

# I WANT TO BE A.L.I.V.E.

Always Living In Victorious Experiences

PART 1: Growing In Your Discipleship

## STUDY GUIDE

On \_\_\_\_\_, I, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert date) (Insert Your Name)

began my personal journey to truly become A.L.I.V.E.!!!!!!

*This book is dedicated to my Heavenly Father, who told me to help His people establish a relationship with Him through teaching them His word, and gave me the vision for this book one night while I was laying in bed. This book is also dedicated to my lovely wife, Sarafia Sams, whose love, support, and wisdom has given me the encouragement that I needed to finish this project. I couldn't have asked GOD for a better help-mate/soul-mate/best-friend.*

Copyright © 2010. All rights reserved.  
ISBN: 978-0-557-31929-9  
Author: Aaron C. Sams

[www.iwant2bealive.com](http://www.iwant2bealive.com)

## Study Guide Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	4
What does it mean to be saved? .....	6
What do I do after I've been saved? (Growing In Discipleship) ...	12
Discovering Your Purpose .....	17
Why Should I Be Involved In Church? .....	20
How To Understand The Bible .....	24
Faith 101 .....	28
Prayer 101 .....	33
Grace 101 .....	39
Unconditional Love 101 .....	44
Forgiveness 101 .....	50
Wisdom 101 .....	57
Righteousness 101 .....	62
Holiness 101 .....	67
Power & Authority .....	71
Patience 101 .....	75
Humility 101 .....	80
Praise & Worship 101 .....	84
Compassion 101 .....	88
Generosity 101 .....	91
Evangelism 101 .....	95
Fasting 101 .....	98
Tithing 101 .....	101
Baptism 101 .....	104
Communion 101 .....	108
Offer of salvation .....	111

# DID YOU KNOW THAT GOD CREATED YOU TO BE ALIVE?

## Always Living In Victorious Experiences

A person who is A.L.I.V.E. is someone who:

- \*Develops a strong relationship with GOD while continually growing spiritually*
- \*Consistently displays Christ-like characteristics in their words and in their actions*
- \*Discovers their purpose in life and works towards achieving their goals and dreams*
- \*Maintains a life of peace and joy despite what is going on around them*
- \*Overcomes life's challenges, problems, difficulties, drawbacks, troubles, and hardships*

Unfortunately, due to many circumstances, situations, and events that occur in our life, most of us find ourselves at times feeling D.E.A.D.....

## **Discouraged Easily Accepting Defeat**

What is it that is causing you to feel D.E.A.D?

- \*Have you lost all the joy and the peace that GOD has given you?*
- \*Are you unable to overcome the problems and the challenges that you encounter in life?*
- \*Do you feel as if you have no hope, and that there is no possibility that your life can ever improve or change for the better?*
- \*Does the overall unpredictability of the future cause you to begin to worry excessively?*
- \*Are you bored being a Christian, are traditions and rituals beginning to wear you down?*
- \*Are you feeling distant from GOD because of your guilt?*
- \*Is your foolish behavior preventing you from positioning yourself on the right path?*
- \*Are you struggling to overcome and resist certain temptations?*

Are you tired of feeling D.E.A.D.? If so, then I have some information that will be of great value to you. I want you to know that the difference between being D.E.A.D. and being A.L.I.V.E. is having faith!!!! In other words, the difference is in your readiness to put your hope and your trust in the word of GOD, and your willingness to apply what the Bible teaches into your everyday life. The purpose of this book is to improve the lives of individuals by empowering them with the tools necessary to no longer be D.E.A.D., but to always be A.L.I.V.E. through the course of their discipleship.

What is Discipleship? Discipleship is the process that we undergo which enables us to grow spiritually by accurately applying the word of GOD in our life so that we become effective, productive, and victorious Christians.

### **What are the some of the key features of being A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship?**

The key features which enable you to become A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship are:

- \*Having a correct understanding of your salvation and what it means to be saved
- \*Understanding what to do after you've been saved
- \*Discovering and fulfilling GOD's purpose for your life
- \*Studying the word of GOD to gain a correct interpretation of its meaning and application
- \*Being involved in a local church
- \*Having unwavering faith in GOD and in His promises contained within the Bible
- \*Exercising a consistent and effective prayer life
- \*Understanding the grace of GOD and how it applies to you
- \*Possessing and displaying unconditional love towards others
- \*Being able and willing to offer forgiveness
- \*Obtaining and applying Godly wisdom
- \*Understanding righteousness and being aware of your position in right-standing with GOD
- \*Living a lifestyle that accurately reflects GOD's holiness
- \*Exercising the power and the authority that GOD has given you
- \* Exhibiting patience and endurance throughout the course of your spiritual walk
- \*Developing true humility
- \*Actively praising and worshipping your Heavenly Father
- \*Displaying compassion by extending the love of GOD to others
- \*Giving to others generously
- \* Effectively and confidently sharing your faith with others through evangelism
- \*Drawing closer to GOD through fasting
- \* Honoring GOD through tithes and offerings
- \* Announcing our affiliation with GOD through baptism
- \* Appreciating our bond with GOD through communion

This study guide was written with the intent to assist individuals by reinforcing the truths presented in the book that were designed to promote growth in your discipleship. My prayer is that by working through this study guide, that you will be challenged to apply the information into your personal life so that you become completely A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship as you fulfill GOD's purpose and accomplish your goals and dreams, rediscover your GOD-given peace and joy, overcome life's obstacles, and develop a stronger and closer relationship with your Heavenly Father. Enjoy!!!

# CHAPTER 1 STUDY GUIDE

## UNDERSTANDING OUR SALVATION

As this chapter states, many of us that have been saved do not value or appreciate the wonderful gift of salvation that has been given to us, nor do we recognize what to do as a result of being saved either. For this reason, it is extremely important for us to understand the salvation that we now have as Christians.

### HOW DO WE ACCEPT THE GIFT OF SALVATION?

I. How do we receive the gift of salvation? What must we do in order to be saved?

---

---

---

---

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “SAVED?”

II. The English word “saved” comes from the Greek word \_\_\_\_\_ . What does it mean?

---

---

---

III. **I’m Rescued#1:** Because we are saved, we are rescued from \_\_\_\_\_

IV. What does this mean? Why is this significant? In what ways does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

---

V. Which scriptures from the Bible address this subject?

---

---

VI. **I’m Rescued#2:** Because we are saved, we are rescued from \_\_\_\_\_

VII. What does this mean? Why is this significant? In what ways does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

---

VIII. Which scriptures from the Bible address this subject?

---

---

IX. **I’m Delivered#1:** Because we are saved, we are delivered from \_\_\_\_\_

X. What does this mean? Why is this significant? In what ways does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

XI. Which scriptures from the Bible address this subject?

---

---

XII. **I'm Delivered#2:** Because we are saved, we are delivered from\_\_\_\_\_

XIII. What does this mean? Why is this significant? In what ways does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

XIV. Which scriptures from the Bible address this subject?

---

---

XV. **I'm Delivered#3:** Because we are saved, we are delivered from\_\_\_\_\_

XVI. What does this mean? Why is this significant? In what ways does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

XVII. Which scriptures from the Bible address this subject?

---

---

XVIII. **I'm Delivered#4:** Because we are saved, we are delivered from\_\_\_\_\_

XIX. What does this mean? Why is this significant? In what ways does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

XX. Which scriptures from the Bible address this subject?

---

---

XXI. **I'm Delivered#5:** Because we are saved, we are delivered from\_\_\_\_\_

XXII. What does this mean? Why is this significant? In what ways does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

XXIII. Which scriptures from the Bible address this subject?

---

---

XXIV. **I'm Delivered#6:** Because we are saved, we are delivered from\_\_\_\_\_

XXV. What does this mean? Why is this significant? In what ways does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

---

---

XXVI. Which scriptures from the Bible address this subject?

---

---

XXVII. **I'm Delivered#7:** Because we are saved, we are delivered from\_\_\_\_\_

XXVIII. What does this mean? Why is this significant? In what ways does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

---

---

XXIX. Which scriptures from the Bible address this subject?

---

---

---

XXX. **I'm Delivered#8:** Because we are saved, we are delivered from\_\_\_\_\_

XXXI. What does this mean? Why is this significant? In what ways does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

---

---

XXXII. Which scriptures from the Bible address this subject?

---

---

XXXIII. **I'm Protected:** Because we are saved, we are protected and preserved from \_\_\_\_\_

---

XXXIV. What does this mean? Why is this significant? In what ways does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

XXXV. Which scriptures from the Bible address this subject?

---

---

XXXVI. **I'm Healed#1:** Because we are saved, we are healed from \_\_\_\_\_

---

XXXVII. What does this mean? Why is this significant? In what ways does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

---

---

XXXVIII. Which scriptures from the Bible address this subject?

---

---

XXXIX. **I'm Healed#2:** Because we are saved, we are healed from \_\_\_\_\_

---

XL. What does this mean? Why is this significant? In what ways does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

---

---

XLI. Which scriptures from the Bible address this subject?

---

---

XLII. **I'm Blessed:** Because we are saved, in what ways does GOD bless us: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

XLIII. What does this mean? Why is this significant? In what ways does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

---

---

---

XLIV. Which scriptures from the Bible address this subject?

---

---

**CAN SALVATION BE LOST?**

XLV. What would happen in our Christian walk if we were constantly afraid of losing our salvation?

---

---

XLVI. How does GOD assure us that we will not lose our salvation?

---

---

**CONCLUSION**

To be “saved” means to be the rescued from the depths of Hell, along with receiving deliverance from sin, from guilt, from fear, from trouble, and from evil. Along with salvation, GOD also promises to protect us, to defend us, and to heal us as well. Because we have been saved, our relationship with GOD has been restored, allowing us to experience satisfaction, fulfillment, contentment, enjoyment, delight, and gratification as a result of His blessings and His favor that we receive through a repaired relationship with Him. I pray that you have found the information in this chapter to be insightful and beneficial to you, and that it provided you with a clear understanding of what it means to be “saved.” Amen!!!

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 2 STUDY GUIDE

### GROWING IN OUR DISCIPLESHIP

It is extremely dangerous to view salvation as the finish line in the marathon that we run in our life as Christians. Many people who have adopted this incorrect view of salvation become lax and idle in their spiritual walk, causing them to also become nonchalant and uninterested in maintaining a personal relationship with their Heavenly Father by spending time with Him in prayer, by studying His word, and in worship. If we as believers develop an attitude of indifference towards GOD after receiving salvation, we will not experience the full extent of the benefits associated with being saved. Furthermore, our salvation will not accomplish the purpose for which GOD offered it to us in the first place, which is to enable us to become Christ-like in character as we also perform good works that bring Him glory, honor, and praise.

