritual and ministry gifts. I Cor. 12:1-11; Eph. 4:4-12; Romans 12:4-8.
  2. Discuss the importance of these gifts to the Church. Eph. 4:11-12; I Cor. 12:1-7; 23-31.
  3. How can one discover his/her gift(s)
    - i) Prayer - Acts 13:1-3; I Kings 3:5-12, 4:29-34
    - ii) Desire - I Cor. 14:1; 12; 12:31
    - iii) By observation
  4. Notice your natural talent or ability – inherent. Matt.25:14-30; Acts 9:36-39
  5. Notice the grace of God in you – grace. Romans 12:3; Eph. 4:7
  - iv) Revelation knowledge – I Tim. 4:14-15; Gen. 37:5-11; I Kings 3:5-15
  - i) Counseling.
4. Discuss ways one can use, sustain and nurture his/her gifts(s)
    - i) Putting it into practice. Matt. 25:14-30
    - ii) Prayerfully depending on God. John 15:1-12
    - iii) Submitting or yielding to the Holy Spirit. Acts 13:4, 16:7-9
    - iv) Join a unit or more to help you grow in your gift(s). I Tim. 4:4-15; I Cor. 3:8-9; John 15:1-2.
  5. What are the dangers of not using or misusing the gift(s)? Lk. 19:20-26; I Cor. 3:10-15; John 15:1-2.

**CONCLUSION:** We have discussed extensively the gifts and how to use them for effective service. It is important to note that these gifts are not for your selfish use but for your spiritual upbringing, edification of the saints and building up of the church of Christ. Your gift is very important to God and the Church. Discover them and begin to use them.

**MEMORY VERSE:** I Cor. 12:31(a) *“But covet earnestly the best gifts”*.

**Home Assignment:**

1. List at least nine gifts of the Holy Spirit you know in the bible.
2. Is there any of these already at work in your life?
3. Which of these do you covet most and why? Pray for it, provided the motive is right!

# PART FIVE – CHALLENGES OF THE NEW LIFE

## STUDY 19

**TOPIC:** Temptations and Trials

**TEXT:** James 1:2-15

**AIM:** *To have a clear/correct understanding of temptation in its different forms, identify the difference between it and trial and be able to demonstrate how to overcome it in our walk of faith.*

**INTRODUCTION:** Temptation is a direct appeal from an external source to a weakness within the body through our senses. It is being lured to do what is wrong. We shall learn more in the study.

### STUDY QUESTIONS:

2. Read Matt. 4: 1-11 and Gen 22: 1-12 and discuss practically:
3. Is temptation sin? James 1:12-15.
4. What should be our attitude to temptations and trials? I Pet. 1:6-7; James 1:2; Heb. 4:16; I Cor. 10:13; James 4:7;
5. Does God forsake us in temptation? I Cor. 10:13; Heb. 4:16; II Pet. 2:9.
6. Suppose we fall into sin, shall we then continue in sin and withdraw from serving the Lord? Rom. 6:1-2; I John 2:1; 8; Prov. 28:13.
8. How do we overcome temptation?
  - (i) Prayer – Matt. 26:41
  - (ii) The Word of God. Ps. 119:11; Matt. 4:4
  - (iii) Exercise self-control, one of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:23).
  - (iv) Resist the devil Jn. 4:7b.
  - (v) Follow the example of Jesus Christ. Heb 12:1-2

**CONCLUSION:** Temptation is not sin but yielding to temptation is sin. Be assured that in every temptation, God makes a way of escape for us. We can always find the way through steadfastness, self control and exercise of faith. Above all, we must watch and pray!

**MEMORY VERSE:** I Cor. 10:13 *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as common to man, but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but with the temptation also make a way to escape that ye may be able to bear it”*(KJV).

