

Discipleship



Introduction

“And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” - Ephesians 3:19.

This booklet is to be kept as a companion guide to the Christian who desires to have some pointers that can help dive deeper into their faith whether it be a seasoned child of God or someone who is just entering into experiencing the new life in Christ. The desire is for God’s people to realize the riches they have in Christ and seek Him who is altogether lovely. The One who can satisfy the innermost longing of one’s heart as they travel through this journey of life. To know the love that God has for His children, not just in word but He has shown the affection of His love by the marks He bears in His body for eternity, as tokens of His love toward us. We who are unworthy sinners redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

The topics discussed are as follows:

- Personal Christianity (*Areas that are specific to having ones growth in drawing near to God*)
- Practical Christianity (*This specifically addresses the Christian’s call to be in the world but not off the world*)
- General Topics (*Helps for a varied number of topics*)

Personal Christianity

Helps for devotion (Need for patience and persistence)

- Bible methods - Hearing from God, Reference, Systematic study (1 John 2:27, John 16:13, 2 Timothy 2:15)
- Prayer - Approach, Praise, Thanksgiving, Request, Meditation (1 Thessalonians 5:13-22)

Worship (Daniel 11:32, Philippians 3:10)

- Personal
- Corporate

Place of devotionals and Bible commentaries

- Streams in the Desert (Charles E. Cowman)
- My Utmost for His Highest (Oswald Chambers)
- Mathew Henry Commentary

Biblical Context in Studying the Scriptures / Hard passages

- Role of prayer and the Holy Spirit
- Principle of 5 verses before and after
- Message of the Chapter
- Purpose of the Book / who it was written to / why it was written for / what does it reveal about the nature of God
- Overall alignment in the workings of God & overall Scripture's theme, seeing the 66 books as one Book
- Reasoning with the Scriptures and letting the Scripture interrogate you, being willing to obey
- Helps from historical commentaries
- Cautious learning from human sources

Discerning what you read / see / music / wear (1 John 4:1)

- Foundation is God (Colossians 1:18)
- Principles are given in the word of God (2 Timothy 3:16)
- Does it draw you closer to God? (James 4:8)
- Does it lift God up and bring you to a high view of God? (Exodus 19:16-24)
- Does it build a desire for God, to forsake worldliness? (1 John 2:15)
- Does it agree with the foundational fundamentals of the faith? (Psalm 11:3)
- Does the Holy Spirit bear witness or the flesh bears witness? (John 16:13, Galatians 5:19-23)
- Does it edify the spirit or the flesh, where does it lead to? (Galatians 6:8, Proverbs 14:12)
- Principle of separation from the world (Galatians 5:13)

Foundational elements of faith (Hebrews 11)

- Conception, Gestation, Birth
- Growing from faith to faith

Abounding (Romans 6:7, Hebrews 12:2)

- Resisting the enemy
- Hearing His voice
- Avoiding doubtful things

Christian warfare (James 4:7, Ephesians 6:10-18)

- Our position in Christ, that in Christ we died and rose again and His victory has been made ours (Romans 6)
- Dealing with the desires of the flesh, to put it to death by not giving into the corruption that is in the flesh

Spiritual Experiences (Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures)

- Experiences are beneath the Scriptures and not given preference over Scriptures.
- If it is contrary, it must be rejected. (1 John 4:1)

Knowing God (Daniel 11:32)

- Holy Spirit, Prayer, Word (Philippians 3:10)

Bible Versions

- The Original Manuscripts - Plenary (complete) Verbal (every word) Inspiration (God breathed)
- The very word of God from cover to cover (2 Peter 1:20,21)
- Perfect Preservation (Psalm 119:89)
- Not just thoughts or “contains” God’s word (2 Timothy 3:16)
- The best translation for the English-speaking language
 - ◊ Attitude & lives of the translators, Importance of word for word translation
 - ◊ King James Version - Importance given to preservation of truth, word for word

The Inner Man (Ephesians 3:16,17)

- God works from the inside
- God’s Preparation
- God’s Timing

Victorious Christian Life (See books on <https://desiringrevival.org/>)

- Think, See, Hear, Speak, Do
- Battle for the Mind (Ephesians 4:21-32)
- Discipline (1 Corinthians 9:27)
- The Crucified Life (Galatians 2:20)