Our salvation provides us with the opportunity to explore and to enjoy the new and exciting life that we now have access to as GOD's children. Salvation is not the end of our spiritual journey; rather, it is the launching pad that propels us forward towards becoming the person that GOD has called us to be, and towards fulfilling His plan and His purpose for our life. By learning what GOD desires for you to do after receiving salvation, it will ignite your passion and your desire to serve Him by accomplishing what GOD has placed on your heart for you to achieve.

#### WHAT DO I DO NOW THAT I'M SAVED?

- I. Our main goal after being saved is to develop \_\_\_\_\_.  
In order to do this, we must follow \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- II. What are the characteristics, "the fruit" that the Holy Spirit produces in our lives?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  - Have you begun to display the "fruit" of the spirit by exhibiting Christ-like characteristics?
  
- III. What happens when we are in step with GOD's Spirit?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  - Are you in step with GOD right now?
  
- IV. What happens when we are out of step with GOD's Spirit?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  - Are you out of step with GOD? Are you going to do what is needed to get back in step with Him?
  
- V. What are the characteristics mentioned in 2 Peter 1:3-9 that we must possess in order to avoid becoming ineffective and unproductive as Christians?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  - Are you ineffective because you are lacking some of these characteristics? If so, which ones?

VI. Romans 12:2 teaches us that in order to no longer conform to the immoral practices and evil behavior of this world, that we must: \_\_\_\_\_

VII. How do we renew our mind?

➤ Are you doing what it takes so that your mind is constantly being renewed?

VIII. What responsibilities and functions do we carry out as “the salt of the Earth?”

➤ How are you functioning as “the salt of the Earth” in your Christian walk?

IX. What responsibilities and functions do we carry out as “the light of the world?”

➤ How are you functioning as “the light of the world” in your Christian walk?

X. We were created to bring \_\_\_\_\_ to GOD.

➤ Are your words, actions, and behavior glorifying GOD?

XI. What are some of the qualities and characteristics that we need to possess in order to become useful to GOD so that He can use us to perform good works?

➤ Do you possess these qualities and characteristics?

XII. What are the some of the qualities and characteristics that make us not useful to GOD?

XIII. How do we cleanse ourselves of the characteristics and qualities that are not useful to GOD?

➤ Are you giving GOD the opportunity to cleanse and purge you of your undesirable qualities?

XIV. When we accepted the gift of salvation, GOD gave us all spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

XV. What are some examples of the spiritual gifts that GOD has given to us?

➤ Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? If so, what are they? How are you using them?

XVI. What happens to our spiritual gifts when we “fan them into flame?”

XVII. How do we “fan our gifts into flame?”

---

---

---

➤ Are you fanning your gifts into flame, or are your gifts idle because you are not using them?

XVIII. In “The Great Commission,” what does Jesus instruct us to do?

---

---

XIX. We perform evangelism by sharing our \_\_\_\_\_ with others.

XX. When do we have the opportunity to share our faith with others?

---

---

---

➤ Are you actively using the opportunities available to you to evangelize?

➤ Do you allow your fear of rejection to prevent you from doing so?

XXI. In order to prevent Satan from separating us from our relationship with GOD, and causing us to give up on our hopes and dreams, we must fight \_\_\_\_\_.

XXII. What are the pieces of spiritual armor that enable us to stand against the devil’s schemes?

---

---

---

XXIII. How can Satan attack us and injure us if we do not have on:

a. **Our belt:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

b. **Our breastplate:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

c. **Our feet fitted:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

d. **Our shield:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

e. **Our helmet:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

f. **Our sword:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

- Are you prepared to stand against Satan’s schemes by putting on the whole armor of GOD? Are you vulnerable in any one of these areas? Has Satan been able to successfully attack you in the past because you did not have a particular piece of your spiritual armor on? Have you been able to successfully resist the devil’s temptation because you’ve had all of your spiritual armor on?

XXIV. After receiving salvation, we must prepare for Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_. Why is this important? How do we do this?

---



---



---

- If Jesus were to return to Earth today, would you be prepared for His return? Would He be pleased with how you are living and with how you are using your spiritual gifts and talents, or would He disapprove of your behavior and your disregard for using the gifts and talents that He gave to you?

**CONCLUSION**

Once we have accepted the gift of salvation, we should immediately begin to prepare ourselves for the good works that GOD wants us to accomplish by developing Christ-like character as we follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and by renewing our mind through the study of His word. We must also allow GOD to cleanse us from our sinful characteristics so that we can be useful to Him. Finally, we must actively fight the good fight of faith by putting on our spiritual armor in order to resist Satan’s attacks, which are intended to separate us from our relationship with GOD, and to stop us from accomplishing our goals and our dreams. As you do these things, GOD will begin to use your talents, your gifts, your abilities, and your resources to make a positive impact on others and advance His kingdom here on Earth. Amen!!!

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---



- X. Satan attempts to \_\_\_\_\_ the fire inside of us to use our gifts and talents.  
 ➤ Has your fire and your enthusiasm to use your gifts disappeared?
- XI. Satan attempts to prevent us from accomplishing our goals and dreams by first getting us to think that they are \_\_\_\_\_ to achieve.  
 ➤ Do you feel like your goals and dreams are achievable, or do you think that they are simply unrealistic and unattainable?
- XII. What happens when Satan causes us to doubt that our goals and dreams can be accomplished?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- XIII. What does the Bible say about whether or not we can achieve our goals and dreams?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you have faith in these promises of GOD concerning your goals and dreams?  
 ➤ Have these promises encouraged you to begin to pursue your aspirations?
- XIV. Another way that Satan prevents us from achieving our goals and dreams is by causing us to lose our \_\_\_\_\_.  
 ➤ Has this happened in your Christian walk? What are you going to do to get it back?
- XV. In what ways does Satan attempt to distract us from pursuing our goals and dreams?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Have you allowed yourself to become distracted from pursuing your goals and dreams?
- XVI. What does it mean to “fan your gift into flame”  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- XVII. How do we as Christians fan our gifts into flame?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you currently fanning your spiritual gifts into flame? If so, how?

**CONCLUSION**

I want you to know that GOD wants to take the fire inside of you to achieve your goals and dreams, and ignite it until it spreads like a wildfire within you to the point that you get excited and enthusiastic about using your gifts, talents, and abilities for Him. This is where as parents, we need to get actively involved in the lives of our children by spending quality time with them doing what they love to do, because the time that we spend with them helps them fan their gifts into flame and develop their skills and their abilities.

All people and all children, both young and old, need that extra push of motivation, encouragement, and inspiration to keep going forward in life when they face discouragement and feel like giving up. An involved parent leads to a child who is simply on fire for life, but an uninvolved parent leads to a child whose goals and dreams go up in smoke, and sadly this is what's happen to most of the youth in America. Let's not allow this to happen with our children and the youth of this generation. So I say to you, use your gifts, your talents, and your abilities for GOD doing something positive, exciting, and meaningful, then you will be fulfilling GOD's purpose for your life, then you will truly be joyful, and then you will truly be fulfilled and satisfied with your life. Amen!!!

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 4 STUDY GUIDE

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CHURCH?

I believe that many people today, even those who have been attending church for many years, would not be able to clearly explain why they go to church. The reason why many non-believers choose not to come to church is because they don't see the value or the benefit in attending. To them, church is simply a fashion show where people perform rituals and other traditions. For this reason I would like to clarify what the purpose of church is, so that you can begin to see the value and the benefit that it provides to you as you continue to grow in your discipleship after you have received the gift of salvation. This chapter is dedicated to providing answers as to why we should be involved (not simply just attend) a local church, the function of the local church, and other frequently asked questions regarding this subject.

#### REASON#1

- I. We attend church to \_\_\_\_\_
- II. Why is this significant? How does this benefit us in our Christian walk?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- III. The Bible can be described as a \_\_\_\_\_. What does this mean?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- IV. What are we able to obtain by hearing a preached message?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Have you ever heard a sermon that has changed your life? If so, in what way?
  - Have you ever heard a sermon that explained a scripture in a way that you never looked at it before?

#### REASON#2

- V. We attend church to \_\_\_\_\_
- VI. How does solidarity benefit us when we fellowship with other believers?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you actively fellowshiping with other believers?
  - How do you like to fellowship with other believers outside of church?
- VII. Solidarity and fellowshiping with other people gives us the opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ with those who \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_ with those who \_\_\_\_\_.
- In what ways can you begin to do this?
  - When you are going through a tough time, do you want to be comforted by others?
  - If something good has happened in your life, do you enjoy sharing it with other people?

VIII. How does our association with other believers impact our life as Christians?

---



---



---

➤ Have you met someone that has had a tremendously positive effect on your life? If so, how did they positively impact you? What character traits or habits did they have that helped you?

### REASON#3

IX. We attend church to \_\_\_\_\_

X. What does it mean to be accountable to someone?

---



---

XI. How does being held accountable to someone help us grow and mature spiritually?

---



---



---

➤ Who are you accountable to in your life? How do they hold you accountable?

XII. What can possibly happen if we are not held accountable for our actions?

---



---

XIII. In the local church, every member is accountable to the \_\_\_\_\_.

### REASON#4

XIV. We attend church to \_\_\_\_\_

XV. How should we *not* use our spiritual gifts?

---



---

XVI. What should we use our spiritual gifts for?

---



---

XVII. What are some scriptures that discuss what our spiritual gifts are and how we should use them?

---



---

XVIII. What happens when we fan our gifts into flame by continually using them?

---



---

### **REASON # 5**

XIX. We attend church to \_\_\_\_\_

XX. We must keep in mind that church is most importantly an opportunity to do what?

---



---

XXI. Church provides us with an opportunity to express what to GOD?

➤ Is your praise and worship of GOD full of emotion, or is it dispassionate and emotionless?

XXII. We must never forget to take the time to do what? Why must we remember to do this?

---



---

➤ Do you regularly thank GOD for what He's done for you in your life?

### **HOW DO I DECIDE WHICH CHURCH TO ATTEND?**

XXIII. What are some things that you should look for when deciding to join a church?

---



---

➤ Does the church that you attend possess all of these qualities? Which of these qualities do you believe is most important for a church to possess?

### **The Universal Church- The Need for Christian Unity**

XXIV. Who does the universal church consists of?

---



---

XXV. As Christians, we are all members of the spiritual\_\_\_\_\_.

XXVI. How should we react and respond to other believers in the universal church?

---



---

➤ Do you fellowship or associate with other Christians that are not a part of your local church?

