

*In Search of
Spiritual Life & Maturity
as a Christian*

12 Lessons

Prepared by:

Paul E. Cantrell

2003

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HANDOUT MATERIAL FOR STUDENTS (Questions)		

Lesson One

“Are You Satisfied With Your Life?”

Introduction

- 1. Man has two ways to walk in this life. Gal. 5:16-18**
 - a. Carnal (fleshly)—The way of the world....or...**
 - b. Spiritual—the way of the Spirit.**
- 2. Even the Christian has this choice. 1 Cor. 3:1-4**
 - a. A person can be a Christian and still be carnally minded.**
 - b. Or, he can be a Christian and Spiritual.**
- 3. Contrast of two ways can give us reason for turning to the Spiritual Life.**
 - a. It encourages one to seek a better way.**
 - b. As human beings:**
 - i. We need purpose & meaningfulness to our existence.**
 - ii. Without such, there is despair.**
 - iii. It is viewing life as only going nowhere but the grave.**
 - c. Little change is called for until there is dissatisfaction.**
 - d. Jesus came to call “sinners to repentance, not the righteous.”**
 - i. Because the self-satisfied and self-righteous have little reason for changing.**
 - ii. It is the unhappy person that is searching for more than mere material existence.**
 - iii. Such are searching for more than just coming into the world, living and dying.**
 - iv. He is searching for more than just to endure the great vicissitudes of life and then die.**
 - e. When man becomes dis-encharnted with the world....he turns to the other life...the spiritual life.**
- 4. If we are not satisfied, why not turn to the better life?**

Discussion Questions

- 1. What is “Spiritual Life” and the terms that denote it?**
 - a) 1 Cor. 3:1—Spiritual**
 - b) Rom. 6:4—Newness of life**
 - c) Rom. 6:11—Alive unto God**
 - d) Rom. 6:18—Servants of righteousness**
 - e) Rom. 6:22—Fruit unto holiness**
 - f) Rom. 8:5-6—Mind the things of the Spirit**

g) Rom. 8:9—Have Spirit of Christ

2. How is “Spiritual Life” characterized?

- a) Acts 17:28—Recognizing our dependence upon God.**
- b) Rom. 12:2—Recognizing my need for a change for the better
---Not continuing to conform to this world.**
- c) Luke 6:46—Seeing need of submission to God’s will.**
- d) Gal. 5:18—Being obedient to Spirit of God**
- e) Gal. 5:19-23—Having good fruit instead of bad**
- f) John 10:10—It is the full and complete life**

3. What are three dissatisfactions that could lead to a change from Carnality to Spirituality?

- a) Coming to see the bad fruits of carnality. Gal. 6:7-8;**
 - 1) Carnality not only brings pleasure, but evil fruit.**
 - 2) It brings harm, hurt, tragedies, and even death to the innocent**
 - 3) But also to the guilty!**
 - 4) Some sins bring immediate results, while others take longer**
 - 5) But carnality reaps its reward.**
 - 6) Even the Christian can see its evil fruits in His life.**
 - 1 Cor. 3:1-3—See envy, strife, divisions come**
 - Gal. 5:15—Christians bite and devour one another**
 - Gal. 5:19-21—See all evil fruit of carnality listed.**
 - 7) When we clearly see these....a change should be in order.**

- b) Seeing the emptiness of my life spiritually. John 4:13-14**
 - 1) Man is both physical and spiritual.**
 - 2) He is made to live on a spiritual plane if he so chooses.**
 - 3) Until he does, there is a constant seeking for something that will make his life meaningful.**
 - 4) Those who realize this emptiness will come to the source that can fill that need!**
 - John 7:37—If any man thirst, let him come to me**
 - Matt. 5:6—If a man hungers & thirst after righteousness....**
 - Matt. 11:28-29—Jesus can lift burdens and give us rest from our search.**

5) This is true for both saint and sinner.

- c) Seeing that others have found something better than I have. John 4:39-42**

1) Woman at the well discovered something better.

- 2) She went to tell others of this find.
- 3) What do we see in the lives of spiritual people?
 - Gal. 5:24—Made a change for the better
---Have crucified the flesh with its affections and lusts.
 - Col. 3:1-2—They have real meaningfulness and purpose
 - Gal. 5:22-23—They see beautiful fruit born in their lives

Conclusion

1. Theme—"A Search for Spiritual Life and Spiritual Development."
2. **Distinctions to be made: Carnality, Spiritual Life, Spirituality, Maturity.**
 - a) **Contrast between:**
 - **Carnality vs. Spirituality**
 - **Spiritual Life vs. Spirituality**
 - **Spirituality vs. Spiritual Maturity**
3. **Things to Accomplish.....**
 - a) Deeper felt need for Spiritual Life & Spirituality.
 - b) Greater Development of Spiritual Maturity.
 - c) Encourage Spiritual Leadership.

Lesson Two

“Why Should I Want to Live a Spiritual Life?”

Introduction

1. Matt. 7:7-8

a) The promise is an obvious one....seek and you will find.

2. What is it that a man should seek after to find?

a. When a person says (he is in search of meaning for his life), what does he mean?

b. It is obvious that he is living a physical existence upon earth.

c. If that life is not satisfying to him, what other life is there?

3. What other choice of living does man have?

a. Quite obviously....a spiritual life.

4. Why should mankind want to live a Spiritual Life?

Discussion Questions

1. Does God intend for man to live the Higher Life?

a) **Man's make-up. ..He is both physical & spiritual being.**

• **Gen. 2:7**—Made from dust.....given life...living being.

• **1:27**—Made in image of God.

• **1 Cor. 2:11**—**Only man's spirit within knows the man.**

• **1 Thess. 5:23**—Man is body, soul, and Spirit.

• **Since man is both Physical and Spiritual—the spiritual is calling for satisfaction. We need to be concerned.**

b) **God intended for the spirit to control the flesh.**

• **Matt. 26:41**—Spirit is willing, flesh is weak.

• **1 Cor. 6:20**—To glorify God with both body and spirit.

• **1 Cor. 7:34**—Be holy both in body and spirit.

• **The spirit can lead man to the higher life.**

c) **When the flesh is followed, the lower life will be lived!**

• **Gal. 5:11-21**—Evil, wicked fruit is born

• **Rom. 8:8**—To live this way does not please God.

2. What are the characteristics of the fleshly life and Spiritual Life that causes man to make the choice for the Higher Life?

a) Characteristics of the fleshly life:

- **1 Cor. 1:21; Rom. 1:21**—He wants to follow his own wisdom
- **Eph. 4:17-18**—Walk in vanity of their minds
----**Understanding darkened...ignorant.**
----They are blind...choosing to be this way.
- **Eph. 2:2-3**—Enjoys indulging in sins of flesh
---**Fulfilling desires of flesh and mind.**
---Children of wrath....fit for destruction.
- **1 Cor. 2:14**—**Not interested in spiritual things.**
---Not concerned about consequences.

b) Characteristics of the Spiritual Life:

- **Rom. 6:1-2, 6**—Died to way of sin—put body of sin to death
- **Rom. 6:13**—**Servants of God**—yielding to righteousness
- **Rom. 8:14**—Led by Spirit...sons of God
- **1 Cor. 10:31**—Do all to glory of God
- **Col. 3:1-2**—Seek things above...affections on things above

c) Results of the two ways of living:

- **Gal. 6:7-8**—Sow to flesh, reap corruption
Sow to spirit, reap life everlasting
- **Rom. 8:6, 13**—To be carnally minded is death
---Be spiritual minded is life and peace
- It is obvious which is better!