Call to Discipleship

God's part (Sovereignty of God): Able to keep you (Acts 15:11, Jude 24-25, Romans 8:38-39, Philippians 1:6,2:13, Hebrews 4:14-16, 12:6-8), cannot be plucked (John 6:37, 10:27-29), calleth will also do it (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

Our part (Responsibility of man): Stand fast (1 Corinthians 16:13, Galatians 5:1, Philippians 1:27,29, 4:1, 1 Thessalonians 3:8), hold fast (Hebrews 4:14, Revelation 2:10,25, 3:11), endureth to the end (Matthew 10:22,32-33, Matthew 25, Luke 9:62, James 1:12, 2:18,26), endure hardness (2 Timothy 2:3,4), work out your salvation (1 Corinthians 3:16-17,

Philippians 2:12-13, 1 Peter 1:13-16), punishment of the branch that was natural (Matthew 7:21-23, Romans 11:18-22), call to persevere (Luke 13:24-27, Hebrews 2:1-3, 3:12-15, 4:1,11, 6:11,15, 10:26, 38-39, 12:15,25,28, 1 John 5:13), call to warfare (1 Timothy 6:12, James 4:7, Ephesians 6:11-13), desire sound doctrine (2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17, Titus 1:9, 2:1, 2 Peter 1:4-8).

Practical Christianity

Sovereignty of God & the Responsibility of man

- We are responsible for what God has given us to do in His word and His commandments to us are not ambiguous.

The Sovereignty of the Holy Spirit

- He is sovereign in the methods He uses
- He has certain offices that are solely given to Him

Dealing with work situations

- When worldliness is promoted
- What is "Inclusion" as per the world?
- Wise as serpents and harmless as doves (Matthew 10:16)

Friends and worldly influences (1 Corinthians 15:33)

Danger of lowering your guard (John 10:10)

- Nominal "Christian" friends
- So called "good" environment

Mercy and Truth (Proverbs 3:3)

Reaching out

- Tracts
- Personal testimony and witness
- Online

Giving Financially

- Tithe, Missions, Extra

Saving

- Provision comes from God
- Financial wisdom
- Faith vs presumption

Discipline (Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1)

- Sin in the Church (Before the Church, reporting to the local govt. authorities when dealing with unlawful deeds)
- Disorderly
- Contention
- Must will be required based on the position held

Covenant keeping God

- Conditional Promises (Deuteronomy 30:19, Joshua 7:11,12)
- Implied Promises (John 3:16)

Knowing the will of God

- Revealed will of God (Scriptures)
- Discerned will (Prayer, Scriptures, Holy Spirit, Providence)
- Answered will (Prayer, Scriptures, Holy Spirit)

Family and the roles (Ephesians 5:21-31,6:1-4)

- Biblical marriage is between one man and one woman
- Role of Husband, Wife and Children
- Biblical principles for the Home
- Finances in the Home

God's Ordained Institutions

- Home (Genesis 2:24, Deuteronomy 6:6,7)
- Government (Genesis 9:6, Romans 13:1-8)
- Church (1 Corinthians 3:11, Ephesians 2:20)

Cults or Denominations (1 John 4:1)

- What is the focus?
- Does it exalt man or man's interpretation more than the Spirit's?
- Does it keep certain truths hidden to be accessible only by their leaders?
- Does it lead you closer to God or closer to man?
- Is it an authoritarian leadership?
- Does it bring you into fear or bondage of leaving etc.?

Separation from the world (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

- Holiness unto the Lord
- Created for His pleasure
- Our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 3:16,17, Philippians 4:8)

- Dress, Music, Entertainment, Sports (Proverbs 20:12, 1 John 2:15-17, 1 Corinthians 15:33)

Social Issues

- LGBTQ+ (Genesis 1:27, Leviticus 18:22, Matthew 19:4-6, Romans 1:20-32, Corinthians 6:9,10)
- Abortion (Psalm 127:3-5, 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:5)
- Pornography & Prostitution (Leviticus 19:29, Proverbs 7, 23:27,28, 1 Corinthians 6:15-20)
- Fornication & Adultery (Matthew 15:18-20, 1 Corinthians 6:18)
- Yoga (1 John 4:1)
- Rebellion (Romans 13:1-3)

Rekindling the Fire

- First Love
- Hearing and Obeying

General Topics

The Deity of Jesus Christ

Please visit <https://desiringrevival.org/>. Website section “Recovery of the Gospel witness” under the topic “Study for sharing the Gospel”

The Person of the Holy Spirit

- Holy Spirit is a Person just as Jesus is a Person (John 16:8,13)
- He can be quenched (1 Thessalonians 5:19)
- He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30)
- He can be sinned against (Matthew 12:32)
- He is God and part of the Godhead in the doctrine of the Trinity (Matthew 28:19).

