

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.

Study to show "The Way of True life,"

BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

Our Accountability to God

Objective: To recognize our ultimate accountability to God

Read: Luke 19:12-27; Matthew 24 and 25. **Memorize:** 2 Corinthians 5:10

Many Christians miss the special blessing of God because they do not obey our Lord's command recorded in the Gospel of Matthew: 6:19-21. Jesus knew that by storing up treasures on earth, we would soon take on the appearance of the world. Through selfish desires, we would cease to reflect the character of God and seek our own glory. By laying up treasures in heaven, on the other hand, we would declare the glory of His kingdom.

Everything we do to bring men and women into the kingdom of God, every act of kindness, every expression of love is laying up treasure in God's storehouse. We give out of love for God and gratitude for His love and sacrifice for us through the gift of His only begotten Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

God will hold us accountable for our motivation in giving and for our faithful obedience to our Lord's command to help fulfill the Great Commission and so reach the world for Christ. The apostle Paul wrote: We will all stand before God's judgment seat. So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God (Romans 14:10-12). Relating the parable of the shrewd manager, Jesus said: There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, "What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management..." (Lk 16:1-2).

God considers "An immortal soul beyond all price. There is no trouble too great, no humiliation too deep, no suffering too severe, no love too strong, no labor too hard, no expense too large, but that it is worth it, if it is spent in the effort to win a soul." As faithful stewards, our primary financial responsibility is to help worthy ministries reach the largest possible number of people for Christ. We are accountable to our Lord's last command before He ascended into heaven to "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Discuss what strategies could be put together to achieve this.

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God's Ownership Over All

Objective: To surrender everything we have to God because we can rest in His ownership of all

Read: Genesis 1-3

Memorize: 1 Chronicles 29:11

As Christian stewards we must realize that in Christ "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). In this lesson, you will see the basis of God's claim on your life.

Jesus Christ created us (Colossians 1:16). He bought us with His precious blood (1 Peter 1:18-19). And God anointed Him as our Lord (Ephesians 1:20-23; Acts 10:36; Romans 10:12). Thus, the whole of our life - our personality, influence, material substance, everything - is His, even our success.

The Bible tells us that since Christ died for us, "those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again" (2 Corinthians 5:15).

Not to acknowledge and act upon God's total ownership of everything we are, have, and will be is to rob ourselves of His blessing and make ourselves unfit for His service (2 Timothy 2:15-16, 19-21). Discuss this issue critically with Biblical examples.

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BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

Trusting God for Our Finances

Objective: To learn how to trust God for our finances and ask Him to supply our needs

Read: Proverbs 3:5-6; John 10:10; Matthew 6:33-34

Memorize: Psalm 12:6

Changing economic conditions exemplify the instability of finances throughout the world. Instead of placing their trust in the Lord who promised to meet all of their needs, most Christians trust in their investments, savings, and retirement plans to ensure security and happiness - only to find their hopes dashed when financial reverses deplete their assets. Many are wasting their lives trying to achieve financial security in a volatile world.

Our heavenly Father, on the other hand, wants us to enjoy a full, abundant life free from the cares and stresses brought by confidence in money and other material possessions. Rather than trusting in a worldly system that cannot assure our welfare or relying on our own weak capabilities to provide for our needs, He calls us to depend entirely on Him.

Discuss a plan that will help you release your faith in God and develop your trust in Him for your finances.

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Examples of Perfect Giving

Objective: To follow biblical examples of stewardship
Read: Luke 23-24; Colossians 1-2
Memorize: John 8:28

Giving began with God. His supernatural expression of giving was in the sacrifice of his only begotten Son that we might receive forgiveness for our sins, become children of God, and enjoy eternal life.

God continues to give of Himself today in love, forgiveness, peace, power, and purpose. By this He enables us to live full, meaningful lives.

Giving was the lifestyle of our Lord Jesus. A concise description of his lifestyle appears in the Book of Acts, which records, "He went around doing good" (Acts 10:38). Jesus gave in feeding the multitudes. He gave in healing the sick. He gave in teaching His disciples. He gave in empowering His disciples for evangelism. He gave in compassion for the poor. He gave in offering rest to the weary. He gave in dying on the cross for our sins. He gave in sending His Holy Spirit.

Giving is also an attribute of the Holy Spirit. He strengthens and encourages us (Acts 9:31), renews us (Titus 3:5) reveals things to us (Luke 2:26), and helps us (John 14:6, NASB). He leads and guides us (Luke 4:1); Acts 13:2-4; John 16:13), brings the love of God to us (Romans 5:5), teaches us (Luke 12:12; John 14:26), and empowers us (Acts 1:8; 4:31).

