

OBTAINING THE VICTORY



Bible Study Pathways Lesson 4

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A Story to Ponder...

No one could have doubted that John Wesley was religious. He preached, wrote, and lived religion.

But one day a friend asked him, "John, do you know God?"

John was so shocked that someone would ask him that he could hardly speak. "Why," he finally sputtered, "you know I believe the Bible is inspired and should be the guide for every Christian's life. For nine years I have been urging anyone who would listen to have a personal walk with the Lord."

"But John," his friend pressed, "do you know God?"

As John Wesley returned home, those words rang in his ears. "John, do you know God?" He could see now that he knew about God, but deep within he didn't really know him. Bowing in sorrow he admitted his mistake and surrendered his life completely to his Lord.

People soon noticed a change in his preaching. His sermons contained a new power. Instead of focusing on his own scholarly ideas, Wesley pointed his hearers to Christ on Calvary. His new love and devotion led many to join him in surrendering fully to God.

In this lesson, we will discover how to come to Christ, obtain a victory over sin and develop a personal relationship with our Loving Master.

In answer to the question, "What shall we do to be saved?" we find the following answer.



Acts 2: 38 "Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. " **Matthew 3:2, Matthew 4:17**



The Bible says that we must _____, of our sins first.



What is true repentance? True repentance is a sorrow for sin and will lead to a turning away from sin. False repentance such as Judas had (Matt. 27:3-5) will be sorry for the punishment rather than the sin. When we look to what Christ did on Calvary for us we will see the true sinfulness of sin and renounce it.



Acts 5:31 "Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."



The Bible tells that true repentance is given us from _____, just like _____ of sins.



1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." **James 5:16**

? We must not only repent of our sins, we should confess them. Private sins should be confessed only to God, but if we have done something to a person we should apologize to them. If we confess our sins, God promises to _____ our sins. (see also Isaiah 1:18, 55:7)



Acts 3:19 "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;" 2 Corinthians 5:17, Luke 22:32



After repentance and confession we are told to _____.



Conversion is the process of changing from one state to another. Conversion is equated in the Bible with be born again. (John 3:3-8) Conversion may not be a radical event that the person can pinpoint, for it is also compared to wind. So the question then is, "How can one tell if he is converted?"

Since conversion is compared to wind, how can you tell that it is windy? Not by seeing the wind, but by seeing the results. In the same way a converted person will manifest the fruits of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22,23) If we are Christ's, our sweetest thoughts are of Him. All we have and are is consecrated to Him. We long to bear His image, breathe His spirit, do His will, and please Him in all things. (Matthew 10:20, 1 Cor. 15:31, Gal. 2:20, Gal. 5:24, 1 John 3:8,9)



" And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." John 17:3



The Bible says that, those who are saved will _____ God. What does it mean to know God? It means to have a relationship with him. 1 John 2:3, and 1 John 4:7,8 gives us two tests to test whether or not we know God.



"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."
John 15:4



Christ also compares a relationship with him to a vine with branches. We are to _____ in him and he is to _____ in us.



The word "abide" here means "to stay." This is one of the key points to having a relationship with God. If you "stay" in Christ you cannot go elsewhere. But the relationship is twofold. Not only must you stay in Christ, but he must stay in you. Thus your life will revolve around the one who gave himself for you.

OTHER TIPS FOR VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION

Use your sword to conquer temptation.



Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. **Matthew 4:1-11**



How did Christ overcome temptation? _____

Study and know for yourself what is right and what is wrong.



Ephesian 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. **2 Peter 1:4**



Use faith in God's promises as a shield against temptation. (**Jude 1:24,25**)



Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.



We are to pray without _____.



Prayer is like the breath of the soul. No battle would be won if the soldiers forgot to breathe and fainted. When fighting temptation, dart a prayer to God in heaven asking for divine aid.

CONCLUSION

We must repent of our sin and confess them, so that Christ may cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We should develop and maintain a relationship with Christ so that we can reveal his character in our lives. In overcoming a temptation, we should use the weapons God has given us, asking God to give us divine aid. Christ is able not only to forgive us from past sins but to keep us from falling and present us faultless before God.