Christian growth and the work of the Holy Spirit

- The indwelling Spirit of God (For those who are God’s children)
- The fullness of the Holy Spirit (For Service, additional from the indwelling office)
- Producing fruits by the Holy Spirit (Growth in the Christian life)
- Tongues as known languages (Acts 2:4-11)

Dealing with Social issues

- God’s word vs man’s word (Genesis 3:1-7)
- Truth: Absolute or Relative?

Absolute	Relative
Deals with the Root	Deals with the Fruit
Has a supreme view that supersedes all views	Every view is equally considered
Does not change with culture, time, opinions	Changes with surroundings and ideas

- Who defines good? (Psalm 14:1,3, 53:1)
- It's all about 'love' (1 Corinthians 13:6)
- This is how God made me (Genesis 1:27)
 - ◊ Instead of asking God to change one's feelings of inordinate attraction, the desire must be for aligning with the word of God and asking God for Repentance
- I own my destiny and my body (Hebrews 9:27)
- Man is inherently good, Humanism (Psalm 14:2,3)
- Follow your heart (Jeremiah 17:9)
- No one can tell me what to do (Proverbs 14:12)

Examine Yourself

- If a person has no desire to turn from their sin
- If their focus is heaven but not willing to submit to Christ
- If they receive no assurance by the Spirit or cannot discern that they have passed from death unto life
- Conviction of Sin unto Repentance
- Not being reproved

Foundational cause and effect

- **The problem of sin:** There is the ¹ mind phase (a passing thought, a look, a fleeting moment), the ² pondering phase (inception, and giving provision to sin), the ³ desiring phase (giving validity to sin), the ⁴ wanting phase (lust and giving approval to sin), the ⁵ doing phase (the exploit and blindness of sin), the ⁶ remorse phase (the moral conflicts and permanent effects of sin), the ⁷ reprobate phase (calling good evil and evil good, the corruption of sin), the ⁸ final phase of death (the consummation of sin). For the person who has made a profession of faith in Christ, there is also the ⁹ quenching phase (the justifying of sin), the ¹⁰ hardening phase (repeated quenching's of the Holy Spirit), the ¹¹ progressive phase (the searing of the conscience), the ⁽¹²⁾ apostasy phase (the fullness of sin, unto death).

¹ Rom 7:23, ² 2 Sam 13:2, ³ Gen 3:6, ⁴ Matt 5:28, ⁵ 2 Sam 13:14, ⁶ 2 Sam 13:15, ⁷ Rom 1:28, ⁸ Rom 6:23a, ⁹ 2 Sam 11:4, ¹⁰ Hosea 4:17, ¹¹ 1 Tim 4:1,2, ¹² 1 Cor 5:5

- **The conviction of sin:** When true conviction comes, there are 3 main characteristics that follows:
 - ◊ Conviction wrought by the Holy Ghost always shows the condition of the sinner in light of God and His holiness. This is not because he is caught and is feeling remorse for his actions. A lost sinner when he sees the holiness of God and the sinfulness of sin, has no hope but to cry out “God be merciful to me a sinner”. This is the same effect on the saint who has seen the wretchedness of his offence towards this good God from whom he has fled as a prodigal and is now sharing his food with the pigs.
 - ◊ Repentance shows the work of godly sorrow toward God that has affected the heart of the person to not only change their mind about sin, but prove it by their action to forsake it, thus evidencing the Spirit’s work.
 - ◊ Conviction of sin that God brings is lasting. It does not loose effect once the person leaves the Church. His thoughts are arrested by it and the person cannot shake it off. These are the seeds that are sown on good ground that brings forth fruit in its season.
 - ◊ Conviction of sin by the Holy Ghost always brings healing when God does the work of the potter in the soul of Man. He breaks it and makes it into another vessel fit for the Master’s use. It will bring change in a person’s life to loathe and flee from sin, to bring forth fruit unto holiness.