3. Why is the “Spiritual Life” the only correct way to deal with sin and guilt?

a) Man’s way of dealing with sin:

- **Gen. 3:8**—When guilty...run and hide!
- **Prov. 28:13**—Tries to cover them some other way, rather than confessing and forsaking the sins.
- **Isa. 29:15**—Try to hide things from God.
- **Job 34:22**—No place (in darkness or shadow of death) where the sinner can hide his sin.

b) Some ways men try to deal with their guilt:

- **Call it sickness**
- **Deny the reality of sin**
- **Make up for wrongs with good works**
- **Blame others**
- **Blame environment or circumstances**

- **Hide sins from others**
 - **Punish ourselves**
 - **Physically flee**
 - **Turn inward, withdraw**
 - **Busy ourselves with other matters**
 - **NOTE:**
 - 1) None of these deal with the real problem....sin.
 - 2) **Man needs his sins covered correctly.**
- c) God's way of dealing with sin:**
- **Rom. 4:7-8**—A man is blessed when God covers his sins.
 - **Acts 2:38**—**Repent & be baptized for remission**
 - **1 John 1:7-9**—**Walk in light...continual cleansing**
 - **NOTE:**
 - 1) God's way makes atonement for sins.
 - 2) He can justly forgive us.

Conclusion

1. **The Spiritual Life is a Spiritual battle. Gal. 5:17**
 - a. **A constant struggle within**
 - b. **Fights the battle every day**
 - c. **It is against powers of darkness**
 - d. **Needs the whole armor of God (Eph. 6)**
2. **The Spiritual Life promises final victory. 1 Cor. 15:55-58**

Lesson Three

“How Can a Spiritual Life be Started?”

Introduction

1. **John 10:10**
2. **Dissatisfaction should cause man to see the “abundant life.”**
3. **The value of the Spiritual Life should motivate us to seek that Life which Jesus offers to give to mankind.**
4. **How can this Life be begun?**

Discussion Questions

1. How is the term, “Life,” used in Scriptures?

- a) **Luke 8:14**—This life (physical existence)
- b) **1 John 2:16**—Pride of life (carnal existence—against God)
- c) **Eph. 4:18**—Alienated from the life of God (darkness)
- d) **John 5:24**—passed from death to life (sentence of death—given life)
- e) **1 John 3:14**—Passed from death to life (state of condemnation to a state of right doing)
- f) **John 10:10**—Give life and that more abundant
- g) **Rom. 6:4**—Walk in newness of life
- h) **Rom. 8:6**—To be spiritually minded is life and peace.
- i) **Matt. 19:16-17**—Enter into life...eternal life

2. What brings about Spiritual Life?

- a) **Rom. 6:23**—It is a gift of God
 - **John 10:10**—Jesus came to give it
 - **John 1:4**—He is life....only God can give this life.
- b) **John 3:1-7**—Must be born again of water and spirit
 - **Tit. 3:5**—Washing of regeneration, and renewing of the H.S.
 - **2 Cor. 3:6**—The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life
 - **Gal. 3:21**—If there had been a law given which could have given life
 - It is obvious....this life comes from the Spirit of God!
 - But How?
- c) **1 Pet. 1:22-23**—Purified souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit
 - **Jas. 1:18**-- **Of his own will begat he us by the word of truth**
 - God, Christ, Holy Spirit makes this life possible for man.
 - They have used various means of making it possible through Christ
 - The Spirit uses the Word of God to:

- 1) Teach us
- 2) Encourage us
- 3) Motivate us to believe and obey His will
- d) **Rom. 8:14**—Led by Spirit...are sons of God
 - **Acts 2:38**—Repent and be baptized for remission of sins
 - **1 Pet. 1:22**—Purified souls through obedience to truth
 - New life comes to man through the work of God’s Spirit
 - But...man must yield himself to the Spirit’s teachings
 - 1) God is dealing with responsible people.
 - 2) When man fell, he did not cease to be a creature of understanding and will.
 - 3) God extends His grace & forgiveness to man—but it is not done as though man has no responsibility, understanding, or will.
 - 4) By himself, man cannot save himself.
 - 5) But he has a part to play in his redemption.
 - Rom. 6:1-2—man must choose to die to the way of sin.
 - He is then buried in baptism
 - He is raised up to walk in newness of life
 - We now have a new relationship with God
 - Man is now challenged to live above the carnal walk of life

3. What is the outcome of receiving this Life?

- a) **1 John 5:11**—Leads to eternal life through Christ
 - **John 14:6**—For Jesus is Life.
- b) **Rom. 8:6**—To have life and peace.
- c) **Rom. 8:9**—**Spirit of God indwells us**
- d) **John 5:24**—Passed from death unto life—not under condemnation
 - **Acts 2:38**—Remission of sins
 - **Gal. 4:5-7**—Son of God, heir of God
 - **Mark 16:16**--salvation
 - **Rom. 5:1**--Justified

Conclusion

1. **Once attained, this Life must be maintained!**
 - a. **Cannot afford to lose this relationship**
2. **But also involved is the need for Spiritual Development towards Maturity.**
 - a. The renewed, regenerated person possesses great potential spiritually.
 - b. Remaining lessons to encourage towards that end.

Lesson Four

“What is the Difference Between Spiritual Life and Spiritual Maturity?”

Introduction

- 1. To secure Spiritual Life is a must to be right with God.**
 - **John 3:5**—You must be born again
 - **We come into a saved state...special relationship with God**
 - We have His assurances & promises & blessings
 - We also have great hope
- 2. But it is one thing to possess this life, but something entirely different to live this life as it should be lived.**
 - **Securing Spiritual life is only the beginning.**
 - 1) “Once saved, always saved” is not correct.
 - 2) Even if it were...it still would not make us automatically mature spiritually.
 - Spiritual life is something to be lived...not just to receive.
 - 1) **Jas. 2:24—Our faith must be put into action**
 - 2) **Rom. 6:17-18**—We cease being a servant of sin and become a servant of righteousness.
 - Thus, Spiritual life is therefore:
 - 1) Not only a gift from God (forgiveness, cleansing, newness)
 - 2) But also a way of life that will please God.
 - The ultimate goal of spiritual life is not only heaven....but to become mature spiritually.
- 3. Thus, we can possess Spiritual Life, but not be Spiritually Mature.**
 - Spiritual maturity is different from spiritual life.
 - Spiritual life is a necessity though in order to obtain maturity.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Does God command of us—both, Spiritual Life & Spiritual Maturity?**
 - a) **John 3:5; Acts 2:38**—Something we must do!
 - b) **Matt. 5:48; Eph. 4:11-16**—Continue to do towards our goal.
- 2. How is Spiritual Maturity identified in Scripture?**
 - a) It is more than just a relationship with God.
 - It is more than receiving the blessings of being saved.
 - It is more than having the hope of heaven.