## CONCLUSION

I pray that information in this chapter was useful to you and that you apply what you have learned in your personal life and begin to get involved in a local church that is helping you grow and mature spiritually. By becoming involved in a local church, you will truly be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship as you learn how to apply the Word of GOD in your personal life, fellowship with other believers, and use your gifts and talents to impact the lives of other individuals. Amen!!!

### *PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---



---



---



---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---



---



---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---



---



---



---

## CHAPTER 5 STUDY GUIDE

### HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

Have you ever been in a conversation with someone in person, over the phone, or through email, in which they interpreted what you said differently from what you actually meant? Even though you speak the same language as the person that you are communicating with and use words that they can understand, it is still very possible for that person to misinterpret what you are trying to communicate to them. While the Bible has been translated into different languages so that we can all understand the words and the terms written in it, it is still very possible to misinterpret what GOD is telling us. Such misinterpretations can have grave consequences in our life if we begin to apply them incorrectly (For instance, Jesus didn't tell you to "turn the other cheek" so that you will become a walking human punching bag).

The Bible was given to us so that GOD could speak directly to His children and establish a personal relationship with them. The Bible wasn't solely given to pastors or priests so that only they could understand the will of GOD and be charged with the task of explaining it to us. This makes each of us responsible for our own spiritual growth and development, and not solely the responsibility of those in the church. I want you to know that the Bible is described as a "sword," and with any weapon there is, if you know how to use it and handle it properly, that weapon will protect you and help you overcome your enemy. However, if you do not know how to use your weapon or handle it properly, you can injure yourself and possibly cause your own death. The purpose of this chapter is to provide you with weapons training so that you will discover how to correctly apply the Bible's teachings in your personal life.

- I. List the three reasons given that explain why the Bible was written?
- 
- 
- II. What are some examples of the truths that the Bible teaches us?
- 
- 
- What truths have you learned from the Bible that helped you greatly in your life?
- III. What are some examples of how the teachings in the Bible correct our sinful behavior?
- 
- 
- Which teachings from the Bible helped you to correct your sinful behavior?
- Which teachings from the Bible are you resisting and not allowing to change the way that you live?
- IV. How does the Bible prepare us to perform good works?
- 
- 
- V. In order to help us understand the Bible, GOD provided us with \_\_\_\_\_
- VI. What can potentially happen when we try to interpret the Bible without the help of the Holy Spirit?
- 
-

- VII. In order to better understand the Bible, we should select a \_\_\_\_\_ that will enable us to grasp what we are reading.
- Can you understand the writing style of the Bible that you are reading, or do you have trouble understanding what certain passages are saying?
- VIII. In order to understand the meaning of certain scriptures, and to apprehend what GOD is trying to tell us so that we can see how to apply what we are reading into our personal life the correct way, we must identify the \_\_\_\_\_ of the scripture.
- IX. What questions do we need to ask and answer concerning the scripture in order to do this?
- 
- 
- X. How does understanding the background of a scripture benefit us when we read it?
- 
- 
- Have you ever better understood the meaning of a scripture when you learned its background?
- XI. What are some resources that we can use to help us better understand the Bible? How does each of these resources help us to better understand the Bible?
- 
- 
- Which of these resources do you currently use to help you better understand the Bible? How has it helped you to understand the Bible?
- XII. What are the three methods that are mentioned that we can use when studying the Bible to help us correctly interpret what we read? How do these methods help us correctly interpret the scriptures?
- 
- 
- 
- 
- XIII. It is only when you begin to \_\_\_\_\_ the lessons in the Bible taught to you by GOD that you truly begin to understand what GOD is teaching you.
- Have you ever better understood a lesson from the Bible by doing this? If so, what the lesson that you learned?
- XIV. What are the three obstacles that Jesus identifies in the Parable of the Sower that prevents us from maintaining our faith and our belief in GOD's word?
- 
- 
- XV. What happens when we allow sin to harden our hearts towards GOD's word? How does this prevent us from believing and applying what we read in the Bible?
- 
- 
- Have you allowed sin to cause you to harden your heart towards GOD's teachings?

XVI. If we do not have a firm foundation of faith, what will happen to our faith when we encounter difficult times?

---

➤ When you encounter difficult times, what happens to level of your faith? Does it disappear? Or does it rise to the occasion?

XVII. How do we develop a firm foundation of faith in GOD's word?

---

XVIII. How do we become consumed by the cares of this world? How does this negatively impact us?

---

➤ Are you allowing any of your problems in your life to consume you?

XIX. What happens when we allow ourselves to become distracted by chasing after wealth and riches?

---

➤ Have you ever made a decision based on chasing after wealth as supposed to basing that decision on what GOD desired for you to do?

### CONCLUSION

Being able to understand the Bible will help your spiritual growth and maturity tremendously. I believe that the information contained in this chapter will greatly improve your ability to understand the Bible, and it will enable you to obtain a correct interpretation of the scriptures that you read. With this understanding, you will be able to have a more intimate and closer connection with GOD, fulfill His purpose for your life, and successfully accomplish the goals and dreams that GOD has placed on your heart for you to achieve, causing you to truly be A.L.I.V.E in your discipleship. Amen!

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 6 STUDY GUIDE

### FAITH 101

What would cause a man to leave his country and his friends to go to a place that he has never been to, only because of a promise that he was given that he would be blessed if he did? What would cause a young man, without armor and without a sharp weapon, to challenge a fully armored giant with a razor sharp sword to a battle to the death? What is it that would cause a man to take a chance to do something that has never been done before, despite being ridiculed and facing the objections of others? What would cause a woman who has been suffering all her life to push through a crowd just so that she could touch the hem of Jesus' garment? What would cause four men to cut a hole through a roof to let down their paralyzed friend so that he could come face to face with Jesus and be healed?

What was it that caused me to leave a job with guaranteed financial security in the military in order to pursue a career doing what I love to do, because I wanted to use my gifts and my talents to have an impact on the lives of others and to serve GOD? What is it that causes people to sometimes act irrational and to do illogical things in the eyes of others because they've been given direction by their Heavenly Father? I'll tell you what it is, and it my friend is called "FAITH!" Faith plays a vital role in your growth and progress as a Christian. The development of your faith as a Christian will determine whether or not you will be able to fulfill GOD's purpose for your life, and accomplish your goals and dreams. This chapter is dedicated to helping you obtain a clear understanding of what faith is, how faith is acquired, how we are supposed to use faith in our personal life, how faith benefits us, and how our faith is developed.

#### WHAT IS FAITH?

- I. How does the Bible define "faith" in Hebrews? Describe what faith is in your own words.

---



---

➤ Based on this definition and description, do you have "faith?"

- II. 2 Corinthians 5:7 teaches us that we should live by \_\_\_\_\_ and not by \_\_\_\_\_.  
What does this mean to us? How do we do this?

---



---

➤ Are you living your life based on GOD's promises to you, or do you base the decisions that you make on what you think is logical, how you feel, your reasoning, or on what you see in your life?

#### HOW DOES HAVING FAITH BENEFIT US?

- III. What are some of examples of the trials, the challenges, and the problems that we will face that will require us to have faith in GOD's ability to help us in our time of need?

---



---

➤ Have you recently experienced anything that would require you to have faith in GOD to help?

IV. How does having faith benefit us as Christians? What does faith give us in times of trouble?

---



---

- Have you ever been able to get through a tough time in your life by having faith in GOD?

### **HOW CAN WE APPLY FAITH IN OUR PERSONAL LIFE?**

V. What are the “mountains” in our life that Jesus tells us that we can move by faith?

---



---

- Are there currently any mountains in your life that are preventing you from moving forward?  
 ➤ Are you going to allow any mountains to stay in your life, or are you going to move them by faith?

### **HOW DO WE ACQUIRE FAITH?**

VI. Faith comes to us when what three things happen?

---



---

- Are you setting aside time and dedicating yourself to studying the word of GOD to acquire faith?

### **HOW DO WE CAUSE OUR FAITH TO GROW AND MATURE?**

XXVII. Our faith becomes genuine when we go *through* the \_\_\_\_\_. What does this symbolize?  
 How does it help our faith become genuine?

---



---

- Have you ever gone through a difficult time in your life that caused your faith to grow?

XXVIII. Why does the Bible teach us in James chapter 1 verses 2-4 to, “Consider it pure \_\_\_\_\_ when we encounter difficult trials and tribulations? How does this benefit us and help our faith to grow?”

---



---

- Does your faith have the level of stamina that is necessary to persevere through the tough times that you face, or is your faith not strong enough to sustain you when you face problems?

### **HOW DOES FAITH HELP US OVERCOME SATAN’S TEMPTATIONS?**

VII. In order to resist Satan, 1 Peter 5:8-9 teaches us that we must \_\_\_\_\_.

VIII. What does this mean? In what ways do we do this?

---



---

- Are you able to resist Satan when he presents you with temptations, or do you yield to these temptations and allow him to accomplish his mission to steal, to kill, and to destroy you?

- IX. What piece of our spiritual armor does our faith represent? What is the purpose of this spiritual piece of armor? How does it protect us from Satan's "flaming arrows"? How often must we carry our shield?

---



---



---

- Have you been able to resist the negative thoughts and ideas that Satan places in your mind by holding your shield of faith, or have you begun to believe the discouraging thoughts he gave you?

### **IS JUST BELIEVING THAT THE BIBLE IS TRUE ENOUGH, OR DO WE NEED TO PUT IT INTO PRACTICE?**

- X. If we choose not to apply GOD's teachings in our life, we fall into the trap of becoming \_\_\_\_\_
- Do your actions and your lifestyle reflect what you believe and your faith as a Christian?
- XI. What happens to our faith when we do not put what we believe into practice?

---



---

- Is your faith alive, or have you allowed it to become dead because you have chosen to stop applying the Word of GOD in your life?

### **WHAT QUALITIES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH FAITH?**

- XII. What are the two qualities mentioned that we must possess along with having faith?
- XIII. Why do we need to have patience along with having faith? What happens if we do not possess patience?

---



---

- Do you become easily irritated, discouraged, anxious, or discontent while holding on to your faith and your belief that GOD will answer your prayer request or deliver you from your problems?

- XIV. Why do we need to have love along with having faith? What happens if we do not possess love?

---



---

- Do you possess the love in your heart that you need to move forward in your life through faith?

### **SHOULD I SHARE MY FAITH WITH OTHERS?**

- XV. In Matthew chapter 28 verses 19-20, Jesus commands us to do what?
- XVI. In order to carry out this commandment, we must be willing and able to share our \_\_\_\_\_.
- Are you actively carrying out the Great Commission given to us by Jesus?