### Home Assignment:

1. What is the difference between temptation and trial?
2. Do you think that a Christian needs temptation and trial to grow? Support your answer with scriptures

3. Can you explain the phrase “There hath ne temptation taken you but such as common to man” (1 Cor 10: 13)
4. Have you ever been tempted? If yes, please share your experience and how you overcame it.

## STUDY 20

**TOPIC:** Spiritual Warfare

**TEXT:** II Cor. 10:1-6; Eph. 6:10-18

**AIM:** *To help participants understand the truth that constant warfare is an integral part of our faith and to help him/her know how to go about it.*

**INTRODUCTION:** The spiritual life is a life of constant warfare and every redeemed child of God has been enlisted into the army of Christ. Fighting this spiritual battle and winning it until we enter into heaven is the subject of this study.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is spiritual warfare? - Eph. 6:12
2. Who/What are the enemies of the Christian?
  6. Satan, the world and the flesh; I Pet. 5:8-9; James 4:4, I John 2:15-17; Gal. 5:19-21; Rom. 8:5-8, 13.
3. What do enemies intend to achieve? - To make the Christian sin and distant him/her from following Jesus. Discuss
4. What are the devices of the enemy? – II Cor. 2:11 (Deception, Doubts, Disbelief, Discouragement, Depression, Division, etc.)
5. What are the weapons of our warfare? – Eph. 6:10-18
  7. Truth (belt, Eph. 6:14)
  8. Righteousness (breastplate, Eph. 6:14)
  9. Witnessing (gospel of peace, Eph. 6:15)
  10. Faith (shield, Eph. 6:16; I John 5:4)
  11. Salvation (helmet, Eph. 6:17)
  12. The Word (sword of the Spirit, Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12; Jer. 23:29)
  13. Prayers (Eph. 6:18)
  14. Watch (knowledge and discernment, Eph. 6:18)
6. Should the Christian be afraid of these enemies? What is her/his authority? - Matt 16:19, I Pet. 5:8-9; I Jn. 4:4; Rom. 8:15; Luke. 10:18-20.

**CONCLUSION:** The battle is not yours but the Lord's. Fear not for He is always with you – Matt. 28:20. All you need to do is surrender completely to the Holy Spirit. Remember, we are more than conquerors through him that loves us. Rom. 8:37

**MEMORY VERSE:** *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.* II Cor. 10:4 (KJV)

### Home Assignment:

1. Read 2 Cor 10: 4, explain what the passage is saying?

2. Now as a Christian in warfare, your neighbor came face to face, insulted you and was ready to fight with you to any length. What weapons would you use to fight this battle? Explain your reasons
3. Explain Faith as a shield in spiritual warfare

## STUDY 21

### TOPIC: BACKSLIDING

**AIMS:** *This study is to help us know the meaning of backsliding, alert us to its danger and show us how we can avoid it.*

**TEXTS:** 1 Cor. 10:1-6; Heb. 6: 4-7; 12: 1-4; 2Pe. 2: 20-22

**INTRODUCTION:** 1 Cor. 10:12 is one scripture that should make every child of God sober. For one thing, it makes us to know that even when we have been saved, there is still the possibility of falling, unless we exercise utmost caution. This means that even though we have been saved by grace, we still need to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Phil.2:12)! This study is to alert us to the danger of backsliding or falling away from faith, especially when afflictions and trials come, and what we can do to avoid it.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is backsliding, Jer. 8:5; Hos.14:4a (note that only the sick needs healing).
2. What are the symptoms of backsliding? Ex. 16:2-3; Prov. 14:14a; 2 Tim. 4:10; 2 Pe. 2:20-21.
3. Cite examples of backsliding from the following texts – Jer. 3:12; 2 Tim. 1:15; 4:10.
4. What are the causes of backsliding? Ex. 15: 22-24; 16: 1-3; 2 Tim. 4:10.
5. What are the dangers of backsliding? 1 Cor. 10:1-5; Heb. 6: 4-6; 12: 1-4; II Pet. 2: 20-22.
6. Explain how we can avoid backsliding from the following texts: Heb. 10: 35-39; 12: 1-3.