- It is a developing of that spiritual life unto a mature status
- b) **1 Pet. 2:1-2**—As babes grow up...so must we.
 - Man was created to grow
 - His environment was so created to promote that growth
 - Even dealing with people about us provides opportunity for growth
 - “Whatever ceases to grow begins to die.”
 - “Stagnation brings corruption”
 - A converted soul, given spiritual life, can still revert back to the old way of living.
 - Growth is a must...onward, forward, upward! **2 Pet. 3:18**
 - The tendency to rebel in the human heart must be overcome.
- c) **Jas. 1:5**—Need help from God
 - We need to ask for wisdom.
 - **James 3:13-18**—Need the wisdom from above.
- d) **2 Cor. 10:5**—Bring every thought into captivity to mind of Christ
 - It takes time to develop a deeply spiritual person
 - The challenge is great...the opportunity is before us all
- e) **2 Pet. 1:5-11**—Failure to grow shows we have missed the boat.
- f) **Heb. 5:12-14**—Illustration of the problem.
 - They had not grown....were rebuked
 - Need to grow to become strong. (Heb. 6:1-2)
- g) **Eph. 5:18**—Be filled with the spirit
 - Constant working to be filled with the Spirit.
 - To let our lives be fully surrendered to the Spirit’s Word
 - Be filled with spiritual thoughts, deeds, actions.
- h) **2 Cor. 7:1**—Need to go through a cleansing process...perfecting us
- i) **2 Tim. 3:17**—Wants us to be complete, furnished to all good works

3. Is there a difference between the Law of growth in the physical realm and the Spiritual realm?

- a) Spiritual maturity is not the results of wishful thinking.
- b) Nor is it some mysterious, miraculous work of God.
- c) It comes through the growing process.
 - It is having our lives and thinking transformed into that of God’s
 - Rom. 12:1-2
 - God’s will is to become supreme...in principle and fact.
 - Requires learning and submitting.
 - Ever increasingly recognizing the authority of Christ over our entire being.

Conclusion

- 1. Man was created and placed in an environment to encourage growth.**
 - **Why all the problems, trials, tribulations in life?**
 - **They are there to help us grow...to mature.**
- 2. Spiritual Life is necessary in order to begin our growth towards Spiritual Maturity.**

Lesson Five

“What are Some Things That Help Contribute to Spiritual Development?”

Introduction

1. **Eph. 1:3**—“All Spiritual Blessings in Christ.”
2. **God’s people share many good things in common:**
 - a) **1 Tim. 1:15**—Common Savior
 - b) **Acts 2:47**—Added to same body of people
 - c) **Rom. 6:4-5**—All given newness of life with Christ
 - d) **Rom. 6:17-18**—All have become servants of righteousness
 - e) **1 Cor. 6:9-11**—All have been cleansed from past defilement
3. **We also share a common challenge to grow as Christians. (2 Pet. 3:18)**
4. **We need to be aware of the many things that help contribute to that Spiritual Development within.**

Discussion Questions

1. **Why did God place special servants in the church? (Eph. 4:11-16)**
 - a) Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers
 - b) For the perfecting of the saints
 - c) For the work of the ministry (serving)
 - d) For the edifying of the body of Christ
 - e) **END RESULT**—Till we all come in unity of faith....knowledge of Son of God....perfect man....unto measure of the stature of fullness of Christ

2. **In what way does God’s family show that they care?**
 - a) **1 Cor. 12:25-26**
 - 1) No schism
 - 2) Have same concern...care one for another
 - 3) If one suffers....all suffer with it
 - 4) If one honored....all honored with it
 - b) **1 Cor. 13:4-8**
 - 1) Same love
 - 2) Longsuffering and kind
 - 3) Not envy....not haughty
 - 4) Good behavior
 - 5) Unselfish
 - 6) Patient with one another

- 7) Wants good to triumph
- 8) Believes the best about one another
- 9) Just keep on loving

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- 1) To be accepted in spite of our differences
- 2) Work through differences between people
- 3) Accept weak and strong—work together

3. What special incentives and activities has God provided to promote this development?

- a) **1 Pet. 2:1-2**—Feed on his Word—like a baby desiring it’s milk.
 - a. **Deut. 8:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; John 17:3**
 - b. Intelligent reading, painstaking study, careful reflection produces results.
- b) **Heb. 10:24-25**—Worship assemblies are designed for our good.
 - 1) Spiritual life is influenced by the kind of people we voluntarily associate with.
 - 2) **1 Cor. 11:17, 29-30**—Come together for better
 - Eat and drink unworthily
 - Many are weak and sickly, and sleep
 - 3) What should have been for good...was producing wrong results
 - 4) Corrupt, unspiritual, hypocritical assemblies do not help
 - 5) **Ps. 119:63**—companionship of right people needed
 - 6) It is a privilege to work, worship, and serve with God’s people
 - 7) **Matt. 15:7-9**—heart far from me...vain worship
 - 8) **1 Cor. 14:26**—Should & can be edifying
 - 9) **1 Cor. 15:33**—Right companionship is important
- c) **Jas. 5:13, 16**—Private worship and devotion plays a big role
 - 1) (**Ps. 1:1-2**—Meditate day and night on His word
 - 2) **Jas. 4:8**—A time of drawing near to God
 - 3) **Gal. 6:4-5**—Time to realize I must carry my own burden
 - 4) **Phil. 2:12**—I must work out my own salvation
 - 5) **Matt. 6:6**—Realizing I have my own access to God
 - 6) Promotes closer walk with God
 - 7) Promotes greater desire to please Him
 - 8) Strength comes from this moments alone with God...Jesus did.
- d) **1 Tim. 4:7**—Exercise unto godliness
 - 1) Put into practice what we are learning
 - 2) Faith without works is dead. Jas. 2:

- 3) Heb. 11—All their faith was active.
- 4) **Rom. 12:1**—Bodies as living sacrifices
- 5) **1 Pet. 2:5**—We offer up spiritual worship as priests.
- 6) **Matt. 25:31-46**—God’s favor falls on the doer!
- 7) **Tit. 3:8**—**Fill our lives with good works**
- 8) **Matt. 16:24**—Putting others before ourselves
- 9) **Eph. 4:23-24**—Putting on righteousness
- e) **Heb. 12:5-13**—The need for chastening to produce development
 - 1) **John 15:2**—Pruning to bear more fruit
 - 2) **1 Pet. 4:12**—Trials are not for bad, but good
 - 3) **Jas. 1:12-14**—God does not tempt, but allows trials to help us
 - 4) **1 Cor. 10:13**—Not tried beyond our ability to deal with

Conclusion

1. **Growth comes because of good environment.**
 - a. I don’t know if there is “an ideal situation in which to grow.”
 - b. Growth can definitely come from good situations.
2. **But it also comes from being forced to deal with problems.**
 - a. It is to be a Christian wherever we are.
 - b. We can grow facing challenges

Lesson Six

“Things to Avoid That Tend to Destroy Spiritual Development”

Introduction

1. Matt. 13:18-23--4 kinds of soils (hearts)

- a) **Hardened**—Did not receive the word
 - b) **Rocky**—Received it, but had no depth in Word of God
 - c) **Thorny**—Allowed things to hinder development
 - d) **Good & Honest**—Received and developed.
- 2. The 2nd & 3rd illustrates hindrances to Spiritual Development.**

Discussion Questions

1. How does failing to die to sin affect our Spiritual Development?

- a) **Rom. 6:1-2**—Must die to sin
 - 1) *“It is not the ship in the water, but the water in the ship that sinks it. So, it is not the Christian in the world, but the world in the Christian that constitutes the danger.”*
- b) **2 Cor. 7:1**—Clean house—put away sin—not our way of life
- c) **Eph. 4:22**—Put off old man—former behavior that was wrong
- d) **Col. 3:5**—Mortify—put to death—HOW?
 - 1) Calling for a decision about which direction we want to go.
 - 2) It is a battle, a fight—to put down sin in our lives.
 - 3) To crucify the flesh with its lust. Rom. 6:6
 - 4) We are in mortal combat with sin.
 - 5) Complacency here will doom our spiritual development.

2. How does failing to turn from self-centeredness affect our Spiritual Development?

- a) **Matt. 16:24-25**—Die to self in order to live with God
 - 1) Only good and honest heart developed...bore fruit.
 - 2) The insincere will continue in self-centeredness.
- b) **Phil. 2:7-9**—Jesus is the great example of emptying Himself.
 - 1) Man has two grave problems:
 - Over-estimate of himself, his works, his efforts, and fails to give proper glory to God.
 - Over-estimate God’s part—thinking God will do more than He says he will do—under-estimating man’s responsibility.