## ADDITIONAL POINTS CONCERNING FAITH

XVII. In order to begin to experience the abundant life that GOD has given to us, and to receive the promises of GOD, what must we do?

---

➤ Are you doing what is necessary to receive GOD's promises in your life?

XVIII. How does it benefit us if we are constantly examining ourselves to see if we are in the faith?

---



---

➤ How often do you examine yourself to see if your life matches what you believe in the Bible?

XIX. We should never lose focus of the fact that we are in a \_\_\_\_\_. What is Satan's objective and mission? How do we oppose and overcome him?

---



---



---

## CONCLUSION

Faith plays a vital role in the process of our spiritual growth and development. In order to maintain the peace and the joy that GOD has given to us, we must always base our attitudes, our emotions, and our behavior on GOD's promises to us, rather than the current situation that we may have encountered in our life. Our faith shields our mind from the attacks of our enemy, Satan, who seeks to place negative thoughts in our mind with the intention to discourage us. Furthermore, faith in GOD's promises gives us the assurance that we need to overcome the challenges and the difficulties that we may experience, and the confidence to press towards accomplishing our goals and dreams. By continuing to develop and maintain a firm foundation of faith, you will truly be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship as you walk in close relationship with GOD, and fulfill His purpose for your life. Amen!!!

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 7 STUDY GUIDE

### PRAYER 101

Imagine that you are on a small boat out at sea, and while you are out in the middle of the ocean, you encounter a fierce storm which causes your boat to flip over and turn completely upside down. As you desperately hang on for dear life, you spot a large vessel approaching. As it approaches your location, you notice that you aren't able to simply climb up the large vessel to safety. Instead, you recognize that you need something that will connect you with the large vessel, so that you can be transferred from your current position, where you are in danger, to a safe place on the large vessel. Then you see the captain of the large vessel throwing you a "lifeline", and when you take hold of it, it lifts you out of your current position where you are just barely hanging on for dear life, into a place of comfort, security, and peace where you are able to finally relax and be refreshed.

The "lifeline" in this example is symbolic of what prayer does for us as Christians. Prayer is what connects us to our Heavenly Father. When we encounter "storms" in our life which cause us to struggle to the point where it feels like we are just barely hanging on to our joy and our peace of mind, prayer enables us to receive the support and the assistance that we need from GOD. Prayer is our lifeline to GOD, and it is extremely important and valuable to all of us as Christians because it is has been guaranteed to us that we are going to experience "storms" in our life.

Unfortunately, often times we neglect to pray during times of trouble, and by neglecting to pray we are refusing to utilize the lifeline to GOD that is available to us whenever we are in distress. As a result, we become easily overwhelmed whenever we encounter "storms," such as financial shortfalls, illnesses, trials and tribulations, difficult situations, problems, relationship issues, adversity, opposition, temptations, and other things that can cause us to become frustrated and discouraged. I want you to know that GOD desires for you to communicate with Him through prayer, and that through your prayers you are allowing GOD the opportunity to display His power in your life. The purpose of this chapter is to provide you with a clear understand of what prayer is; to explain the power behind it and the effectiveness of it, and to encourage you as a child of GOD to begin to make prayer a regular part of your everyday life.

### WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF PRAYER?

- I. **Prayer#1:** Prayer of \_\_\_\_\_
- II. What are the characteristics of this type of prayer? Describe this type of prayer in your own words.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  - Are you familiar with this type of prayer? How often do you pray this type of prayer?
- III. **Prayer#2:** Prayer of \_\_\_\_\_
- IV. What are the characteristics of this type of prayer? Describe this type of prayer in your own words.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  - Are you familiar with this type of prayer? How often do you pray this type of prayer?
- V. **Prayer#3:** Prayer of \_\_\_\_\_

VI. What are the characteristics of this type of prayer? Describe this type of prayer in your own words.

---

---

➤ Are you familiar with this type of prayer? How often do you pray this type of prayer?

VII. **Prayer#4:** Prayer of \_\_\_\_\_

VIII. What are the characteristics of this type of prayer? Describe this type of prayer in your own words.

---

---

➤ Are you familiar with this type of prayer? How often do you pray this type of prayer?

IX. **Prayer#5:** Prayer of \_\_\_\_\_

X. What are the characteristics of this type of prayer? Describe this type of prayer in your own words.

---

---

➤ Are you familiar with this type of prayer? How often do you pray this type of prayer?

**HOW DO I PRAY?**  
**WHAT CAN I PRAY FOR?**

XI. Define and describe what prayer is?

---

---

XII. How does Jesus warn us and caution us not to pray?

---

---

XIII. What are some of the things that GOD’s word encourages us to pray for?

---

---

XIV. What does John 15:7 identify that we must do in order to receive what we have prayed for?  
How do we do this?

---

---

➤ Do you do what is necessary to receive what you have prayed for?

## **HOW DOES PRAYER HELP US IN OUR PERSONAL LIFE?**

XV. Prayer enables us to become free from \_\_\_\_\_. How do we become free from this?

---



---

➤ Are you free from this negative emotion in your personal life, or does it still have a hold on you?

XVI. Our anxiety \_\_\_\_\_ where our faith in GOD \_\_\_\_\_.

XVII. In exchange for our anxieties and fears, GOD gives us His \_\_\_\_\_ when we pray.

XVIII. How are we able to experience GOD's peace in our life? Where does this peace come from?  
How does this peace benefit us as believers?

---



---

➤ Are you experiencing the peace of GOD right now in your everyday life?

## **GOD ENCOURAGES US TO MAKE REQUESTS THROUGH PRAYER**

XIX. List some of the passages of scripture in which the Bible encourages us to pray to GOD?  
Describe what message these scriptures are trying to help us to understand about prayer.

---



---

➤ If you believed that your next prayer would be answered, what would you ask for from GOD?

## **PRAYER PRODUCES A TESTIMONY IN OUR LIFE**

XX. How do our prayer requests bring glory to GOD?

---



---

➤ Do you have a testimony about how GOD helped you during a difficult time in your life?

➤ Have you shared that testimony with others to bring glory to GOD?

## **THE POWER AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR PRAYERS**

XXI. By saying that our prayers are "powerful," and "effective," what is the Bible telling us about prayer?

---



---

➤ Do you pray as if you know that your prayers are powerful and effective?

➤ Do you believe when you pray that your prayer will accomplish what you want it to?

## WHY DO WE PRAY “IN THE NAME OF JESUS?”

XXII. Why does Jesus instruct us to pray “in his name?” What does Jesus do when we pray this way?

---



---



---

## WHAT CAN PREVENT OUR PRAYERS FROM BEING ANSWERED?

There are three obstacles that can prevent us from receiving what we have asked for through prayer....

XVIII. **Obstacle #1:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 XIX. How does this prevent us from receiving what we have asked for through prayer? What must we do in order to overcome this obstacle so that it no longer prevents us from receiving what we have asked for?

---



---

➤ Is this obstacle preventing you from receiving what you have asked for through prayer?

XX. **Obstacle #2:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 XXI. How does this prevent us from receiving what we have asked for through prayer? What must we do in order to overcome this obstacle so that it no longer prevents us from receiving what we have asked for?

---



---

➤ Is this obstacle preventing you from receiving what you have asked for through prayer?

XXII. **Obstacle #3:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 XXIII. How does this prevent us from receiving what we have asked for through prayer? What must we do in order to overcome this obstacle so that it no longer prevents us from receiving what we have asked for?

---



---

➤ Is this obstacle preventing you from receiving what you have asked for through prayer?

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

XXIII. What is intercessory prayer? Who does the Bible tell us to “intercede” for through prayer? Why should we intercede for these people?

---



---



---



---

➤ Do you intercede for these people mentioned in the Bible through prayer, or do you talk about them, gossip about them, and ridicule them instead?

## **PRAYER HELPS US OVERCOME TEMPTATIONS**

- XXIV. How does prayer enable us to overcome temptations?  
What happens if we are not constantly communicating with GOD through prayer?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- Are you constantly communicating with GOD so that you can resist temptations, or are you vulnerable to falling to temptations because you have stopped talking to GOD through prayer?

## **HOW PRAYER HELPS US ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS AND DREAMS**

- XXIV. How does prayer help us accomplish our goals and dreams?  
What benefits do we receive when we pray while pursuing our goals and dreams?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- Are you constantly communicating with GOD through prayer to enlist His help while you are pursuing your goals and dreams?

## **THE BENEFITS OF PRAYING EARLY IN THE MORNING**

- XXV. In what ways does praying early in the morning benefit us as Christians?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- Do you pray early in the morning prior to the start of your day? How has it helped you?

## **HOW PRAYER HELPED THOSE IN THE BIBLE**

- XXVI. What are some examples of how prayer has helped those in the Bible?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## CONCLUSION

Prayer maintains our connection with our Heavenly Father and it is our lifeline to Him which pulls us out of our troubling situations, into a position of comfort, security, and well-being. Whenever we go to GOD in prayer about our concerns and our problems, He gives us His peace in exchange for our nervousness, our fear, and our anxiety. We can have confidence that our prayers will be answered, because we know that our prayers are powerful and effective. Praying for others is also important as well, as it allows GOD to make an impact in their lives and to draw them closer to Him.

Through prayer we receive the wisdom and the strength that we need to overcome the temptations that are presented to us by Satan. Furthermore, devoting time to prayer will enable GOD to help us successfully achieve our goals and dreams. By making prayer a priority in your personal life, you will begin to see a tremendous amount of spiritual growth, enabling you to truly be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship as you fulfill GOD's purpose for your life. Amen!!!

### *PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---



---



---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---



---



---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---



---



---



---

## CHAPTER 8 STUDY GUIDE

### GRACE 101

Imagine what your life would be like without GOD's grace? Imagine knowing that there is no possibility for you to recover and overcome any sickness or disease that you encounter. Imagine how discouraging that would be. Imagine a life in which no matter how hard you worked, that your efforts, your time, your sweat, and your labor would be unsuccessful and unfruitful. Imagine how frustrating that would be. Imagine being overwhelmed by life's problems and challenges on a consistent basis. Imagine how worrisome that would be. Imagine not having a source of peace or joy, and instead experiencing nothing but chaos and fear. Imagine how afraid you would be. Imagine what your life would have been like if you had not encountered the love of GOD, and you continued to live a sin-filled life that would lead to your destruction, your downfall, and your ruin. Imagine the shame, the embarrassment, and the disgrace you would reap from the sin that you would be involved in. Imagine knowing that when you pass away from this life, that you will spend eternity in a place where you will be eternally tormented and tortured. Imagine the anxiety that you would have knowing that there was no way to escape this inevitable end.