**CONCLUSION:** Backsliding, a real enemy that every Christian must contend with, has to do with drawing back from faith. It is a state of spiritual ill-health. Quite often, the symptoms range from being full of one's ways, desiring what one has once abandoned for the name of Christ, to a release of grip from those convictions one once held dearly. The backslider will very often begin to draw back from fellowship of brethren, church activities and a general or partial lack of interest in the Word of God. The mortal danger lies in eternal damnation for this unfortunate person who once was on the road to heaven.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Heb. 10:35 – *“Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward”*

### Home Assignment:

1. Do you know of any Christian in recent past who backslide?
2. Have you ever been tempted to backslide before?
3. Mention the challenge(s) that almost made you to backslide and how you resisted it.
4. Pray to God to uphold you!

## STUDY 22

### TOPIC: AFFLICTIONS

**AIM:** *To help the new Christian know that becoming a Christian does not insulate one from afflictions and suffering for Christ with a view to making them to be better prepared when faced with such experiences.*

**TEXT:** Ps.34:19; Phil 1:29; 2Tim 3:12.

**INTRODUCTION:** Affliction happens to all, the **ungodly** and the godly alike. It may be easily explained when the ungodly suffer painful experiences. But is not quite easy doing so when it comes to the godly going through some very painful experiences. Some get frustrated, discouraged and even backslide in the process.

But the Bible has answers for this, like any other issue of life, especially as Christians. Great saints in the Bible like Abraham, Joseph, David, the three Hebrew children in the land of Babylon, Daniel, Hannah, Anna the Prophetess, Paul, and even Christ suffered great afflictions at one point or the other. In fact, Christ learnt obedience by the things He suffered (Heb 5:8). But all of these remained steadfast irrespective of what they suffered. Biblical records encourage us to serve and maintain our worship of God irrespective of the circumstances or experiences of life. Let's find out more from the study.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Identify the truth revealed in the following passages regarding afflictions: Jn. 16:33; 2 Tim.3:12; Ps. 34:19; Is. 48:10; Phil 1:29; 2 Tim 3:12.
2. Identify and explain the commands in the following texts: Rev. 2: 10; 2 Tim 2:3; 4:5; Heb. 10:23, 35-36.
3. Read 2 Cor. 11:22-29, and list the afflictions Paul suffered. Did he remain faithful? 2 Tim.4:6-8
4. State some practical challenges that Christians are facing in the world today. Are the pressures brought about by these experiences real?
5. What should be our attitude and response to these painful experiences? See Matt. 5: 11-12; 12:1-3; Ja.1:12; 4: 7-10; 1 Pe. 5: 7- 10, Job 2: 9-10

**CONCLUSION:** Trials, persecutions, afflictions and sufferings are an inevitable part of our Christian heritage. They are refining instruments in God's plans for the holiness and final abode of His people. They should therefore be embraced with patience and joyful obedience through prayer.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"These things have I spoken unto you that in me; ye might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (Jn. 16: 33).*

### Home Assignment:

1. Mention three persons in the bible that suffered afflictions
2. Do you know of any Christian in recent memory (present day) who suffered some form of affliction/hardship?
3. Why do Christians suffer afflictions?
4. Are you possibly going through any? If yes, see your teacher for counseling