Nowhere can we find more perfect models of stewardship than in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Discuss how you can apply their examples to your life.

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BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

Maximize Your Giving Through the Sound Mind Principle

Instructions: For a thorough understanding of this important topic, let the teacher read through the entire passage and generate other possible points of discussion before teaching the class.

You can know God's will for giving your time, talents, and resources.

Now that you have started on your thrilling adventure of giving by faith and have begun developing a personal strategy for investing in God's kingdom, you will discover many seemingly effective avenues in which to give of your time, talents, and resources. Suddenly, you may find yourself confused about how to wisely use the resources God has entrusted to you among so many exciting choices. How does a sincere steward discover Gods' will for the investment of his time, talents, and resources? By applying the *Sound Mind Principle* of Scripture. Let me explain.

In 2 Timothy 1:7 the apostle Paul writes, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (NKJ). The "sound mind" referred to in this verse means a well-balanced mind that is under the control of the Holy Spirit, "renewed" according to Romans 12:2: Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Making a Sound Decision - Do you make your decisions according to the *Sound Mind Principle*? If you would like to know the will of God for your life according to this principle, consider these questions:

- *Why did Jesus come?* - He came "to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10)
- *What is the greatest experience of your life?* - If you are a Christian, your answer quite obviously will be, "Knowing Jesus Christ personally as my Savior and Lord."
- *What is the greatest thing that you can do to help others?* - The answer again is obvious, "Introduce them to Christ." Discuss other possible answers to these questions.

Thus, every sincere Christian will want to make his God-given time, talents, and resources available to Christ so that his fullest potential will be realized for Him. For one Christian, the talent God has given him may be prophetic preaching, evangelism, or teaching; for another, it may be business; for another, the ministry or missions; for another, homemaking.

As you evaluate the talents that God has given you, take a sheet of paper and make a list of the most logical ways through which your life can be used to accomplish the most for the glory of God. List the pros and cons of each opportunity. Where or how, according to the *Sound Mind Principle*, can the Lord Jesus Christ accomplish the most in continuing His ministry of seeking and saving the lost through you? Such a procedure will inevitably result in positive actions leading to God's perfect will for your life. But note a word of caution. The *Sound Mind Principle* is not valid unless certain conditions exist:

1. There must be no un-confessed sin in your life.
2. Your life must be fully dedicated to Christ, and you must be filled with the Holy Spirit in obedience to the command of Ephesians 5:18
3. You must walk in the Spirit (abide in Christ) moment by moment, placing your faith in the trustworthiness of God with the confidence that the Lord is directing and will continue to direct your life according to promises in Scripture. Discuss how these conditions could be met.

The counsel of others should be prayerfully considered, especially that of mature, dedicated Christians who know the Word of God and are able to relate the proper use of Scripture to your need. However, be careful not to make the counsel of others a crutch without which you can't move. Although God often speaks to us through other Christians, we are admonished to place our trust in Him (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Four Basic Factors

A discussion of God's will should consider four basic factors similar to the *Sound Mind Principle*. God's will is revealed in:

The authority of Scripture

1. Providential circumstances
2. Conviction based upon reason

Impressions of the Holy Spirit upon our minds according to Philippians 2:13 However, an appraisal of impressions from the Holy Spirit is safer with a mature believer than with a new or worldly (carnal) Christian because there is always the danger of misunderstanding the impressions.

Know the source of leading before responding to it. To the inexperienced, what appears to be the leading of God may not be from Him at all, but from "the rulers of darkness of this world." (**Colossians. 2:8**). Satan and his helpers often disguise themselves as "angels of light" by counterfeiting the works of God to deceive His followers. One further word of caution must be given. It is true that God still reveals His will to some men and women in dramatic ways, but this should be considered the exception rather than the rule.

God still leads today as He has through the centuries. Philip the deacon, for example, was holding a successful campaign in Samaria. The *Sound Mind Principle* would have directed him to continue his campaign. However, God overruled by a special revelation, and Philip was led by the Spirit (**Romans 8:14**) to introduce the Ethiopian eunuch to Christ. According to tradition, God used the Ethiopian eunuch to communicate the message of our living Lord to his own country. Have you ever considered yourself as a possible instrument that God can use? Discuss

How You Will Know

Living according to the *Sound Mind Principle* permits such dramatic leadings of God, but we are not to wait for revelations before we start moving for Christ. Faith must have an object. A Christian's faith is built on the authority of God's Word supported by historical fact and not on any shallow emotional experience. However, a Christian's trust in God's will revealed in His Word will result in the decisions that are made by following the *Sound Mind Principle*. Usually, the confirmation that you are in God's will is a quiet, peaceful assurance that you are doing what He wants you to do with the expectancy that He will use you to bear much fruit.