With all this in mind, you can be thankful that you don't have to experience any of these negative situations that you've just imagined because of GOD's grace. There is a popular song that we like to sing in church called "Amazing Grace," but many people sing that song not actually realizing what grace is, nor do they understand what's so amazing about it. The purpose of this chapter is to give you insight into what grace is, how it affects us, how we benefit from it, and how it is an important aspect of our spiritual growth and development.

#### WHAT IS GRACE?

- I. What is the definition of grace? Describe what grace is in your own words.

---



---



---

#### HOW DO WE OBTAIN GRACE FROM GOD?

- II. How do we receive GOD's grace? Can we earn it? Do we deserve it?

---



---



---

#### HOW DO WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S GRACE?

- III. **Benefit#1:** We experience GOD's grace through \_\_\_\_\_

- IV. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us?

---



---



---

➤ Have you experienced GOD's grace this way? If so, how? Are you thankful for it?

V. **Benefit #2:** We experience GOD’s grace through \_\_\_\_\_

VI. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us?

---

---

---

➤ Have you experienced GOD’s grace this way? If so, how? Are you thankful for it?

VII. **Benefit #3:** We experience GOD’s grace through \_\_\_\_\_

VIII. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us?

---

---

---

➤ Have you experienced GOD’s grace this way? If so, how? Are you thankful for it?

IX. **Benefit #4:** We experience GOD’s grace through \_\_\_\_\_

X. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us?

---

---

---

➤ Have you experienced GOD’s grace this way? If so, how? Are you thankful for it?

XI. **Benefit #5:** We experience GOD’s grace through \_\_\_\_\_

XII. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us?

---

---

---

➤ Have you experienced GOD’s grace this way? If so, how? Are you thankful for it?

XIII. **Benefit #6:** We experience GOD’s grace through \_\_\_\_\_

XIV. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us?

---

---

---

➤ Have you experienced GOD’s grace this way? If so, how? Are you thankful for it?

XV. **Benefit#7:** We experience GOD’s grace through \_\_\_\_\_

XVI. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us?

---



---



---

➤ Have you experienced GOD's grace this way? If so, how? Are you thankful for it?

### **HOW IS GRACE ASSOCIATED WITH OUR SALVATION?**

XVII. What role does GOD's grace play in our salvation? Are we saved because of GOD's grace, or because of our own good deeds, our own effort, and our own good works?

---



---



---

### **HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN GRACE?**

XVIII. **Response #1:** Because we have received GOD's grace, we should \_\_\_\_\_

---



---



---

XIX. What does this mean? How do we accomplish this? Why does GOD desire for us to live this way?

---



---



---

➤ Are you responding to GOD's grace by living this way? If so, how? If not, why not?

XX. **Response #2:** Because we have received GOD's grace, we should \_\_\_\_\_

---



---



---

XXI. What does this mean? How do we accomplish this? Why does GOD desire for us to live this way?

---



---



---

➤ Are you responding to GOD's grace by living this way? If so, how? If not, why not?

XXII. **Response #3:** Because we have received GOD's grace, we should \_\_\_\_\_

---



---



---

XXIII. What does this mean? How do we accomplish this? Why does GOD desire for us to live this way?

---



---



---

➤ Are you responding to GOD's grace by living this way? If so, how? If not, why not?

XXIV. **Response #4:** Because we have received GOD's grace, we should \_\_\_\_\_

---

XXV. What does this mean? How do we accomplish this? Why does GOD desire for us to live this way?

---



---



---



---

➤ Are you responding to GOD's grace by living this way? If so, how? If not, why not?

XXVI. **Response #5:** Because we have received GOD's grace, we should \_\_\_\_\_

---

XXVII. What does this mean? How do we accomplish this? Why does GOD desire for us to live this way?

---



---



---



---

➤ Are you responding to GOD's grace by living this way? If so, how? If not, why not?

XXVIII. **Response #6:** Because we have received GOD's grace, we should \_\_\_\_\_

---

XXIX. What does this mean? How do we accomplish this? Why does GOD desire for us to live this way?

---



---



---



---

➤ Are you responding to GOD's grace by living this way? If so, how? If not, why not?

## CONCLUSION

I pray that you found the information on this chapter to be useful, and that you begin to live your life knowing how GOD's grace affects you, and how you should respond and live your life because it has been given to you freely. By applying this information in your personal life, you will continue to mature spiritually, accomplish your goals and dreams, and grow in your relationship with your Heavenly Father, causing you to truly be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship. Amen!!!

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 9 STUDY GUIDE

### UNCONDITIONAL LOVE 101

A famous singer named Tina Turner had a hit song in the 1980s titled, "What's love got to do with it?" In this song, she expresses her frustration with love, and even begins to discount its value and worth by dismissing it as simply "a second hand emotion." In the society and the culture that we live in now, the worth and the value of love is still being dismissed and discounted today, and we have even begun to abandon love altogether while replacing it with hate, anger, and hostility towards each other.

We as Christians are commanded by GOD to love each other, and it is this love that is an extremely important aspect of our spiritual growth and maturity. The purpose of this chapter is to answer the question of "what's love got to do with it," in regards to our discipleship as followers of Christ. We will also discover what love truly is, the way that GOD expresses His love to us, how we should express our love to Him, and how we should express love to others. My prayer is that with this chapter will provide you with a new understanding of what love truly is, and that you will begin to apply it in your everyday life.

#### What Is Love?

I. List the four words for "love" in the Greek language. Describe each of these 4 forms of love.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

II. Which form of love does GOD express to us? Which form of love should we express to others?

- Are you expressing this form of love to the people that you encounter in your life?

#### How do we develop the type of love that GOD wants us to have?

III. In order to love people with the agape type of love that is unconditional; that is kind, patient, forgiving, and not self-seeking, we must be \_\_\_\_\_.

IV. What must we do so that the Holy Spirit is able to produce the agape form of love in our heart?

- Are you doing what is necessary in order to allow the Holy Spirit to work inside of you?

#### How has GOD expressed His love towards us?

V. **Expression#1:** GOD Expressed His Love to Us Through \_\_\_\_\_.

VI. What benefits do we receive because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross?

- Do you realize that Jesus loves you so much that He died so that you can have eternal life?

VII. Which scriptures identify how GOD expressed His love to us through Jesus Christ?

---



---

VIII. **Expression #2:** GOD Expresses His Love To Us Through\_\_\_\_\_.

IX. In what ways does GOD display His compassion in our life?

---



---

➤ In your life, have you ever needed GOD's help, and He was compassionate towards you?

X. Which scriptures identify how GOD expresses His compassion towards us?

---



---

XI. **Expression #3:** GOD Expresses His Love To Us Through\_\_\_\_\_.

XII. What does it mean to discipline someone?

---



---

XIII. Why does GOD discipline us as His children?

---



---

➤ Has GOD ever disciplined you in your Christian walk? If so, how?

XIV. Which scriptures identify why GOD disciplines us as Christians?

---



---

XV. **Expression #4:** GOD Expresses His Love By\_\_\_\_\_

---



---

XVI. What can hinder us from receiving what we have asked for through prayer?

---



---

XVII. What are some of the scriptures that address GOD's willingness to grant what we prayer for?

---



---

➤ Do you have faith that GOD will answer you when you pray?

➤ If you knew that GOD would grant your next prayer request, what would you pray for?

➤ Have you allowed feelings of discouragement or frustration to stop you from praying altogether?

XVIII. **Expression #5:** GOD Expresses His Love By\_\_\_\_\_.

➤ In your personal life, do you have confidence that GOD will always do this for you?

- Your confidence in Him will determine if you experience peace in your life.

XIX. Which scriptures identify how GOD does this?

---



---

XX. **Expression #6:** GOD Expresses His Love By \_\_\_\_\_.

XXI. One way to truly measure whether or not someone loves you is if \_\_\_\_\_.

➤ Are you truly committed to the people that you love (and to GOD) even during hard times?

XXII. How does GOD respond to us when we encounter challenges and experience hard times in our life?

---



---

➤ Do you feel that GOD will be there for you when you need Him to support you during hard times?

### **How do we express our love towards GOD?**

XXIII. **Expression #1:** We Express Our Love To GOD By \_\_\_\_\_.

---



---

XXIV. How does GOD determine if we truly love Him? How do we show GOD that we truly love Him?

---



---

➤ Do your actions, your words, and your behavior reflect that you truly love GOD?

XXV. What scriptures address this method of expressing our love to GOD?

---



---

XXVI. **Expression #2:** We Express Our Love To GOD By \_\_\_\_\_.

XXVII. What does it mean to live for GOD? How do we live for GOD?

---



---

➤ Does your life reflect that you are living for GOD, or that you are living for yourself?

XXVIII. Which scriptures teach us that we should live for GOD?

---



---

XXIX. **Expression #3:** We Express Our Love To GOD Through \_\_\_\_\_.

---



---

XXX. Which scriptures encourage us to express our love towards GOD in this way?

---



---

➤ In your personal life, do you take the time to let GOD know how much you love Him?

XXXI. **Expression #4:** We Express Our Love To GOD By \_\_\_\_\_

---

XXXII. GOD wants Us To Love Him with all of our \_\_\_\_\_

➤ Do you love GOD this way, or do you hold back part of yourself from Him?

### **How do we express Godly love towards others?**

XXXIII. **Expression #1:** We Express Godly Love Towards Others By \_\_\_\_\_.

XXXIV. How do we express Godly love to others in this way? Why is it important for us to do this?

---



---

➤ Are you actively serving others in your life? If so, how are you doing it?

XXXV. **Expression #2:** We Express Godly Love Towards Others By \_\_\_\_\_.

XXXVI. When people hurt us, upset us, disappoint us, or offend us, we still must \_\_\_\_\_ them instead of holding on to our feelings of anger and bitterness towards them.

➤ Are there people that you are angry with and bitter towards that you need to forgive?

XXXVII. Which scriptures instruct us to love others by forgiving them?

---



---

XXXVIII. **Expression #3:** We Express Godly Love Towards Others By \_\_\_\_\_

XXXIX. What are some ways that we become prejudice towards others?

What societal ills occur when we discriminate against people for specific reasons?

---



---

XL. GOD wants us to treat all people \_\_\_\_\_, regardless of \_\_\_\_\_.

➤ Do you treat everyone equally? Are you prejudice towards certain groups of people?

➤ Do you discriminate against certain people for specific reasons?

XLI. **Expression #4:** We Express Godly Love Towards Others By \_\_\_\_\_

---

XLII. Which scriptures instruct us to express our love towards others in this way?

---



---

➤ Can you honestly say that you are compassionate, kind, and respectful towards all people?