# PART 6: PERFECTING THE NEW LIFE

## STUDY 23

**TOPIC:** Holiness

**AIM:** *To help the new believer to adopt holy living as his principle of life*

**TEXT:** Romans 12:1-2

**INTRODUCTION:** Holiness is a character of God and God wishes us as His children to be holy. It is a way of life, living according to the counsel of God, being what God desires of us so as to give Him (God) the glory due to Him. It is also living a sanctified life.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is holiness? I Thes. 5:22-23; Rom. 6:22. (Holiness is being blameless before God. It implies living a Christ like life).
2. What do the following passages tell us? Lev. 11:45; I Pet. 1:15-16; Lk. 1:74-75. (God desires and commands holy living).
3. How are we made holy (sanctified)?
  - i) By the word of God – Jn. 17:17; Ps. 119:11.
  - ii) By the blood of Jesus Christ – Heb. 13:12; I Jn. 1:7; Heb. 9:13-14. (The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses only those who accept His sacrifice at the cross of Calvary).
  - iii) By Chastisement – Heb. 12:6-11. (Chastisement incorporates discipline, correction, training and trials).
  - iv) By yielding to the Holy Spirit – Rom. 6:19; Rom. 15:16; I Cor. 6:11.
  - v) By playing a part ourselves – II Cor. 7:1.
  - vi) By praying and fasting – I Tim. 4:5 Jude 20; Joel 1:14; Jonah 3:5; Acts 13:2-3.
  - vii) By always applying the sacrifice of Jesus. 2 Cor. 4:10-11
4. What practical steps should the Christian adopt towards holiness?
  - a) Separation from evil – Tit. 2:11-14; Rom. 6:11-13; I Jn. 2:15; I Tim. 6:11; Gal. 5:19-21.
  - b) Separation unto God – James 4:7-8; Ps. 42:1-4; Col. 3:1-5.
  - e) Repentance and confession - I Jn. 2:1-2; 2Cor. 13:5.
5. What are the results of sanctification (Holy life)?
  - ii) Attracts unbelievers to Christ – Jer. 15:19.
  - iii) Gives God glory – Matt. 5:6.
  - iv) Guarantees our protection and healing from God – Ex. 15:26.
  - v) Guarantees our seeing Christ – I Jn. 3:1-3; Heb. 12:14.

**CONCLUSION:** Holiness does not come by birth or inheritance. It cannot be imparted from one man to another. It is the fruit of continuously abiding in Christ. Holy living is worthy of a Christian's calling and guarantees that in the end he/she will reap a just reward.

**MEMORY VERS:** Heb. 12:14- *“Follow peace with all men and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord”*.

**Home Assignment**

1. What is the difference between holiness and sanctification?
2. How and when do we become holy?
3. How can we continue to grow in holiness?

## STUDY 24

**TOPIC:** Self Examination

**AIM:** *To help the new Christian to regularly examine himself in order to help him guard his new faith*

**TEXT:** 2Cor. 13:3-8; Ps. 139:23-24

**INTRODUCTION:** Healthy self esteem is important because some of us think too little of ourselves, while some others over estimate themselves. The key to an honest and accurate evaluation is knowing the basis of our self worth i.e. our identity in Christ. Apart from Him, we are not capable of very much by eternal standards; in Him only are we capable of worthy service. Evaluating ourselves by the worldly standards of success and achievement can cause us to think too much about our worth in the eyes of others and thus miss our true value in God's eyes. Besides, we need to always listen to our hearts to hear the voice of our sanctified conscience.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why should the Christian have a daily self examination? 2Cor. 13:5; Acts 24:16.
2. What should a Christian examine himself/herself on?
  15. Jn. 17:23,26 (to see if he/she is one with the Lord, to see if he/she is true)
  16. I Tim 3:8-9 (reveal his/her commitment to the service of God. Are you committed and faithful in God's service?)
  17. On what other issues should you examine yourself? Discuss.
3. Conscience helps the Christian in self examination. How can the Christian have a conscience that is always alert? - Heb. 9:14; Phil. 3:12-14; Rom. 12:2; Rom. 8:5; Josh. 1:8; Heb. 4:12 (keep your focus on Christ and his sacrifice, do not copy the world, be led by the spirit, read, meditate and obey the word of God)
4. What standard should a Christian adopt as he examines himself?
  - Matt. 5:43-48; Lev. 19:18; Heb. 12:2; Phil. 2:5; 3:17.
5. Consequences of lack of self examination.
  18. Inviting condemnation of God. I Cor. 11:27-30.
  19. Inability to access spiritual growth.
  20. Loss of spiritual relationship with God.
  21. Openness of oneself to sins.
6. What practical ways can a Christian adopt to examine himself? Discuss.

