

SCRIPTURE STUDY SERIES – LESSON #2

A STUDY IN THE ART OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Designed Especially For New Converts and Christians Desiring Greater Fulfillment

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SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY

You have just entered into the most fantastic experience of your life up to this moment, for you have been born again into the family of God. Your spiritual growth and development will follow along much the same as your natural growth and development. A newborn baby does not care for himself, but relies totally on his parents in those first few months of development. God has placed within him at birth a deep, unsatisfied longing that can only be fulfilled by milk or nourishment, which causes him to remain healthy. Likewise, the newborn child of God has also been given an unquenchable thirst for the milk of the Word that he might remain spiritually healthy. In **John 7:37** Jesus promises, **“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.”** Just as surely as a newborn baby will die without nourishment, the newborn Christian will die spiritually if he does not partake of the Word of God. Therefore, the formula for growth and development of a newborn baby is simply entrusting himself to the care of his parents and using that other instinct that God gave him to cry when he needs special attention. The newborn Christian also uses this same formula. He simply entrusts himself to the care of his heavenly Father, who has instructed in **Proverbs 3:5**, **“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, . . .”** The only problem with a newborn Christian is that when a situation arises, his natural adult mentality is tempted to take over and work things out for himself. That is why the Lord had the wisest man in the world finish that verse with these words that every new Christian should memorize, **“ . . . and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”** (**Proverbs 3:5-6**) Every new Christian should count on the Lord for direction. David depended on the Lord when, in **Psalms 62:5**, he wrote, **“My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him.”** I would encourage the new Christian to expect and rely on the heavenly Father for all your help and always look to Him as your source of supply. Then you will grow and develop more rapidly than if you learn to depend on the Pastor and Christian friends to sustain you. Your Pastor is God’s under-shepherd, and your brothers and sisters in Christ will love you and care for you; but at their best, they are brothers and sisters. Always remember, your help comes from the Lord. You will grow as your relationship with God becomes stronger. This lesson will introduce you to your source of spiritual growth and development; if you follow these principles, you will never be an underprivileged Christian.

SCRIPTURES TO STUDY: Colossians 3:1-17, Romans 12:1-12, John 15:1-11,
Philippians 3:12-21, Ephesians 4:11-32, John 16:1-14

- A. What kind of life can I have as a Christian? (I John 5:4)

- B. Tell what faith means, based on Hebrews 11:1-3.

- C. There is a way to obtain faith. How does this come about? (Romans 10:17)

- D. What are the two statements in Hebrews 11:6 that I must believe?
(1) _____
(2) _____
- E. Who was the founder of the church? (Matthew 16:17-18)

- F. Every Christian desires to live a victorious Christian life. What do the following verses do to assist me in living this victorious life?
Luke 9:23 _____
I John 2:15-17 _____
I John 2:6 _____
- G. How did the Lord make the church His own? (Acts 20:28)

- H. What relationship does Christ have to the church? (Colossians 1:18)

- I. What is my position in the church based on Ephesians 4:3?

- J. From Ephesians 4:2, tell how this can be accomplished.

PLEASE FILL IN THE BLANKS:

Prayer is vital. It is like the barren fields needing the rains to stop the drought of a long, hot summer. It is like the commerce carried on between the parched earth and the clouds. The disciples said to our Lord, "Teach us to pray." As a follower of Christ, everyone should be praying that prayer. The Apostle Paul said to pray without ceasing, which means you are constantly communicating with the Lord Jesus Christ.

- K. "And whenever _____ praying, if you have _____ against _____, _____ him, that your _____ in _____ may also _____ you your _____." (Mark 11:25)
- L. "_____ your _____ to one _____, and _____ for one _____, that you may be _____. The _____, _____ of a _____ man _____ much." (James 5:16)
- M. "If you _____ in _____, and My _____ in _____, you will _____ what you _____, and it _____ be _____ for _____." (John 15:7)
- N. "And _____ you _____ in My _____, that _____ will do, that the _____ may be _____ in the _____." (John 14:13)
- O. "And _____ you _____ in _____, _____, you will _____." (Matthew 21:22)
- P. "For there is _____ God and _____ between _____ and _____, the Man _____." (I Timothy 2:5)
- Q. "_____ do not cast _____ your _____, which has _____ of _____, so that after you have _____ the _____ of God, you may _____ the _____." (Hebrews 10:35-36)
- R. The Bible lists many things for which we should pray. After each scripture below, list what we are requested to pray for.

Romans 10:1 _____

James 1:5: _____