Hindrances to Service

- Love of the world (1 John 2:15,16)
- Self-preservation (John 12:24,25)
- To be seen / praise of men / liking me (Matthew 6:1,2)
- Acceptance of men / fear of man (Psalm 118:8,9, Proverbs 29:25)
- God working / anointing / revival on my terms and expectations (Isaiah 55:8,9)
- Self-glory / self-righteousness (1 Corinthians 1:29,31, Colossians 1:18)
- My rights / expectations (1 Corinthians 6:19,20, Colossians 3:3)

Guiding Principles for Service

- Never desire an audience, desire God (Col. 1:18)
- Never desire the acceptance or praise of men, desire the approval of God. (2 Corinthians 10:18)

- Never desire to look to your left or right, look unto Jesus. (Heb. 12:2)
- Never desire to build on another man's foundation, build on Jesus Christ (1 Cor 3:11)
- Realize the impotence of man to convey supernatural truths (John 15:5, 1 Cor. 1:29), the Omnipotence of God by His Spirit (1 Cor. 2:4,5, 1 Thess. 1:5, Zech. 4:6), the means given of holy supplication and the Holy Scriptures (2 Thess. 3:1), for the glory of God alone (Rev. 4:11)

The Christian Worker

Please visit <https://desiringrevival.org/>. Website section "Recovery of the Gospel witness" under the topic "Study for sharing the Gospel"

How to have a Corporate Church Prayer Meeting

Please visit <https://desiringrevival.org/>. Website section "A Call to Prayer"

Tract Resources

Please visit <https://desiringrevival.org/>. Website section "Recovery of the Gospel witness" under the topic "Tract Resources"

The timeline of the Early Church with regards to the Holy Spirit

- Jesus is risen (John 20:17)
- Jesus is glorified and appears to His disciples (John 7:39, John 20:17-29, Acts 3:13-15)
- The Indwelling Holy Spirit is given (John 20:22)
- Christ instructs by the Holy Ghost to wait for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4,5)
- Christ emphasis on a second work of the Holy Spirit for service (Acts 1:8)
- The baptism / anointing of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)
- Multiple fillings of the Holy Spirit given similar to Pentecost and not a gradual process (Luke 1:15, 41, 67, Acts 4:8,31, 7:55, 13:9, 19:2,6)
- The call to ask for the Holy Ghost (Luke 11:9-13, Isaiah 44:3, Ephesians 5:18)

Creation and Young Earth

- Day associated with evening and morning is 24-hour literal days (Genesis 1:5,8,13,19,23,31)
- What God has said / God was there
 - ◊ Evolution is diametrically opposed to the God of the word
- Scientific alignment with the Bible
 - ◊ Carbon Dating and Observable Science
 - ◊ Young Universe Observations
 - ◊ Intricacies and delicate balance of life
 - ◊ Inter-dependencies of life
 - ◊ Genetics and Epigenetics
 - ◊ Heavens declare the glory of God
 - ◊ Same Evidence different Interpretations
 - ◊ Fossil Evidence
 - ◊ DNA and gene pools
- Word of man that constantly changes vs the word of God that has been preserved and still proven true through the centuries
- Compromise (Theistic, Gap theory, Day age theory)
- History of man (Origin, sin, God's judgement, people groups, one race, Languages, common ancestor)

Historic Revival

Please visit <https://desiringrevival.org/>. Website section "Recovery of the Gospel witness" under the topic "Revival"

Of Books and Sermons

- Books must ensure the truthfulness to the word of God
- Do the authors lives represent Christ?
 - ◊ **Some Authors:** Leonard Ravenhill, A. W. Tozer, Andrew Murray, Dr. John R. Rice, Duncan Campbell
 - ◊ More given on: <https://desiringRevival.org>
 - ◊ **Some Preachers:** Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Leonard Ravenhill, A. W. Tozer, W. P. Nicholson
 - ◊ More resources can be found in: <https://sermonAudio.com> and <https://sermonIndex.net>

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