**CONCLUSION:** The life without self-examination is worthless and empty. Therefore, for a Christian to have a fulfilled, enriched, successful life, he must subject himself daily to self examination in relation to the word of God.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *“Examine yourself whether ye be in the faith. Prove your own self”*.  
(KJV)

**Home Assignment:**

1. What is self-examination?
2. Self-examination can also be likened to medical x-ray. Can you explain the process involved and the role of the Holy Spirit? Read Ps 139

## **STUDY 25** (To be studied in two study sessions)

**TOPIC:** The Integrity of a Christian

**TEXT:** Daniel 1: 1- end; Ps 15: 1-end

**AIM:** *To help participants understand what integrity is and how to maintain integrity as a Christian, especially in this contradictory world we live in.*

Introduction: The Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary 7<sup>th</sup> edition defined integrity as "the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles". Today many people, due to past disappointments, have resolved to deal with clear heathens than with one who is a professed Christian. This is a problem that is rooted on lack of honest dealings based on strong moral principles. Integrity therefore creates and builds strong relationships/fellowships where all parties are satisfied and God glorified.

### **STUDY QUESTIONS:**

1. In your own words, what is integrity?
  
2. What factors enhance integrity in a Christian?
  - a. Faith in God – 2 Tim 1: 5; Heb 11: 6
  - b. Fear of God in a Christian- Gen 39: 7- 9; Prov 9: 10
  - c. Deep knowledge of God- Dan 11: 32
  - d. Sound knowledge of the Scriptures- Ps 119: 9, 11; 2 Tim. 2: 15; 2 Tim 3: 15-17
  - e. Personal resolve- Dan 1: 8
  - f. Spiritual Growth- Gal 5: 16-17; Eph 4: 13-14
  
3. In what areas or ways must we show integrity?
  - a. In Political office, just like Daniel- Dan 1: 8;
  - b. In official responsibilities- Luke 16: 10-12; Col 3: 22-24
  - c. In meeting obligations- Col 4: 1; Rom 13: 8
  - d. In civic responsibilities such as voting, payment of taxes, etc- Rom 13: 6-7
  - e. In what we speak- Prov. 12: 18-19, 22; Prov 14: 5; Eph 4: 29; Ps 15: 2-3
  - f. Moral living- Gen 39: 11-13; 1 Cor 6: 18-20
  - g. In vows/promises- Eccl 5: 4-5; Ps 15: 4b
  - h. Other areas such as not taking bribes; not falsifying papers; not keeping false weights; not keeping late to meetings/appointments, etc Prov 11: 1; 20: 10, 23
  
4. What are some of the benefits of maintaining integrity?
  - a. Abiding in the presence of God- Ps 15: 1
  - b. Blessing of God- Ps 119: 1-2

- c. Spiritual and material promotion- Esther 8: 15; Gen 41: 39-44; Dan 1: 18-20; Lu 12: 42-43
  - d. God's favour in your life- Gen 39: 2-5; 21-23
  - e. Victory over all situations- 1 John 5: 3-4
  - f. Eternal life and peace- Rev 22: 12-14
5. What are some of the hindrances and challenges of maintaining integrity?
- a. Envy- Dan 6: 3-5
  - b. Evil worldly system- Dan 3: 1, 5-6
  - c. Love of money and the things of the world- 1 John 2: 15-17; 1 Tim 6: 6-10
  - d. Lack of focus on the main thing- Heb 12: 1-4
  - e. Not grounded in the knowledge of God- 2 Pet 1: 2-4

**CONCLUSION:** There is nothing like integrity. It is not a gift, but a quality of life we cultivate, nurture and maintain through deliberate and constant practice. You cannot afford not to be a man or woman of integrity. Your success largely depends on it.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank" – Daniel 1: 8a*

**Home Assignment:**

1. Is it impossible for Christians today to maintain integrity? Discuss and give scriptural reasons for your answer (also refer to Matt. 5: 48)
2. Mention some other practical areas we must show integrity
3. Have you ever struggled with integrity? If yes, in what area (s)? What factors made it difficult for you to maintain integrity at that time
4. How can you honestly assess your level of integrity now?