The result of a life that is lived according to the *Sound Mind Principle* is the most peaceful, abundant, and fruitful life of all.

2 Timothy 2:20-21 - Expect the Lord Jesus Christ to draw men to Himself through you. As you begin each day, acknowledge the fact that you belong to Him. Thank Him that He lives within you. Invite Him to use your mind to think His thoughts, your heart to express His love, your lips to speak His truth. Ask Jesus to be at home in your life and to walk around in your body so that He may continue seeking and saving souls through you. Is there a particular point in one's life when one should expect this?

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Experiencing the Power of the Holy Spirit

The power of God working through ordinary men and women confounds the wise and humbles the mighty.

A dear friend, Dee Jepsen, wife of former U. S. Senator Roger Jepsen, attended a luncheon in the Senate Caucus Room on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Congressmen, Cabinet members, top leaders in government, and many other respected guests were seated in the impressive room with its ornate pillars, high ceilings, and huge chandeliers. The room seemed to swell with influential people who had gathered to honor a humble servant of God.

Then Mother Teresa entered the room.

Mrs. Jepsen said, "She looked so tiny and out-of-place in her blue-and-white habit, old gray sweater, and sandals that had obviously carried her many miles. The room and prestigious guests seemed to dwarf her."

Immediately the top leaders of the most powerful country in the world along with the other esteemed guests rose to their feet and applauded. Many had tears in their eyes.

"I was struck with the contrast," Mrs. Jepsen said. "I thought, *Lord, this frail woman has more power than I see in the Halls of Congress. She reflects Jesus everywhere she goes, and everyone is strangely moved.*"

Mother Teresa doesn't own anything; she has never asked for material possessions nor held up her fist to demand rights for herself. Yet she has been raised to a pinnacle of recognition for her work with the destitute and dying in Calcutta, India. She has reached down into the gutter and loved those whom the world has called unlovable. A shining example of selflessness, she proves the power of God's love to transform people and touch a starved world.

This is real power and, unlike that of the world, it confounds the wise and humbles the mighty. It is the power of God working through ordinary men and women for His glory.

Perhaps you are wondering, *Why isn't my Christian life more exciting and fulfilling? How can I receive power to live victoriously and be a fruitful witness for the Lord Jesus?*

Jesus promised, "I have come that they [you and I and all Christians] may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10, NKJ). Yet, if you are an average professing Christian, you are undoubtedly thinking, *There is certainly nothing abundant about my life. I try to witness, but no one is interested in what I have to say. I experience nothing but doubts, fears, frustrations, and defeat. Surely there must be something more to this Christian life, but I have never found it.*

There was a time in my own Christian ministry when I challenged Christians to witness and live holy lives for Christ, but the results were so discouraging that I began to devote most of my time and energies to evangelism, where God blessed with much more apparent results. However, as the years have passed, the Holy Spirit has helped me to see the great potential power in lukewarm Christians, if only they are awakened and harnessed for Christ. I am now convinced that the lukewarm, worldly Christian can be changed into a vital, dynamic, witnessing Christian if he will surrender his will to Christ, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and receive training in evangelism and discipleship.

HAVING READ THROUGH THE ABOVE PASSAGE; LET THE CLASS ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS USING BIBLE REFERENCES TO SUPPORT THEIR POINTS:

1. A Strange New Quality
2. Who Is the Holy Spirit?
3. Why Did the Holy Spirit Come?
4. How Is the Holy Spirit Related to Every Christian?
5. What Is the Spirit-Filled Life?
6. Why Are So Few Christians Filled With the Holy Spirit?
7. How Can You Be Filled With the Holy Spirit?
8. How Can You Know When You Are Filled With the Holy Spirit?
9. What Results Can You Expect From Being Filled With the Holy Spirit?
10. Is There More Than One Filling of the Holy Spirit?
11. How Can You Continue to Be Filled With the Holy Spirit?