- 2) Man has responsibility, but even that does not earn or merit his salvation.
- 3) Our lives need to revolve around God, not ourselves.

3. How does failing to deal with past guilt affect our Spiritual Development?

a) Ps. 51:1-3—David had tried to hide and cover up his sin.

- 1) He had to be faced with his sin before he would turn.
- 2) His spiritual development went backwards up to that point.
- 3) We must remember that we cannot hide anything from God.
- 4) Then, why not fully open up to Him.
- 5) Why not request that He search me, cleanse me, renew me?

b) 1 John 1:7-9—God’s way to deal with sin

- 1) Walk in light, not darkness
- 2) Recognize our sinfulness
- 3) Confess our sinfulness
- 4) God does not want to punish man, but for man to draw nigh to God
- 5) But His Holiness calls for punishment of sin, unless it is properly dealt with.

4. How does too much exposure to evil in the world without sufficient compensation in the Spiritual realm affect our Spiritual Development?

a) Matt. 13:21-22

- 1) V. 21—Real problem not persecution, but shallowness in word
- 2) V. 22—Cares of this world—Too much involved in the material
 - Deceitfulness of riches—Serving wrong God
 - Pleasures of this life (Lk. 8:14)—having too good a time

b) 2 Cor. 6:14-18

- 1) Come out from among them.
- 2) Too much exposure can be detrimental.
- 3) Need exposure to spiritual to hold our own & grow.
- 4) Reason for lost of our youth.

5. In what way do the following affect our Spiritual Development?

a) Making unfair distinctions among brethren.

- 1) Honor some and not others.
- 2) Show concern for some and not others.
- 3) Jas. 2
- 4) Rom. 14-15

b) Anxiety and worry—Too much time & energy on wrong things.

- c) **Fear and Tensions**—Shows lack of faith & trust in God
- d) **Resentment and Jealousy**—Allow things & people to affect us
- e) **Wrong reactions**—Not be pulled down to their level.
- f) **Herd Complex (Peer Pressure)**—Letting crowd influence us
- g) **Closed-mindedness**—Closed to the help we need
- h) **Hard-heartedness**—Unable to be touched or affected by right things.

Conclusion

1. **Failure to be involved in those things that promote Spiritual Development.**
2. **Failure to deal properly with the problems that hinder.**
 - a. Can either be problems or challenges
 - b. Can either destroy us or make us stronger
 - c. Can either drive us away from God or draw us closer

Lesson Seven

***“What are Some Means of Measuring
our Spiritual Development?”***

Introduction

- 1. Physical growth can be measured, observed, perceived.**
 - a. Negatively—why what they outgrow
 - b. Positively—by increase in height, etc.
- 2. Same is true Spiritually—there are means of measuring Spiritual Development.**
 - a. Various ways it can be done.
 - b. It can be perceived
 - c. The measuring stick is the teachings of God’s Spirit.
 - d. We need to be concerned about our Sp. Development.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What are some things that DO NOT necessarily indicate Spiritual Development?**
 - a) Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Corinth)**
 - 1) Paul called them carnal, but had all the gifts (1 Cor. 3:1-3)
 - 2) Possessing those gifts did not guarantee sp. Development of the possessor.
 - 3) Simon the Sorcerer illustrates also
 - b) Leadership in the church (3 John 9-10)**
 - 1) He had wrong purpose for being a leader in church.
 - 2) His were carnal concepts of leadership, not spiritual
 - c) Being a Preacher (Phil. 1;14-17)**
 - 1) Some preached Christ out of envy & strife, contention, not sincerity
 - 2) 1 Jn. 4:1—false teachers.
 - 3) Rom. 16:17-18—Serve own belly—carnal, not spiritual
 - d) Piety in front of people (Matt. 6:1-5)**
 - 1) Did to be seen of men, but it was unreal.
 - 2) People can do many things outwardly—not a sure sign of sp. development.
 - e) To be in the church a long time (Heb. 5:12)**
 - 1) They had been in church for possibly 20-30 years.
 - 2) Rebuked for their lack of sp. development.

f) To be in a good church (Phil. 4:2)

- 1) Philippi was one of the better churches.
- 2) Still had some that were not developing as they should have.

2. What are some TERMS used to measure Spiritual Development?

- a) **Matt. 5:48**—Perfect, complete, mature
- b) **Col. 2:7**—Rooted, built up in Christ, established in the faith
- c) **1 Cor. 15:58**—Steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in work of Lord
- d) **Rev. 2:10**—Faithful unto death
- e) **Eph. 4:13**—Measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

3. In what way does “growing out of things” illustrate Spiritual Development?

- a) **Rom. 6:1-2, 6**—Weaning away from sin, world, ungodliness, etc.
- b) **Rom. 12:2**—Overcoming sinful habits, attitudes, relationships
 - 1) Not just putting away, but putting on also
 - 2) Puts on good habits, good attitudes, & relationships.
 - 3) **Matt. 22:37-40; 2 Cor. 6:17-18**

4. How is Spiritual Development indicated by how we act in special trying circumstances?

- a) **Phil. 2:12**—Standing on our own two feet...(Gal. 6:4-5)
- b) **Jas. 1:5**—Show wisdom by how we act and speak under trying circumstances
- c) **Jas. 1:26**—Showing discipline, self-control.

5. What does our outlook have to do with indicating Spiritual Development?

- a) **Matt. 16:24-25**—We will have a more correct view of ourselves
- b) **Phil. 2:2-3**—Better view of others
- c) **1 John 2:15-17; Col. 3:1-3**—Where we place our emphasis
- d) **Luke 6:46**—Respecting God’s Lordship over us

6. Does the fruit we bear indicate Spiritual Development?

- a) **Gal. 5:22-23**—Bear right kind of fruit
- b) **John 15:1-5**—Cleansed, purging, bear more fruit
- c) **2 Pet. 1:5-12**—Put away blindness—add good things to our lives

Conclusion

- 1. Many things can be used.**
- 2. Important thing is to begin measuring ourselves.**
 - a. We must be concerned about growth.
 - b. It needs to be God-centered and God-controlled life.

Lesson Eight

***“What are the Goals of
Spiritual Maturity & Completeness?”***

Introduction

- 1. The Lord challenges His people towards the ultimate goal of perfection.**
 - a) **Matt. 5:48**—Be perfect as God is
 - b) **2 Tim. 3:16-17**—Furnished unto every good work
 - c) **1 Jn. 3:2**--To be remade in the image of Christ.
 - d) **Phil. 2:5**--To be Christ-like in mind and life.
 - e) **It is a goal towards which we will strive all of our lives.**
- 2. But it is not an end in itself.**
 - a) **There are lesser goals, more attainable for Christians.**
 - b) **They are in reality by-products of our ultimate goal.**

Discussion Questions

- 1. How does stability relate to Spiritual Maturity?**
 - a) **Eph. 4:14**—Without stability we are tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine and sleight of men.
 - b) **Matt. 13:20-21**—Fall away when persecution comes
 - c) **John 10:28-29**—Our fall is not God’s fault.
 - 1) It is not a lack of power on God’s part
 - 2) He has chosen to make man responsible.
 - 3) He can and will carry out His part perfectly.
 - d) **1 Pet. 1:5**—Kept by God’s power through our faith!
 - e) **Heb. 3:12-14**—Unless steadfast to end...no hope
 - 1) Unbelief—departed from God
 - 2) Hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
 - 3) Made partakers if hold confidence steadfast unto end.
 - 4)
 - f) **Rev. 2:10**—Faithful to the end.
 - g) **Col. 1:28-29**—Preach, warn, teach, so that he could present every man perfect in Christ.
- 2. How does greater usefulness relate to Spiritual Maturity?**
 - a) **Eph. 2:10**—We are God’s workmanship to do good works
 - b) **Phil. 2:13**—We are motivated by God
 - c) **Phil. 2:12**—Work out own salvation with fear and trembling.