## STUDY 26

### TOPIC: THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

**AIM:** *To alert the new believer to the fact that as Christians, we are pilgrims here on earth, with heavenly citizenship; and to the soon coming again of Christ, so as to be better prepared.*

**TEXT:** II Pet. 3:1-14

**INTRODUCTION:** Initially when we were working on this discipleship manual, we did not consider a topic like this one important at this level, even though there has been advice to that effect. But we changed our minds after the Executive session of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010 where members were unanimous in opinion that it was necessary to include it, especially now that the subject is fast becoming *extinct* (or so it seems) in the church. All new comers, it was reasoned, need introduction to the fact that this earth is not the final home of the believer. We are only pilgrims here on earth, with an important hope to look forward to: *the second coming of Christ* otherwise known as the *Second Advent*.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What do Christians mean when they speak of the second coming of Christ? John 14:3; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor.15:19.
2. What do the following texts say about the believer and the second coming? Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thes.5:1-3; **2Thes 2:** 1-2; 1 Jn. 3:2; Rev.21:5-8; 22: 6-7;10-14.
3. Identify a key mix-up that has been predicted in the final time leading up to the second coming of Christ. II Pe. 3: 2-4.
4. What are some of the key events to expect as we await the second coming of Christ? 1 Thes. 4:13-18; 2 Thes. 2:1-4.
5. What is meant by *rapture* (1 Thes.4: 17) and how is it different from *the coming of Christ* described in (Zec. 14:3-4)?
6. How should we prepare for this major end-time event as those having this hope? I Pe.2:11-12; **2Pet.** 3:11-14; 1 Jn. 3:2-3; Rev.16:15

**CONCLUSION:** The second coming of Christ has to do with His bodily appearance on earth again. The scriptures clearly state that Christians should not be ignorant of it. But because God does not see as man sees, one key mix up in the time leading up to His actual coming again is interpreting His seeming delay in coming as slackness by God concerning His promise, urged on by scoffers or jesters. Meanwhile, we have identified three key events that Christians should expect in the days leading up to Christ's return in this study. These are the *rapture* (or the mysterious caught up experience of all true believers ready for His return); the *great falling away* (the massive apostasy i.e. the falling away of many believers from the faith), and *the revelation of the man of sin* (or Anti-Christ). It should be noted however that at the *rapture*, Christ's feet will not touch ground, the saints will be *caught up to meet the Lord in the air*; whereas in *the second coming* described in Zec. 14, *the Lord's feet shall touch the ground on Mount Olives in Jerusalem*. We also examined how we may be adequately prepared for this great event of history. Remaining undefiled and in faith when He returns are indispensable.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 1 Jn.3:3 "And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself just as He is pure"

**Home Assignment:**

1. Explain in your own words what you understand by the second coming of Christ.
2. Mention two vital things we must never forget if we are to benefit from this experience.

## PART SEVEN

1. GENERAL REVIEW – This should be handled by the Assistant Unit Superintendent of the church as he may deem fit in two class sessions.
2. ASSESSMENT – This should be handled by the leader of the Discipleship Unit of the church (the Unit Superintendent) in one class session.
3. GRADUATION AND AWARD OF CERTIFICATES – This should be a ceremony during the church service on a Sunday. The graduation Certificate so obtained qualifies a candidate for enrolment into the confirmation class (if not already confirmed).