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BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

The Holy Spirit's Relationship with You - 2

Objective: To understand the work of the Holy Spirit in your life

Read: Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 2; **Memorize:** Ephesians 5:18

The moment you receive Christ, you are regenerated, indwelt, sealed, baptized, and filled with the Holy Spirit. As a result, you have the potential to live a life of victory over sin and witness in the power of the Holy Spirit. This potential is released by faith as you surrender control of your life to Him. In this lesson, you will see how the Holy Spirit can work in your life and the results you can expect as you yield yourself to His control.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

1. When you became a Christian (that is, at the time of your spiritual birth), the Holy Spirit did a number of things for and in you. What are they? 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 4:30; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 2 Corinthians 5:5
2. Explain in your own words what the Holy Spirit does for the Christian according to the following verses: Romans 8:16; Romans 8:26-27

The Results of Being Filled With the Holy Spirit

1. Can a person be a Christian and not have the Holy Spirit dwelling in Him (Romans 8:9)? Explain.
2. What is the main reason to be filled with the Spirit (Acts 18; 4:29-31)?
3. What work of the Holy Spirit is necessary for successful Christian living and service (Ephesians 5:18)?
4. Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? if not, what makes you think you are not filled?
5. Do you really desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Why?

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Objective: To personally ask for the filling of the Holy Spirit by faith

Read: Acts 6:8, 7:60 - **Memorize:** Romans 12:1-2

A desire to serve Jesus Christ and help other receive Him as their Lord and Savior should be your motive for being filled with the Holy spirit. Review the life and the spiritual experience of Stephen in relation with our community and church before proceeding with this lesson.

What You Must Know

1. What is the *command* found in Ephesians 5:18?
2. What is the *promise* found in 1 John 5:14-15?
3. According to these Scriptures, why do you need to be filled with the Spirit?
 - Galatians 5:22-23 & Acts 1:8

The fruit of the Spirit is never an end in itself, but only a means to the end. We win men and women to Christ, which in turn brings glory and honor to Him (John 15:8).

What You Must Feel

What is one prerequisite/condition to being filled with the Spirit, according to Matt 5:6?

How can we apply this to our life, family and the church?

What You Must Do

If your desire to be filled with the Spirit is sincere, what will you do now (Rm. 12:1-2)?

This means there can be no un-confessed sin in your life. The Holy Spirit cannot fill an unclean vessel. He waits to fill you with His power.

1. How then are you filled with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 7:7-11, John 7:37-39)?
2. Will the Holy Spirit fill you if you ask Him? How do you know (1 John 5:14-15)?
3. What must you have when you ask Him to fill you (Hebrews 11:6)?
4. What must be your attitude from the day He fills you (1 Thessalonians 5:18)?

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Who Is the Holy Spirit and Why Did He Come?

Objective: To become acquainted with the Holy Spirit and to understand His mission

Read: John 3:1-8; Romans 8

Memorize: John 16:13-14

While there is a degree of divine mystery to the nature of the Holy Spirit, He definitely is not a bundle of warm feelings or good memories. Neither is He a vague cosmic force. In this lesson, you will study biblical evidence proving that the Holy Spirit is a real person who loves and cares for you. You also will discover why He came and how He can make a difference in you life.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is a person, the third person of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is not a vague, ethereal shadow, nor an impersonal force. He is a person equal in every way with the Father and the Son. All the divine attributes ascribed to the Father and the Son are equally ascribed to the Holy Spirit.

Personality (a person) is composed of intellect, emotions, and will. In 1 Corinthians 2:11, what indicates that the Holy Spirit has intellect?

What evidence do you observe in Romans 15:30 that the Holy Spirit has emotion?

How does the Holy Spirit exercise His will as recorded in 1 Corinthians 12:11?

Find the one word that describes the nature of the Holy Spirit in each of the following references.

- Romans 8:2
- John 16:13
- Hebrews 10:29
- Romans 1:4

What is His function or role?

- John 14:16-26
- 1 Corinthians 3:16
- John 16:13-14
- Acts 1:8

What specific actions does the Holy Spirit perform?

- Acts 13:2
- Acts 8:29
- Romans 8:14
- John 16:7-8
- Romans 8:26
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13

What are His attributes?

- Hebrews 9:14
- Psalm 139:7
- 1 Corinthians 2:10,11

Why Did He Come?

1. What is the chief reason the Holy Spirit came (John 16:14)?
2. What will be a logical result when the Holy Spirit controls your life?
3. In what area of your life do you believe the Holy Spirit needs to be more in control?