XLIII. **Expression #5:** We Express Godly Love Towards Others By \_\_\_\_\_

---

XLIV. A true sign of a Christian's spiritual maturity is their ability to \_\_\_\_\_

➤ Are you able to still express love, to pray for, and to do good towards those who are your enemies?

XLV. What are some scriptures that teach us that we should love our enemies?

---



---

### **How does applying Godly love towards others benefit us?**

Proverbs 21:21 lists 3 rewards that we receive for loving others...

XLVI. **REWARD #1:** \_\_\_\_\_.

What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us?

---



---

➤ Does this reward motivate you to want to express unconditional love to others?

XLVII. **REWARD #2:** \_\_\_\_\_.

What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us?

---



---

➤ Does this reward motivate you to want to express unconditional love to others?

XLVIII. **REWARD #3:** \_\_\_\_\_.

What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us?

---



---

➤ Does this reward motivate you to want to express unconditional love to others?

XLIX. What are some others scriptures in the Bible that discuss the topic of unconditional love? What do these scriptures teach us about love?

---



---



---

## CONCLUSION

I pray that you found this chapter to be informative, and that you begin to apply this information in your personal life by beginning to love GOD and love others with the agape type of love. In this way, you will truly begin to be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship as you grow and mature spiritually, and you will be on your way towards becoming the person that GOD has called you to be while fulfilling His purpose for your life. Amen!!!

### *PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---



---



---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---



---



---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---



---



---



---

## CHAPTER 10 STUDY GUIDE

### FORGIVENESS 101

One of my favorite movies that I still enjoy watching over and over is Spider Man 3. I enjoyed this movie for many reasons; the special effects, the characters, the action, etc. However, what I enjoyed most about this movie is the message that is contained within the plot of the story. Peter Parker, who for those of you who don't know is the superhero Spider Man, has an uncle who is murdered by an ex criminal. Driven by his anger and grief over the death of his uncle, Peter begins to search tirelessly for the murderer in order to take revenge on him. When he finally discovers the identity of the killer, Peter pursues him and almost kills him during an intense fight.

As the movie progresses, Peter talks with his aunt who teaches him that taking revenge is not something that his uncle would have wanted him to do, and that killing the murderer would not bring his uncle back to life. After reflecting on these words and struggling within himself as to whether or not to still take revenge, Peter chooses to forgive the man who has murdered his uncle, and as a result, he is finally able to have peace on the inside of his heart. This movie did an excellent job illustrating to us what forgiveness is and why we should forgive others, and explaining how holding on to bitterness and anger affects us as individuals.

Forgiveness is an important aspect of our spiritual growth, development, and maturity as Christians. Our willingness and our capacity to forgive others will go a long way in determining how far in life we will be able to go. Because of some people's unwillingness to forgive, I've personally seen many of their dreams go unfulfilled, their goals unachieved, friendships lost, families separated, marriages dissolved, and their life almost ruined completely. My desire is not to see any of these things happen to you, but in order to do so, you must be willing to forgive those who have hurt you, offended you, or disappointed you. This chapter is dedicated to providing you with information on the subject of forgiveness, what it is, and how to apply it in our personal life so that we can grow and mature spiritually.

### WHAT IS FORGIVENESS?

- I. What does it mean to forgive someone? Describe what forgiveness is.

---



---



---



---



---

- Based on this definition and description, have you truly forgiven the people who have hurt you?

### BIBLICAL INSTRUCTIONS ON FORGIVENESS

- II. What are some scriptures in the Bible that instruct us to forgive others? What do these scriptures teach us about forgiveness?

---



---



---



---

## HOW DO YOU BECOME ABLE TO FORGIVE OTHERS?

- III. What do we receive from GOD that enables us to forgive others?  
What must we do to allow GOD to transform our heart in order for us to be able to forgive others?

---



---



---



---



---

- Are you doing what is necessary in order to allow GOD to transform your heart?

## HOW DO I APPLY FORGIVENESS IN MY PERSONAL LIFE?

- IV. **Application#1:** We apply forgiveness in our personal life by \_\_\_\_\_

---

- V. What does this mean? How do we apply this definition in our personal life to forgive others?  
Why is it important that we forgive others in this way?

---



---



---



---



---

- Are you expressing your forgiveness to others in this way by doing this? If so, how?

- VI. **Application #2:** We apply forgiveness in our personal life by \_\_\_\_\_

---

- VII. What does this mean? How do we apply this definition in our personal life to forgive others?  
Why is it important that we forgive others in this way?

---



---



---



---



---

- Are you expressing your forgiveness to others in this way by doing this? If so, how?

- VIII. **Application #3:** We apply forgiveness in our personal life by \_\_\_\_\_

---

IX. What does this mean? How do we apply this definition in our personal life to forgive others?  
Why is it important that we forgive others in this way?

---

---

---

---

---

➤ Are you expressing your forgiveness to others in this way by doing this? If so, how?

X. **Application #4:** We apply forgiveness in our personal life by \_\_\_\_\_

---

XI. What does this mean? How do we apply this definition in our personal life to forgive others?  
Why is it important that we forgive others in this way?

---

---

---

---

---

➤ Are you expressing your forgiveness to others in this way by doing this? If so, how?

XII. **Application #5:** We apply forgiveness in our personal life by \_\_\_\_\_

---

XIII. What does this mean? How do we apply this definition in our personal life to forgive others?  
Why is it important that we forgive others in this way?

---

---

---

---

---

➤ Are you expressing your forgiveness to others in this way by doing this? If so, how?

**WHO DO I HAVE TO FORGIVE?**

XIV. Does the Bible provide us with exceptions as to who we do not have to offer forgiveness to?

---

---

➤ Are there some people in your life that you have refused to forgive? If so, why?

**HOW MANY TIMES DO WE HAVE TO FORGIVE OTHERS?**

XV. Does the Bible place a limit on the number of times that we have to forgive people?  
How often must we forgive the people in our life that hurt us, disappoint us, or offend us?

---

---

---

➤ Are there some people that you have stopped forgiving for their mistakes? If so, why?

**HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU'VE TRULY FORGIVEN SOMEONE?**

XVI. **Test #1:** We know that we've forgiven someone if \_\_\_\_\_

---

XVII. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us?

---

---

---

➤ Using this test, can you honestly say that you've truly forgiven the people that have hurt you?

XVIII. **Test #2:** We know that we've forgiven someone if \_\_\_\_\_

---

XIX. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us?

---

---

---

➤ Using this test, can you honestly say that you've truly forgiven the people that have hurt you?

XX. **Test #3:** We know that we've forgiven someone if \_\_\_\_\_

---

XXI. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us?

---

---

---

➤ Using this test, can you honestly say that you've truly forgiven the people that have hurt you?

**HOW DOES FORGIVING OTHERS BENEFIT YOU?**

XXII. **Benefit #1:** Forgiving others benefits us by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

XXIII. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit positively affect us?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

➤ Are you currently experiencing this benefit that comes from forgiving others? If not, why?

XXIV. **Benefit #2:** Forgiving others benefits us by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

XXV. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit positively affect us?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

➤ Are you currently experiencing this benefit that comes from forgiving others? If not, why?

**WHAT CONSEQUENCES DO WE FACE FOR CHOOSING NOT TO FORGIVE?**

XXVI. **Consequence #1:** If we choose not to forgive others, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

XXVII. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this consequence negatively affect us?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

➤ Are you currently experiencing this consequence that comes from not forgiving others?

XXVIII. **Consequence #2:** If we choose not to forgive others, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

XXIX. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this consequence negatively affect us?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

➤ Are you currently experiencing this consequence that comes from not forgiving others?

XXX. **Consequence #3:** If we choose not to forgive others, \_\_\_\_\_

---

XXXI. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this consequence negatively affect us?

---



---



---

➤ Are you currently experiencing this consequence that comes from not forgiving others?

### **HOW DOES GOD DEMONSTRATE AND APPLY FORGIVENESS TOWARDS US?**

XXXII. **Application #1:** When GOD says that He forgives us, it means that He \_\_\_\_\_

---

➤ Do you understand and realize that GOD forgives you and has forgiven you by doing this?

XXXIII. **Application #2:** When GOD says that He forgives us, it means that He \_\_\_\_\_

---

➤ Do you understand and realize that GOD forgives you and has forgiven you by doing this?

XXXIV. **Application #3:** When GOD says that He forgives us, it means that He \_\_\_\_\_

---

➤ Do you understand and realize that GOD forgives you and has forgiven you by doing this?

XXXV. **Application #4:** When GOD says that He forgives us, it means that He \_\_\_\_\_

---

➤ Do you understand and realize that GOD forgives you and has forgiven you by doing this?

XXXVI. **Application #5:** When GOD says that He forgives us, it means that He \_\_\_\_\_

---

➤ Do you understand and realize that GOD forgives you and has forgiven you by doing this?

XXXVII. **Application #6:** When GOD says that He forgives us, it means that He \_\_\_\_\_

---

➤ Do you understand and realize that GOD forgives you and has forgiven you by doing this?

### **HOW DO WE RECEIVE FORGIVENESS FROM GOD FOR OUR SINS?**

XXXVIII. In order to receive GOD's forgiveness for our sins, 1 John 1:9 instructs us to do what?

---

➤ Do you immediately seek GOD's forgiveness when you commit a sin, or do you allow period of time to elapse before you ask Him to forgive you? If so, why?

## CONCLUSION

I pray that you have found the information in this page to be insightful, informative, and useful in your personal relationship and connection with GOD. My desire is that you begin to live a life of love in which you forgive those who hurt you, offend you, or disappoint you. By applying this information, you will truly be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship process, and you will be well on your way towards growing and maturing spiritually, towards establishing a closer connection with your Heavenly Father, towards becoming the person that He has called you to be, towards fulfilling His purpose and His plan for your life, and towards successfully achieving the goals and the dreams that He has placed on your heart for you to accomplish. Amen!!!

### *PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---



---



---



---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---



---



---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---



---



---



---

## CHAPTER 11 STUDY GUIDE

### WISDOM 101

It is common for us as humans to cherish valuable things. It is natural for us to stop at nothing to pursue and chase after the things that we value the most. We cherish highly valuable cars, houses, electronics, clothing, furniture and jewelry, and as a result we work endlessly and tirelessly to acquire them. Our Heavenly Father knows about our desire to acquire valuable things, and He created us to relish and appreciate things that have value. The problem that we've encountered in our present day society and culture, is that we have begun to cherish and value certain things more than the one thing that GOD wants us to cherish and to chase after the most, which is wisdom.