- d) **Eph. 6:10-11**—Put on the whole armor of God to fit the wiles of the devil
- e) **Tit. 3:8**—Be careful to maintain good works
- f) **1 Cor. 15:58**—Always abounding in work of Lord
 - 1) Combination of God working in us and our yielding to him produces fruit unto His glory.
 - 2) It also produces sp. Growth in us
- g) **2 Tim. 2:21**—We become vessels unto honor...prepared for every good work
- h) **John 15:2, 8**—God is glorified when we bear much fruit.
- i) **2 Pet. 1:8-10**—If we lack these things...blind & barren.

3. How does the HOPE OF HEAVEN relate to Spiritual Maturity?

- a) **Rom. 8:24**—We are saved by hope.
 - 1) It is the strength of that hope that really matters.
 - 2) Stronger the hope—more sure of our salvation.
- b) **Heb. 4:9-11**—This hope is not wishful thinking, but based on tangible evidence.
 - 1) God has promised us a rest.
 - 2) That rest comes after a life of labor & work
- c) **Rev. 2:10**—That hope, or crown of righteousness, is realized after a life of faithfulness!

Conclusion

- 1. Greater stability, usefulness, hope are all based on man's striving towards maturity or perfection.**
- 2. These are the by-products that man needs in order to reach heaven.**

Lesson Nine

“Who are Spiritual Leaders?”

Introduction

1. **Isa. 3:1-4**
 - a) **Spiritual Leadership was lacking in Israel—brought ruin!**
 - b) **When Spiritual Leadership is lost, incompetent leaders replace them.**
2. **Leadership is a vital aspect of any group of people or organization.**
3. **Spiritual Leadership in the church is a must for it to succeed.**
 - a) Without it...church will flounder.
 - b) Israel well illustrates this truth.
4. **That Spiritual Leadership is made up of individuals who have developed Spiritually in their lives to a point of effectiveness.**

Discussion Questions

1. **What is a Leader? Or what is Leadership in a general sense?**
 - a) Ability to influence people towards accepted goals.
 - 1) These goals can be good or bad...great or insignificant.
 - 2) To influence people in a given direction
 - b) Those who are a step ahead of the people....out in front challenging.
 - 1) Lead, not drive.
 - 2) Willing followers, not forced followers
 - 3) One who has something to offer...to gain confidence of people.
2. **What is Spiritual Leadership?**
 - a) **1 Cor. 1:12; 3:3**—There are carnal leaders & spiritual leaders.
 - 1) They were following men and dividing up the body of Christ
 - 2) The leaders were causing this.
 - 3) Carnal leaders lead for wrong purpose and goals.
 - 4) Spiritual leaders lead for right purpose and goals.
 - 5) Can be good leaders, but not spiritual leaders.
 - 6) Good carnal leaders do not help spiritual development.
 - 7) Good spiritual leaders do!
 - b) **Rom. 8:5, 13**
 - 1) Sp. leaders mind the things of the Spirit.
 - 2) They are dealing with the carnal aspects of life.
 - 3) They have good spiritual qualities in their own lives.

3. What are some contrast between carnal & Spiritual Leaders?

a) 1 Cor. 3:3; Eph. 4:12

- 1) Not those who tear down, destroy, divide and cause strife.
- 2) But those who build up and save.

b) 3 John 9; 1 Pet. 5:3

- 1) Not those who seek pre-eminence and Lordship
- 2) But those who seek to set an example of humility & service

c) 1 Cor. 2:5-6; Rom. 8:5-6

- 1) Not those who follow carnal ways and man's wisdom
- 2) But those who follow the ways of the Spirit and God's wisdom

d) 1 Tim. 3:6; 4:12

- 1) Not those whose lives reflect immaturity
- 2) But lives that reflect maturity—spiritual maturity.

e) 1 Tim. 3:1-7

- 1) Not those whose lives are unqualified to serve
- 2) But who are spiritually qualified to serve.

f) 1 Tim. 3:4-5

- 1) Not those who are good men, but no leadership ability
- 2) But those who are good men and possess leadership ability

g) 1 Cor. 10:31

- 1) Not those who seek their own glory
- 2) But who seek the glory of God

h) 1 Tim. 3:1

- 1) Not those who seek for a position (Rabbi—Matt. 23:5-12)
- 2) But those who seek for a good work (Mt. 20:25-28)

Conclusion

1. True Spiritual Leadership will not be in “Name Only,” but in fact!

- a) God placed leaders, workers in church to lead and work.
- b) Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers.
- c) They are not in name only...as honorary designations
- d) But they denote servanthood...willing workers in the kingdom for special purposes.
- e) They also denote qualified, able, spiritual leaders.

Lesson Ten

“Spirituality in Action”

Introduction

1. How would you evaluate the following paragraph?

“*Being Spiritual* is not being more emotional in our prayers than the average person. *Being Spiritual* is not feeling ecstatically on *cloud 9* during the ten-thirty worship hour. *Being Spiritual* is not radiating Jesus to people around you by a silent inner-glow, so that through a process of divine osmosis others *absorb Jesus* too. By common usage, *being spiritual* has in the last few years been re-defined to mean, *having an emotional, radiant, inner glow.*”

- a. Some people are just naturally more emotionally inclined than others.
 - b. Does that make them automatically more spiritual?
 - c. Just how is Jesus radiated?
 - d. Acts 3:13—They knew the apostles had been with Jesus by what they said, how they said it, and what they did.
 - e. Acts 7:60—Stephen also showed the “spirit of Christ” in his attitude towards his murderers.
- 2. Just who is a “Spiritual Person,” and how can we know by his actions that he is “Spiritual?” (Gal. 6:1)**

Discussion Questions

1. What is the relationship between “Spirituality” and “Spiritual Life?”

- a) **1 Cor. 1:2**—Spiritual life---being forgiven---a child of God
- b) **1 Cor. 3:1**—But a child of God can be carnal, not spiritual!
- c) **1 Cor. 2:15; Rom. 8:6**—We need spiritual life, but to also be spiritual
 - 1) We need to be spiritually-minded.
- d) **Rom. 8:13-14**—Spirituality involves the attitude of the mind and heart, but also the actions in my life.
 - 1) Spirituality is the “Active” concept of spiritual life.

2. How would you characterize a “Spiritual” person?

- a) **In his home? (Col. 3:18-21)**
 - 1) All being obedient to God’s will.
 - 2) Proper attitudes and proper actions.
- b) **At his job? (Col. 3:22-25)**
 - 1) Working well as an employee

- 2) Good attitudes and actions
- c) In his neighborhood? (Matt. 25:31-36; 7:21-23)**
 - 1) He loves his neighbor as himself.
 - 2) Shoulders his responsibilities.
 - 3) Obeys laws of the land
 - 4) Good attitudes and actions
- d) With his friends? (1 Cor. 13:4-8)**
 - 1) Helpful, kind, courteous, thoughtful, loving, etc.
 - 2) Good attitudes and actions
- d) In the Assembly? (John 4:24; 1 Cor. 14:26)**
 - 1) Promotes the good of the assembly....thoughtful.
 - 2) Obedient to God in attitude and actions.
 - 3) Encouraging unity and peace.
 - 4) Encouraging people onward

NOTE: Can You see an inconsistency in the following?