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Why So Few Christians Are Filled With the Holy Spirit - 3

Objective: To understand and deal with the barriers to a Spirit-filled life

Read: Galatians 5 and 6; Acts 5:1-11

Memorize: 1 John 2:1-6, 15-17

Through the centuries, many of Christ's followers have been ordinary people. Nothing spectacular ever happened to them or through them. Then, as happened to Peter on the day of Pentecost when he was filled with the Holy Spirit, their lives were dramatically changed.

No longer ordinary or average, they became men and women of God-bold in faith and instruments of God's power.

Today, that same Holy Spirit-with His life-changing power-is available to each of us. Yet, tragically, multitudes of Christians go through life without ever experiencing the abundant and fruitful life that Christ promised to all who trust Him.

In this lesson, you will examine the reasons so few Christians have experienced the infilling of the Spirit. And you will have the opportunity to consider any barriers you may have erected between yourself and God. I urge you to meditate and reflect on how they may apply to your own life.

The Heart's Battlefield

1. How does Paul describe himself in Romans 7:19-24? How does this description make you feel?
2. In your own words, explain why so many Christians are unhappy, according to Galatians 5:16-17.

Reread: John 14:16-26; John 16:7-15

Review: Verses memorized

The following questions will help you review this Step. If necessary, reread the appropriate lesson(s).

1. Is the Holy Spirit a personality or an impersonal force?

How do you know?

What is the chief reason the Holy Spirit has come?

2. What is the *command* of Ephesians 5:18?
3. What is the *promise* of 1 John 5:14-15?
4. Name as many reasons as you can that Christians are not filled with the Holy Spirit.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What should be your motives for being filled with the Spirit?2. How can you be filled with the Spirit?3. How do you know you are filled with the Holy Spirit?4. How can you continue to be filled with and walk in the Spirit? |
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ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.

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BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

Stewardship of Our Possessions

Objective: To surrender all of our material wealth to God, and to give with joy and gratitude

Read: 2 Corinthians 9; Matthew 6:19-34; 25:14-30; Luke 12:15-21

Memorize: Luke 16:13

One afternoon, Grandpa Clark strode into his house, pockets bulging with treats for his grandchildren. As he settled into his creaking rocker, the children clamored around him with expectant faces, each pushing and shoving to be the first to see what Grandpa had brought them.

The gray-haired man dug deep into his pockets and pulled out a fistful of candy, handing each child a favorite treat. When he finished, he leaned back in his rocker with a smile of contentment to watch them tear at the wrappings.

On his left, two jealous brothers argued over whose flavor of Lifesavers tasted better. Another child sat at his feet munching a candy bar. Suddenly, a tiny red-haired sweetheart patted her grandpa on the arm. Concern furrowed her brow.

"Would you like some of my M&Ms, Grandpa?" she asked with sad, shy eyes. "You don't have anything."

Grandpa Clark peered down at his only granddaughter and grinned. Gently, he gathered her dainty form into his lap. "Why, you haven't even opened your candy," he observed.

She stared into his eyes with a frank expression. "Cause I want you to have the first one."

"Why, thank you, I think I will," he smiled, carefully opening her little package. With relish, he removed a couple of colored candies and popped them into his mouth. Then he wrapped his arms tightly around her, engulfing her happy face.

This story clearly illustrates tithing - giving back to God the first part of what He has given us.

As you recall, the word *tithe* comes from a Greek term simply meaning *the tenth*. Godly principles underlay this practice. Tithing accomplishes the following:

- Acknowledges God as the source and owner of all that we possess
- Is a voluntary act of worship
- Teaches us to put God first
- Is a practical guideline for systematic giving
- Provides spiritual release and blessing

Tithing performs a role entirely different from that of mere giving, which suggests that we own all that we possess. Through tithing we acknowledge that God created our increase. As stewards of what God entrusted to us, we set aside a proportion to use for the cause of Christ. We never consider any part of our possessions to be our exclusive property but prayerfully tithe on the entire amount.

"The purpose of tithing," we have learned, "is to teach you always to put God first in your lives" (Deuteronomy 14:23, TLB). God does not honor a gift that comes from leftovers. He requires the first and the best of our increase (Exodus 22:29-30; Proverbs 3:9-10). Tithing ensures this.

Ten percent, an Old Testament measure for giving, is a good beginning point for a faithful and dedicated steward. And though we are not under the Law but under grace, as Dr. J. B. Gabrell declared, "It is unthinkable from the standpoint of the cross that anyone would give less under grace than the Jews gave under law."