The Bible tells us how much more valuable wisdom is in comparison to the other material possessions that we now cherish in Proverbs 8:11 when it states that, "wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with it." So if wisdom is much more precious and more valuable than all of these other things (cars, houses, electronics, clothing, furniture, jewelry), then why aren't we working endlessly and tirelessly to grow wise and to pursue wisdom? Why do people work hard in their careers just so that they can acquire material possessions that they value, but then not work just as hard or even harder in their personal time to gain wisdom, which the Bible says will preserve our life and help us prosper? If obtaining wisdom is as valuable as GOD says it is, then why aren't many of us devoting much of our time, our energy, and our resources to obtain it like we do everything else?

The reason for this I believe, is that we don't have a true understanding of what wisdom is, how having wisdom benefits us, or how to obtain it. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, wisdom plays a very essential role as you continue to grow and mature spiritually, and your dedication towards obtaining wisdom can go a long way in determining the amount of success that you have, and the amount of enjoyment you experience in your life. The purpose of this chapter is to provide you with Biblical information concerning what wisdom is, how we apply it, how we obtain it, and how having it benefits us in our life.

### WHAT IS WISDOM?

- I. What is the definition of wisdom? Describe what it means to be wise.

---



---



---

- Based on this definition, would you classify yourself as being a "wise" person?

### HOW DO I BECOME WISE?

- II. How do we obtain wisdom?

---



---



---

- Are you doing what is necessary in order to obtain wisdom?

III. In Psalm 19:7, what benefit does it mention that we receive from becoming wise?  
How does this positively impact us as believers?

---

---

---

➤ Is your soul in need of the revival that comes when you grow in wisdom?

IV. **Method#1:** We become wise when we \_\_\_\_\_

---

V. How does this help us grow in wisdom? In what ways does this benefit us?

---

---

---

➤ Are you taking this necessary step in order to grow in wisdom?

VI. **Method#2:** We become wise when we \_\_\_\_\_

---

VII. How does this help us grow in wisdom? In what ways does this benefit us?

---

---

---

➤ Are you taking this necessary step in order to grow in wisdom?

VIII. **Method#3:** We become wise when we \_\_\_\_\_

---

IX. How does this help us grow in wisdom? In what ways does this benefit us?

---

---

---

➤ Are you taking this necessary step in order to grow in wisdom?

**HOW DO I APPLY WISDOM IN MY PERSONAL LIFE?**

X. What are some examples mentioned in the book in which we can apply wisdom in our life?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- Are you applying wisdom in all of the ways mentioned in the book?
- In what areas of your life are you not applying wisdom? Why aren't you applying wisdom?

**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BECOMING WISE?**

XI. **Benefit#1:** By applying wisdom in our life, we \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

XII. Why is this benefit significant to us? How does this benefit positively affect us?

- Are you experiencing this benefit that comes from applying wisdom? If not, why?

XIII. **Benefit#2:** By applying wisdom in our life, we \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

XIV. Why is this benefit significant to us? How does this benefit positively affect us?

- Are you experiencing this benefit that comes from applying wisdom? If not, why?

XV. **Benefit#3:** By applying wisdom in our life, we \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

XVI. Why is this benefit significant to us? How does this benefit positively affect us?

- Are you experiencing this benefit that comes from applying wisdom? If not, why?

XVII. **Benefit#4:** By applying wisdom in our life, we \_\_\_\_\_

---

XVIII. Why is this benefit significant to us? How does this benefit positively affect us?

---



---

➤ Are you experiencing this benefit that comes from applying wisdom? If not, why?

XIX. **Benefit#5:** By applying wisdom in our life, we \_\_\_\_\_

---

XX. Why is this benefit significant to us? How does this benefit positively affect us?

---



---

➤ Are you experiencing this benefit that comes from applying wisdom? If not, why?

XXI. **Benefit#6:** By applying wisdom in our life, we \_\_\_\_\_

---

XXII. Why is this benefit significant to us? How does this benefit positively affect us?

---



---

➤ Are you experiencing this benefit that comes from applying wisdom? If not, why?

### **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES CONCERNING WISDOM**

XXVII. What are some additional scriptures in the Bible that deal with the subject of wisdom? What do these scriptures teach us about becoming wise?

---



---



---

### **CONCLUSION**

I pray that you have found this information about wisdom to be insightful, beneficial, and relevant to you, and that you begin to make wise choices by basing your decisions on GOD's teachings. By applying wisdom in your personal life, you will truly be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship by continuing to grow spiritually, establishing a closer connection with your Heavenly Father, developing Christ-like character and qualities, fulfilling GOD's purpose for your life, and successfully accomplishing the goals and the dreams that GOD has placed on your heart for you to achieve.

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 12 STUDY GUIDE

### RIGHTEOUSNESS 101

When I was growing up, I used to admire and look up to people who were powerful, who were respected, who were rich, and who were influential. I would wonder what it would be like to be on their good side, and to have them lend me their help and assistance so that I could become successful and prosperous as well. I remember wishing that these people that I respected would give me guidance, insight, and wisdom so that I could follow their footsteps and get on the right path towards achieving my similar goals and dreams.

As a Christian, you are able to receive this help, this assistance, this guidance, and this support from the most powerful, most respected, most wealthy, and most influential being alive; your Heavenly Father. GOD's help and assistance is available to you as His child because once you accepted Jesus Christ into your life, you took on His righteousness and were placed in a position of right-standing with GOD. Being able to understand the righteousness that GOD has given you will provide you with a better appreciation of what Jesus did for you on the cross, and it will give you a better understanding of how GOD relates to you. This page is dedicated to answering the fundamental questions that you may have about righteousness, and to providing you with information and knowledge for you to apply in your spiritual life to help you grow and mature.

#### **WHAT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS?**

- I. What is the definition of righteousness? Describe what it means to be righteous. What does GOD do for us as a result of declaring us righteous?

---



---



---



---

#### **HOW DO I BECOME RIGHTEOUS?**

- II. What must we do in order to become righteous? Can we be declared righteous by GOD based on our ability to follow all of GOD's commands, or on our ability to perform good deeds?

---



---



---



---

#### **HOW SHOULD WE LIVE NOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN MADE RIGHTEOUS?**

- III. Since GOD made us righteous, how should we live our life? Should we continue living a sinful lifestyle because we are righteous in GOD's sight? How do we live a righteous life?

---



---



---



---

- Does the way that you live your life reflect the righteous lifestyle that GOD wants you to live?

- IV. What are some of the scriptures in the Bible that teach us how to live a righteous life?  
How does each of these scriptures instruct us to live?

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING RIGHTEOUS?**

- V. **Benefit#1:** Because we live a righteous lifestyle, we experience \_\_\_\_\_

---

- VI. What are some of the scriptures that address this benefit that we receive from living righteously?

---

- Are you experiencing this benefit as a result of living a righteous life?

- VII. **Benefit#2:** Because we live a righteous lifestyle, we experience \_\_\_\_\_

- VIII. What are some of the scriptures that address this benefit that we receive from living righteously?

---

- Are you experiencing this benefit as a result of living a righteous life?

- IX. **Benefit#3:** Because we live a righteous lifestyle, we experience \_\_\_\_\_

- X. What are some of the scriptures that address this benefit that we receive from living righteously?

---

- Are you experiencing this benefit as a result of living a righteous life?

- XI. **Benefit#4:** Because we live a righteous lifestyle, we experience \_\_\_\_\_

- XII. What are some of the scriptures that address this benefit that we receive from living righteously?

---

- Are you experiencing this benefit as a result of living a righteous life?

- XIII. **Benefit#5:** Because we live a righteous lifestyle, we experience \_\_\_\_\_

- XIV. What are some of the scriptures that address this benefit that we receive from living righteously?

---

- Are you experiencing this benefit as a result of living a righteous life?

## THE CONSEQUENCES OF LIVING IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS (Immorality)

XV. **Consequence #1:** If we continue to live an immoral life, we will experience the consequence of

XVI. How does this consequence negatively affect us? Why is this consequence dangerous to us?

- Do you wish to avoid experiencing this consequence?
- Are you prepared to experience this negative consequence by continuing to live immorally?

XVII. **Consequence #2:** If we continue to live an immoral life, we will experience the consequence of

XVIII. How does this consequence negatively affect us? Why is this consequence dangerous to us?

- Do you wish to avoid experiencing this consequence?
- Are you prepared to experience this negative consequence by continuing to live immorally?

XXVIII. What are some other negative consequences that we experience by living evil and wicked lifestyles?

- Are you prepared to experience the consequences of living an immoral lifestyle?

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES CONCERNING RIGHTEOUSNESS

XXIX. In Ephesians Ch. 6, what piece of spiritual armor does our righteousness represent?  
How does this piece of armor help us to resist Satan and prevent his attacks from harming us?

- Are you able to overcome Satan's attacks in this area, or are you vulnerable to these attacks?

XXX. What does Matthew 5:10 inform us that we will experience as a result of living righteously?

- Are you prepared to experience this? Will you allow this to stop you from living righteously?

XXXI. In Matthew Ch.6, what does Jesus warn us about concerning our righteous deeds?

---

---

---

➤ Are there hidden motives behind your good deeds and good works towards others?

XXXII. Based on Hebrews 12:10-11, why does GOD disciplines us ? How does GOD discipline us?

---

---

---

XXXIII. What does it mean in Matthew 5:6 to “hunger” and “thirst” for righteousness?

---

---

---

XXXIV. When we hunger and thirst for righteousness, what should it motivate us to begin to do?

---

---

---

XXXV. What happens in our life when we lose our hunger and our thirst for righteousness?

---

---

---

➤ Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness? What are you doing in order to satisfy this craving?

XXXVI. What does Matthew 6:33 teach us that we should do above all else?

---

---

---

➤ Have you made this the #1 priority in your life?

XXXVII. What does GOD do for us because we have placed this as first priority in our life?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**CONCLUSION**

I pray that this chapter provided you with a better understanding on the topic of righteousness, and that you recognize that you have been made righteous not by your own good works and behavior, but by placing your faith in Jesus Christ. As a result of being made righteous, you have been placed into a position where you experience the privileges of being in right standing with GOD. Also, GOD now judges you as being innocent of any wrong doing, allowing you to possess eternal life and to escape from being condemned to hell. Furthermore, GOD now pronounces the way that you lead your life as being pleasing and acceptable to Him. I want to encourage you to begin to apply what you have learned into your personal life by living righteously, which will enable you to truly be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship as you continue to grow spiritually and fulfill GOD’s purpose for your life

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 13 STUDY GUIDE

### HOLINESS 101

I have many clothes in my closet that I can choose from. Some of my clothes throughout the years have been exposed to a lot of mess, dirt, food stains, and other impurities. As a result, these clothes have become faded, torn, and less appealing. However, I have other clothes in my closet that I make sure that I do not expose to mess. These are the clothes that I make sure I don't get any food stains on, and that I don't allow to get mixed up with other impurities. As a result, these clothes still look as good as they did when I first bought them.