- 1) He or She is such a deeply spiritual person, but:
- 2) He beats his wife or she can't stand her husband;
- 3) He cheats his company
- 4) He curses some, uses God's name in vain;
- 5) He is contentious among the brethren.

Conclusion

- 1. The "Spiritual" person is one who has allowed the Holy Spirit to greatly affect his life. (Acts 6:3; Rom. 8:13-14; Gal. 5:16-18, 25-26)**
- 2. We are commanded to be "Spiritual." (Eph. 5:18)**

Lesson Eleven

“Spiritual Development—An Enduring Process”

Introduction

1. Physically:

a) **Have you noticed some people develop more rapidly at first than others?**

b) **While others may be slower, they seem to catch up later.**

2. Spiritually:

a) **This seems to be just as evident.**

b) **Some Christians develop faster at first than others.**

c) **Acts 6:1-3**

i. **Why have these qualifications, if they all had them?**

ii. **Qualifications—to pick out the ones that have developed more**

d) **Whatever the reasons—it is obvious they had developed fast.**

e) **But even rapid development Spiritually will slow down after a while.**

f) **Here is where the DANGER is. (1 Cor. 10:12-13)**

i. **One who thinks he has arrived...in gravest danger.**

ii. **Rapid growth slows down...watch for discouragement.**

Discussion Questions

1. What time limitation would you place on Spiritual Development?

a) **Rev. 2:10; Heb. 3:14**

1) **Faithful unto death...unto the end.**

2) **Always reaching upward.**

b) **Mark 4:26-29**

1) **It is a gradual, painstaking development at times.**

2) **Song, “One step at a time, dear Savior.”**

c) **Stream—Creek—River—Ocean**

1) **Small stream flows into creek.**

2) **Creek flows into river**

3) **River flows into ocean**

4) **Our lives need to become like this: wider, broader, deeper spiritually.**

2. What dangers must be watched for in order to have Spiritual Development?

a) **Phil. 3:12-15—Thinking we have arrived.**

1) **Self-righteous Pharisees thought they had arrived. Lk. 18:9-14**

2) Who could begin to think they were perfect as God is?

b) 2 Cor. 4:16; Heb. 12:10-11

1) Be discouraged because of slow development—even after much effort.

2) Outward development may not be evident, while there has been inward development.

3) Our lives may go through periods of rapid growth alternating with periods of retardation.

4) More visible development may come in times of crisis.

c) Matt. 7:1-5; Jas. 2:13; 4:11-12

1) Being too judgmental of our brethren when we don't see spiritual development.

2) Need to be loving towards others in our judgments.

3) Strict on ourselves....tolerant towards others.

4) *“To his own master, he stands or falls.”*

Conclusion

1. It is not just to hold our own until death, but keep developing until death.

a. Some are too content to have development...then coast rest of way.

b. “An enduring process”—constant keeping on.

2. Not to be discouraged if we don't have rapid growth all of our lives.

a. Watch for good indications of development taking place.

b. Do I have a growing consciousness of sin?

c. Do I see a greater need of Christ in my life?

d. Do I have more joy in God's fellowship and service?

e. Can I see more fruit of the Spirit in my life?

f. Is there greater love and devotion to the Word of God in my life?

g. Can I see a greater understanding of God's truth that gives insights for my life?

Lesson Twelve

“Maintaining a Proper Balance in our Spiritual Lives”

Introduction

- 1. Radicalism, fanaticism, unbalanced emphasis is not Biblical, Christian, nor a proper concept of Spiritual Development.**
- 2. Thoughts on Balance: Luke 2:52; 3 John 2; 1 Cor. 14:40**
 - a. Jesus’ own development was many-sided.
 - b. John’s wish for the one to whom he wrote was not one-sided.
 - c. Even the Paul’s statement....Do things properly—not one-sided!

Discussion Questions

- 1. Does Spiritual Growth “Key in on” one or two things only?**
 - a) **Gal. 5:22-23**—Should seek to have all the fruit of the Spirit
 - b) **2 Pet. 1:5-10**—Seek to add all the Christian graces
 - a) Our life should be well-rounded—balanced by seeking to do all of the will of God.
 - c) **“Hobby-rider”**—Is a one-sided, or one-emphasis person.
 - a) They want to ride a “thing” to death.
 - b) Every time they speak...it is the same thing over and over.
 - c) Rides it into the ground.
- 2. How do the following three areas affect our Spiritual Development to keep it in balance?**
 - a) **Volitional:**
 - 1) **John 7:17**—Will to do God’s will.
 - 2) **Phil. 3:14**—Willing to count all things loss for Christ
 - 3) **Keep building a determination to live only for God.**
 - 4) To set our will to do God’s will.
 - b) **Intellectual:**
 - 1) **John 17:3**—Need to come to know God and His Son
 - 2) **2 Pet. 3:18**—Our knowledge needs to ever increase
 - 3) Master what the Bible teaches...let that become my beliefs.
 - c) **Emotional:**
 - 1) **Col. 3:1-3**—Emotions need to be brought into the control and direction of God’s Word.
 - Sentimentalism is to be avoided as an indicator of spirituality
 - Not let it turn us away from the Spirit’s teachings.

2) 2 Kings 5:11

- **He thought with his emotions, not his mind.**
- **When he thought with his mind...obeyed...rewarded!**

Conclusion

1. We have a challenge to Spiritual Maturity.

- a) Spiritual life is the beginning on the road to spiritual maturity.
- b) To become spiritual or to be spiritually-minded denotes that we are striving to develop our spiritual life.
- c) To see that our development is balanced towards maturity

2. Our potential of Spiritual Development is great:

- a) **In understanding and enlightenment;**
- b) **In discerning between good and evil;**
- c) **In the kind of godly lives to be lived;**
- d) **In the impact we can have on our world for good!**

HANDOUT MATERIAL FOR STUDENTS

Lesson One

“Are You Satisfied With Your Life?”

Introduction

4. Man has two ways to walk in this life. Gal. 5:16-18
5. Even the Christian has this choice. 1 Cor. 3:1-4
6. Contrast of two ways can give us reason for turning to the Spiritual Life.

Discussion Questions

1. What is “Spiritual Life” and the terms that denote it?
 - a) 1 Cor. 3:1
 - b) Rom. 6:4
 - c) Rom. 6:11
 - d) Rom. 6:18
 - e) Rom. 6:22
 - f) Rom. 8:5-6
 - g) Rom. 8:9

2. How is “Spiritual Life” characterized?
 - a) Acts 17:28
 - b) Rom. 12:2
 - c) Luke 6:46
 - d) Gal. 5:18
 - e) Gal. 5:19-23
 - f) John 10:10

3. What are three dissatisfactions that could lead to a change from Carnality to Spirituality?
 - a) Gal. 6:7-8; 1 Cor. 3:1-3; Gal. 5:15, 19-21
 - b) John 4:13-14; 7:37; Matt. 5:6; 11:28-29
 - c) John 4:39-42; Gal. 5:24; Col. 3:1-2; Gal. 4:22-23

Conclusion

1. Distinctions to be made: Carnality, Spiritual Life, Spirituality, Maturity.
2. Things to Accomplish.....

Lesson Two

“Why Should I Want to Live a Spiritual Life?”

Introduction

5. Matt. 7:7-8
6. What is it that a man should seek after to find?
7. What other choice of living does man have?
8. Why should mankind want to live a Spiritual Life?