Measuring their giving by the grace of the cross and not by the legalism of the Law, the early Christians did not limit themselves to the tithe. They gave much more. And they gave in the Spirit of Christ, as a demonstration of His pre-eminence in their lives, to help fulfill the Great Commission. Discuss this issue with real life examples.

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Stewardship of Our Bodies

Objective: To surrender our bodies to Christ, from the heart

Read: Psalm 51; Galatians 5; Ephesians 5

Memorize: Psalm 139:23-24

Some time ago, my heart grieved as I learned of a respected Christian leader who had fallen into a life of sin. He had obviously not intended to do so, but when the temptation came, he yielded. As a result, his wife, his family, his friends, and fellow Christians suffered heartache. Most tragically, his testimony and witness for the Lord Jesus has suffered untold damage. Many have ridiculed and rejected the cause of Christ because of his sin.

Since God wants us to live a holy life, the enemy seeks to entrap us in sin and defeat. One of Satan's methods is to tempt us to misuse our bodies.

But God created our bodies for His glory. By surrendering them to Him, He can use us to further His kingdom and help us grow in our faith.

How would this study help you to understand the importance of giving control of your body to God?

How would discover danger areas in using your physical self and how to help further the cause of Christ with different parts of your body?

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Stewardship of Our Talents and Gifts

Objective: To recognize our talents and abilities and to surrender them to God for His use and glory.

Read: 1 Corinthians 12

Memorize: 1 Peter 4:10

God created us with a great variety of talents. You may be able to run a marathon, organize a group meeting, teach, or write. Your skill may be typing, photography, or painting. Perhaps you sing or play a musical instrument. Maybe you are a carpenter, landscaper, engineer, mechanic, or bookkeeper. Each of us has a unique function to perform in life and in the Body of Christ.

The Bible refers to the church as the Body of Christ with Christ as its Head (1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:23). Just as your body has many specialized parts, each with its own function, so the church is composed of many individuals, each with his own special function to perform - and contribution to make - to the rest of the Body. I encourage you to identify your talents, and ask God to show you how to use them for His glory.

Every Christian possesses both natural talents and spiritual gifts. Our natural abilities come to us at physical birth and are developed through life. Our spiritual gifts are imparted by the Holy Spirit, enabling us to minister to others in behalf of Christ. Discuss this reality with Biblical examples.

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Stewardship of Our Time

Objective: To become wise stewards of all that God has created us to be individually

Read: Romans 12 **Memorize:**

Time is the heritage of every person. Whether a king or street sweeper, an astronomer or truck driver, a business tycoon or grocery clerk, each of us has the same number of hours. Many necessities and opportunities demand much of our day. Our work takes up a large percentage of our life. Being a good husband or wife, father or mother, employer or employee requires time. As Christians, we have spiritual priorities as well. How many hours or days in a month should we set aside for evangelism and discipleship and the ministries of our church? What about caring for the poor, the orphans, and widows as God's Word commands (James 1: 27; Galatians 2: 10)?

As a good steward, you must manage your time wisely. Let me suggest a way to accomplish this task that Christians seldom consider today - tithing your time. Tithing reflects a thankful, obedient attitude and acknowledges God as the source and owner of all that we possess. A voluntary act of worship, tithing teaches us to put God first. A faithful steward serves because he has such a heart for God. As we have seen, everything we have is a gift from God. Every second of every minute, every minute of every hour, twenty-four hours a day belong to Him. Although God's Word does not specifically require us to tithe our time, our Lord did command us to put Him first in all things (Matthew 6: 31-33). Giving back a percentage of our time enables us to give God priority and assurance that we will fulfill our service to Him. Discuss the followings with Biblical examples.

Does the principle of tithing apply equally to our time as it does to our money?

How much of our time should we set aside for the work of the Lord each week?

How can we use effectively, the time God has given us?

With all these tasks competing for our time, how can we balance our responsibilities to fulfill our temporal and spiritual duties?

Reread: Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; James 3:1-2

Review: Verses memorized

The following questions will help you review this Step. If necessary, reread the appropriate lesson(s).

1. Define "Christian steward" in your own words.
2. Why are we referred to as Christian stewards?

LIFE APPLICATION

1. Summarize your responsibilities as a steward of God as you now understand them. List several things over which you exercise stewardship.
 2. What is the most important thing for you to realize about your attitude toward stewardship?
 3. In which particular areas of your life have you seen a change for the better in your Christian stewardship?
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3. Read about the *Sound Mind Principle* on the following pages. Use the steps included to help you make financial decisions..