Discussion Questions

1. Does God intend for man to live the Higher Life?
 - a) Man's make-up. Gen. 2:7; 1:27; 1 Cor. 2:11; 1 Thess. 5:23
 - b) God intended for the spirit to control the flesh. Matt. 26:41; 1 Cor. 6:20; 7:34
 - c) When the flesh is followed, the lower life will be lived! Gal. 5:11-21; Rom. 8:8

2. What are the characteristics of the fleshly life and Spiritual Life that causes man to make the choice for the Higher Life?
 - d) Characteristics of the fleshly life:
 - 1) 1 Cor. 1:21; Rom. 1:21
 - 2) Eph. 4:17-18
 - 3) Eph. 2:2-3
 - 4) 1 Cor. 2:14
 - e) Characteristics of the Spiritual Life:
 - 1) Rom. 6:1-2, 6
 - 2) Rom. 6:13
 - 3) Rom. 8:14
 - 4) 1 Cor. 10:31
 - 5) Col. 3:1-2
 - f) Results of the two ways of living:
 - 1) Gal. 6:7-8
 - 2) Rom. 8:6, 13

3. Why is the “Spiritual Life” the only correct way to deal with sin and guilt?
 - a) Man's way of dealing with sin:
 - 1) Gen. 3:8
 - 2) Prov. 28:13

3) Isa. 29:15

4) Job 34:22

b) God's way of dealing with sin:

1) Rom. 4:7-8

2) Acts 2:38

3) 1 John 1:7-9

Conclusion

3. The Spiritual Life is a Spiritual battle. Gal. 5:17

4. The Spiritual Life promises final victory. 1 Cor. 15:55-58

Lesson Three

“How Can a Spiritual Life be Started?”

Introduction

5. **John 10:10**
6. **Dissatisfaction should cause man to see the “abundant life.”**
7. **The value of the Spiritual Life should motivate us to seek that Life which Jesus offers to give to mankind.**
8. **How can this Life be begun?**

Discussion Questions

1. **How is the term, “Life,” used in Scriptures?**
 - a) **Luke 8:14**
 - b) **1 John 2:16; Eph. 4:18**
 - c) **John 5:24; 1 John 3:14; John 10:10; Rom. 6:4; 8:6**
 - d) **Matt. 19:16-17**

2. **What brings about Spiritual Life?**
 - a) **Rom. 6:23; John 10:10; John 1:4**
 - b) **John 3:1-7; Tit. 3:5; 2 Cor. 3:6 (Gal. 3:21)**
 - c) **1 Pet. 1:22-23; Jas. 1:18**
 - d) **Rom. 8:14; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 1:22**

3. **What is the outcome of receiving this Life?**
 - a) **1 John 5:11; John 14:6**
 - b) **Rom. 8:6**
 - c) **Rom. 8:9**
 - d) **John 5:24**
 - e) **Acts 2:38; Gal. 4:5-7; Mark 16:16; Rom. 5:1**

Conclusion

3. **Once attained, this Life must be maintained!**
4. **But also involved is the need for Spiritual Development towards Maturity.**

Lesson Four

“What is the Difference Between Spiritual Life and Spiritual Maturity?”

Introduction

4. To secure Spiritual Life is a must to be right with God. John 3:5
5. But it is one thing to possess this life, but something entirely different to live this life as it should be lived. Jas. 2:24; Rom. 6:17-18
6. Thus, we can possess Spiritual Life, but not be Spiritually Mature.

Discussion Questions

1. Does God command of us—both, Spiritual Life & Spiritual Maturity?
 - a) John 3:5; Acts 2:38
 - b) Matt. 5:48; Eph. 4:11-16

2. How is Spiritual Maturity identified in Scripture?
 - a) 1 Pet. 2:1-2; 2 Pet. 3:18
 - b) Jas. 1:5; James 3:13-18
 - c) 2 Cor. 10:5
 - d) 2 Pet. 1:5-11
 - e) Heb. 5:12-14
 - f) Eph. 5:18
 - g) 2 Cor. 7:1
 - h) 2 Tim. 3:17

3. Is there a difference between the Law of growth in the physical realm and the Spiritual realm?

Conclusion

3. Man was created and placed in an environment to encourage growth.
4. Spiritual Life is necessary in order to begin our growth towards Spiritual Maturity.

Lesson Five

“What are Some Things That Help Contribute to Spiritual Development?”

Introduction

5. Eph. 1:3
6. God’s people share many good things in common:
 - a) 1 Tim. 1:15
 - b) Acts 2:47
 - c) Rom. 6:4-5
 - d) Rom. 6:17-18
 - e) 1 Cor. 6:9-11
7. We also share a common challenge to grow as Christians. (2 Pet. 3:18)
8. We need to be aware of the many things that help contribute to that Spiritual Development within.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did God place special servants in the church? (Eph. 4:11-16)
2. In what way does God’s family show that they care?
 - a) 1 Cor. 12:25-26
 - b) 1 Cor. 13:4-8
3. What special incentives and activities has God provided to promote this development?
 - f) 1 Pet. 2:1-2 (Deut. 8:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; John 17:3)
 - g) Heb. 10:24-25 (1 Cor. 11:17, 29-30; Ps. 119:63; Matt. 15:7-9; 1 Cor. 14:26; 1 Cor. 15:33)
 - h) Jas. 5:13, 16 (Ps. 1:1-2; Jas. 4:8; Gal. 6:4-5; Phil. 2:12; Matt. 6:6)
 - i) 1 Tim. 4:7 (Rom. 12:1; 1 Pet. 2:5; Matt. 25:31-46; Tit. 3:8; Matt. 16:24; Eph. 4:23-24)
 - j) Heb. 12:5-13 (John 15:2; 1 Pet. 4:12; Jas. 1:12-14; 1 Cor. 10:13)

Conclusion

3. Growth comes because of good environment.
4. But it also comes from being forced to deal with problems.

Lesson Six

“Things to Avoid That Tend to Destroy Spiritual Development”

Introduction

3. Matt. 13:18-23
 - a) 4 kinds of soils (hearts)
 - b) Hardened, Rocky, Thorny, Good & Honest
4. The 2nd & 3rd illustrates hindrances to Spiritual Development.

Discussion Questions

1. How does failing to die to sin affect our Spiritual Development?
 - a) Rom. 6:1-2
 - b) 2 Cor. 7:1
 - c) Eph. 4:22
 - d) Col. 3:5
2. How does failing to turn from self-centeredness affect our Spiritual Development?
 - a) Matt. 16:24-25
 - b) Phil. 2:7-9
3. How does failing to deal with past guilt affect our Spiritual Development?
 - a) Ps. 51:1-3
 - b) 1 John 1:7-9
4. How does too much exposure to evil in the world without sufficient compensation in the Spiritual realm affect our Spiritual Development?
 - a) Matt. 13:21-22
 - b) 2 Cor. 6:14-18
5. In what way do the following affect our Spiritual Development?
 - a) Making unfair distinctions among brethren.
 - b) Anxiety and worry.
 - c) Fear and Tensions
 - d) Resentment and Jealousy
 - e) Wrong reactions
 - f) Herd Complex (Peer Pressure)

- g) Closed-mindedness**
- h) Hard-heartedness**

Conclusion

- 3. Failure to be involved in those things that promote Spiritual Development.**
- 4. Failure to deal properly with the problems that hinder.**

Lesson Seven

“What are Some Means of Measuring our Spiritual Development?”

Introduction

3. Physical growth can be measured, observed, perceived.
4. Same is true Spiritually—there are means of measuring Spiritual Development.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some things that DO NOT necessarily indicate Spiritual Development?
 - a) Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Corinth)
 - b) Leadership in the church (3 John 9-10)
 - c) Being a Preacher (Phil. 1;14-17)
 - d) Piety in front of people (Matt. 6:1-5)
 - e) To be in the church a long time (Heb. 5:12)
 - f) To be in a good church (Phil. 4:2)
2. What are some TERMS used to measure Spiritual Development?
 - a) Matt. 5:48
 - b) Col. 2:7
 - c) 1 Cor. 15:58
 - d) Rev. 2:10
 - e) Eph. 4:13
3. In what way does “growing out of things” illustrate Spiritual Development?
 - a) Rom. 6:1-2, 6
 - b) Rom. 12:2
4. How is Spiritual Development indicated by how we act in special trying circumstances?
 - a) Phil. 2:12
 - b) Jas. 1:5
 - c) Jas. 1:26
5. What does our outlook have to do with indicating Spiritual Development?
 - a) Matt. 16:24-25
 - b) Phil. 2:2-3

- c) 1 John 2:15-17; Col. 3:1-3
- d) Luke 6:46

6. Does the fruit we bear indicate Spiritual Development?

- a) Gal. 5:22-23
- b) John 15:1-5
- c) 2 Pet. 1:5-12

Conclusion

- 3. Many things can be used.**
- 4. Important thing is to begin measuring ourselves.**

Lesson Eight

“What are the Goals of Spiritual Maturity & Completeness?”

Introduction

3. The Lord challenges His people towards the ultimate goal of perfection.
 - a) Matt. 5:48
 - b) 2 Tim. 3:16-17
 - c) To be remade in the image of Christ. (1 Jn. 3:2)
 - d) To be Christ-like in mind and life. (Phil. 2:5)
 - e) It is a goal towards which we will strive all of our lives.
4. But it is not an end in itself.
 - a) There are lesser goals, more attainable for Christians.
 - b) They are in reality by-products of our ultimate goal.

Discussion Questions

1. How does stability relate to Spiritual Maturity?
 - a) Eph. 4:14; Matt. 13:20-21
 - b) John 10:28-29; 1 Pet. 1:5
 - c) Heb. 3:12-14; Rev. 2:10; Col. 1:28-29
2. How does greater usefulness relate to Spiritual Maturity?
 - a) Eph. 2:10; Phil. 2:13
 - b) Phil. 2:12; Eph. 6:10-11; Tit. 3:8; 1 Cor. 15:58
 - c) 2 Tim. 2:21; John 15:2, 8
 - d) 2 Pet. 1:8-10
3. How does the HOPE OF HEAVEN relate to Spiritual Maturity?
 - a) Rom. 8:24
 - b) Heb. 4:9-11; Rev. 2:10

Conclusion

3. Greater stability, usefulness, hope are all based on man's striving towards maturity or perfection.
4. These are the by-products that man needs in order to reach heaven.

Lesson Nine

“Who are Spiritual Leaders?”

Introduction

2. Isa. 3:1-4
 - a) Spiritual Leadership was lacking in Israel—brought ruin!
 - b) When Spiritual Leadership is lost, incompetent leaders replace them.
2. Leadership is a vital aspect of any group of people or organization.
3. Spiritual Leadership in the church is a must for it to succeed.
4. That Spiritual Leadership is made up of individuals who have developed Spiritually in their lives to a point of effectiveness.

Discussion Questions

1. What is a Leader? Or what is Leadership in a general sense?
2. What is Spiritual Leadership?
 - a) 1 Cor. 1:12; 3:3
 - b) Rom. 8:5, 13
3. What are some contrast between carnal & Spiritual Leaders?
 - a) 1 Cor. 3:3; Eph. 4:12
 - b) 3 John 9; 1 Pet. 5:3
 - c) 1 Cor. 2:5-6; Rom. 8:5-6
 - d) 1 Tim. 3:6; 4:12
 - e) 1 Tim. 3:1-7
 - f) 1 Tim. 3:4-5
 - g) 1 Cor. 10:31
 - h) 1 Tim. 3:1

Conclusion

1. True Spiritual Leadership will not be in “Name Only,” but in fact!

Lesson Ten

“Spirituality in Action”

Introduction

3. How would you evaluate the following paragraph?

“Being Spiritual is not being more emotional in our prayers than the average person. Being Spiritual is not feeling ecstatically on cloud 9 during the ten-thirty worship hour. Being Spiritual is not radiating Jesus to people around you by a silent inner-glow, so that through a process of divine osmosis others absorb Jesus too. By common usage, being spiritual has in the last few years been re-defined to mean, having an emotional, radiant, inner glow.”

4. Just who is a “Spiritual Person,” and how can we know by his actions that he is “Spiritual?”

Discussion Questions

1. What is the relationship between “Spirituality” and “Spiritual Life?”

- a) 1 Cor. 1:2
- b) 1 Cor. 3:1
- c) 1 Cor. 2:15; Rom. 8:6
- d) Rom. 8:14

2. How would you characterize a “Spiritual” person?

- a) In his home? (Col. 3:18-21)
- b) At his job? (Col. 3:22-25)
- c) In his neighborhood? (1 Cor. 13:4-8)
- d) In the Assembly? (John 4:24; 1 Cor. 14:26)

Conclusion

- 3. The “Spiritual” person is one who has allowed the Holy Spirit to greatly affect his life. (Acts 6:3; Rom. 8:13-14; Gal. 5:16-18, 25-26)
- 4. We are commanded to be “Spiritual.” (Eph. 5:18)

Lesson Eleven

“Spiritual Development—An Enduring Process”

Introduction

3. Physically:
 - a) Have you noticed some people develop more rapidly at first than others?
 - b) While others may be slower, they seem to catch up later.
4. Spiritually:
 - a) This seems to be just as evident.
 - b) Some Christians develop faster at first than others.
 - c) Acts 6:1-3
 - d) Whatever the reasons—it is obvious.
 - e) But even rapid development Spiritually will slow down after a while.
 - f) Here is where the DANGER is. (1 Cor. 10:12-13)

Discussion Questions

1. What time limitation would you place on Spiritual Development?
 - a) Rev. 2:10; Heb. 3;14
 - b) Mark 4:26-29
 - c) Stream—Creek—River—Ocean
2. What dangers must be watched for in order to have Spiritual Development?
 - a) Phil. 3:12-15
 - b) 2 Cor. 4:16; Heb. 12:10-11
 - c) Matt. 7:1-5; Jas. 2:13; 4:11-12

Conclusion

3. It is not just to hold our own until death, but keep developing until death.
4. Not to be discouraged if we don't have rapid growth all of our lives.

Lesson Twelve

“Maintaining a Proper Balance in our Spiritual Lives”

Introduction

- 3. Radicalism, fanaticism, unbalanced emphasis is not Biblical, Christian, nor a proper concept of Spiritual Development.**
- 4. Thoughts on Balance: Luke 2:52; 3 John 2; 1 Cor. 14:40**

Discussion Questions

- 1. Does Spiritual Growth “Key in on” one or two things only?**
 - a) Gal. 5:22-23**
 - b) 2 Pet. 1:5-10**
 - c) “Hobby-rider”**

- 2. How do the following three areas affect our Spiritual Development to keep it in balance?**
 - a) Volitional:**
 - 1) John 7:17**
 - 2) Phil. 3:14**
 - b) Intellectual:**
 - 1) John 17:3**
 - 2) 2 Pet. 3:18**
 - c) Emotional:**
 - 1) Col. 3:1-3**
 - 2) 2 Kings 5:11**

Conclusion

- 3. We have a challenge to Spiritual Maturity.**
- 4. Our potential of Spiritual Development is great:**
 - a) In understanding and enlightenment;**
 - b) In discerning between good and evil;**
 - c) In the kind of godly lives to be lived;**
 - d) In the impact we can have on our world for good!**