Similar to these clothes, we as GOD's children decide whether or not we will expose ourselves to contaminates, and to other things that will cause us to become impure (such as secular music, immoral shows and movies, drugs, alcohol, etc.). If we do, then our lives become less appealing and pleasing to GOD, and it causes His presence and His glory to fade in our life. But if we choose not to expose ourselves to mess, to contaminates, and to things that will cause us to be impure (such as secular music, immoral shows, and movies, drugs, alcohol, etc.), our lives will reflect GOD's holiness, and His presence and His glory will be clearly apparent in our life. My prayer for you as your brother in Christ is that you make the decision to not exposure yourself to things that can cause you to be impure, but that you rather choose to remain holy and free from things that can contaminate your spiritual purity. The purpose of this chapter is to help you understand what holiness is, why you should live holy, how to become holy, and the benefits of living a life of holiness.

#### WHAT IS HOLINESS?

I. What does it mean to live a holy life? Describe what it means to live a life of holiness.

---



---



---



---

#### HOW DO WE BECOME HOLY?

II. Can we become holy on our own? What did GOD do for us in order to make us holy in His sight?

---



---



---



---

III. What did GOD do for us in order to help us to live a holy life that is free from sin?

---



---



---



---

IV. What occurs when we allow the Holy Spirit to lead and to manage our life?

---



---



---



---

V. What is the “fruit” or the results that the Holy Spirit produces in our lives?

---

➤ Have you allowed the Holy Spirit to lead your life so that you can experience these fruits?

VI. If at any point we make a mistake or commit a sin that does not reflect the holy life that GOD desires for us to live, what does the Bible instruct us to do?

---



---

### HOW DO WE LIVE A HOLY LIFE?

VII. What are some examples that are mentioned that describe what it means to live a holy life?

---



---



---



---



---

➤ Are you falling short of living holy in any area of your life? If so, what area?

➤ What steps do you need to take in order to begin to live holy in those areas?

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF LIVING A HOLY LIFE?

VIII. **Benefit#1:** Because we live a holy life, GOD grants us \_\_\_\_\_

IX. What scriptures address this benefit that we receive? How does this benefit positively affect us?

---



---

X. **Benefit#2:** Because we live a holy life, GOD grants us \_\_\_\_\_

XI. What scriptures address this benefit that we receive? How does this benefit positively affect us?

---



---

XII. **Benefit#3:** Because we live a holy life, GOD grants us \_\_\_\_\_

XIII. What scriptures address this benefit that we receive? How does this benefit positively affect us?

---



---

XIV. **Benefit#4:** Because we live a holy life, GOD grants us \_\_\_\_\_

XV. What scriptures address this benefit that we receive? How does this benefit positively affect us?

---



---

XVI. **Benefit#5:** Because we live a holy life, GOD grants us \_\_\_\_\_

XVII. What scriptures address this benefit that we receive? How does this benefit positively affect us?

---



---

XVIII. **Benefit#6:** Because we live a holy life, GOD grants us \_\_\_\_\_

XIX. What scriptures address this benefit that we receive? How does this benefit positively affect us?

---



---

XX. **Benefit#7:** Because we live a holy life, GOD grants us \_\_\_\_\_

XXI. What scriptures address this benefit that we receive? How does this benefit positively affect us?

---



---

- Are you experiencing all the benefits that come from living a holy life? If not, what corrections do you need to make so that you can begin to experience these benefits in your life?

## CONCLUSION

I pray that the information contained in this chapter assisted you in being able to understand what holiness is, how to live holy, and the benefits associated with living a holy life. By applying the information on this page in your personal life, it will cause you to truly be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship, and you will be able to continue to grow and mature spiritually, develop a closer relationship and connection with your Heavenly Father, fulfill His purpose for your life, and successfully accomplish the goals and the dreams that He has placed on your heart for you to achieve.

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

---

## **CHAPTER 14 STUDY GUIDE**

### **POWER AND AUTHORITY 101**

In my first four years as an enlisted member in the military, I was what they called "junior enlisted." At these ranks I did not possess any authority, rather, I was subject to the power and the authority of the people who were higher ranking than me. I had to follow their orders in order to avoid punishment, and I had to serve them because of the low position that I was in. In the fifth year of my military career, I became a non-commissioned officer (a staff sergeant), and with this new rank came power and authority. I was now the person in charge. I was now the person enforcing the rules and regulations. I now controlled certain aspects of my military career. Instead of only being influenced, I now influenced others.

One thing that I learned from my experience in the military is that when you do not have any power and authority, your career can be very unpleasant. However, when you do have power and authority, when you are in control, and when you are able to influence the environment around you, then your career is much more enjoyable and pleasant. I want you to know that before you came to Christ, you did not have any power or any authority over your life. As a result, you were under the influence of Satan and your sinful nature, and he did whatever he could to make your life as un-enjoyable and unpleasant as possible, as he is still trying to do right now by creating problems, turmoil, and chaos within it.

The great news is that when you gave your life to Christ, He gave you power and authority so that you were no longer under the control of your sinful nature, or under Satan's influence. So now instead of living a life of turmoil and chaos, you have been given power and authority that when you exercise, will grant you a life of peace and joy. Instead of living a life in bondage to sin, you have been given power and authority that when you exercise, will grant you a life of holiness free from the control of sin. Instead of living a life in which obstacles block your path from moving forward or reaching higher in life, you have been given power and authority that when you exercise, will put you on a highway towards achieving the goals and the dreams that GOD has placed on your heart for you to accomplish.

Far too many Christians are not experiencing the abundant and blessed life that Jesus came to give to us, and the reason that we are not experiencing this abundant life is because we are not exercising the power and the authority that we have received from our Heavenly Father. The purpose of this chapter is to help you understand the power and the authority that Jesus has given to you as a child of GOD, and how to exercise it and apply it in your personal life so that you can experience the benefits of it.

### **POWER AND AUTHORITY IN CHRISTIANITY**

I. 1 Corinthians 4:20 states that the kingdom of GOD is not a matter of \_\_\_\_\_ but of \_\_\_\_\_.

II. What power does Christianity possess?

---



---



---



---



---



---



---

➤ Have you experienced the power of Christianity in your own life? If so, how?

**HOW DO WE APPLY THE POWER OF CHRISTIANITY IN OUR LIFE?**

III. **Application#1:** We apply the power of Christianity in our life by\_\_\_\_\_

IV. How do we apply this power in our personal life? Why is it significant? How does it benefit us?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

➤ Are you exercising your GOD-given power and authority in this way in your personal life?

V. **Application#2:** We apply the power of Christianity in our life by\_\_\_\_\_

VI. How do we apply this power in our personal life? Why is it significant? How does it benefit us?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

➤ Are you exercising your GOD-given power and authority in this way in your personal life?

VII. **Application#3:** We apply the power of Christianity in our life by\_\_\_\_\_

VIII. How do we apply this power in our personal life? Why is it significant? How does it benefit us?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

➤ Are you exercising your GOD-given power and authority in this way in your personal life?

IX. **Application#4:** We apply the power of Christianity in our life by\_\_\_\_\_

X. How do we apply this power in our personal life? Why is it significant? How does it benefit us?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

➤ Are you exercising your GOD-given power and authority in this way in your personal life?

XI. **Application#5:** We apply the power of Christianity in our life by\_\_\_\_\_

XII. How do we apply this power in our personal life? Why is it significant? How does it benefit us?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

➤ Are you exercising your GOD-given power and authority in this way in your personal life?

XIII. **Application#6:** We apply the power of Christianity in our life by \_\_\_\_\_

XIV. How do we apply this power in our personal life? Why is it significant? How does it benefit us?

- 
- 
- 
- 
- Are you exercising your GOD-given power and authority in this way in your personal life?

### **HOW DOES GOD DISPLAY HIS POWER IN OUR LIFE?**

XV. What power do we as Christians possess by having the Holy Spirit living within us?

- 
- 
- 
- Are you experiencing/have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit at work in your life?

### **WHEN THE POWER OF CHRISTIANITY IS *NOT* IN EFFECT IN OUR LIVES**

XVI. How do we dismiss, reject, restrain, and prevent the power of GOD from operating in our life?

- 
- 
- 
- Are you preventing GOD from fully demonstrating His power in your life?

## **CONCLUSION**

I pray that this chapter provided you with a better understanding of the power of Christianity, how we can exercise it in our life, and what can keep us from experiencing it. I pray that you begin to apply this information concerning power and authority in your personal life by allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you throughout the course of your life, and by doing so, you will truly be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship as you continue to mature spiritually, grow in your relationship with your Heavenly Father, fulfill His purpose for your life, and successfully accomplish the dreams and the goals that He has placed on your heart for you to achieve.

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 15 STUDY GUIDE

### PATIENCE 101

In today's society and culture, we want what we want when we want it, and we always want what we want right now (How's that for a tongue-twister). We get ourselves into debt by using our credit cards to buy things earlier than we can afford them. We spend so much money eating out instead of patiently waiting to get home and cook. It is this "I want what I want when I want it," attitude that gets us into so much trouble as Christians.

Our desire to be in a relationship with someone is so intense, that we choose to settle for just anybody and not the person that GOD wants us to be with. We allow our feelings of loneliness to cause us to become impatient for a mate, and we do not afford our Heavenly Father the opportunity to fully prepare us for marriage. We often become impatient when it comes to seeing our hopes and our dreams fulfilled, so we step outside of GOD's will and direction to try to accomplish them quicker on our own.

When we become anxious and restless while waiting on GOD to deliver us from our difficult circumstances and challenging situations, it causes us to become worried, discouraged, and fearful, when instead if we were patient we would continue to remain in the peace and the joy that GOD has given us. We also quickly become upset and annoyed with others (particularly with our spouses and children) when they do things that annoy us and irritate us, when instead if we were patient with them we would not allow their behavior to cause us to become so easily disturbed. The purpose of this chapter is to teach you about patience; what it is, and the ways you should apply it in your personal life so that it will help you tremendously in your discipleship process as you grow and mature spiritually.

### WHAT IS PATIENCE?

- I. What are some of the multiple definitions that are used to define and describe what patience is?

---



---



---



---

- Based on this definition and description, do you have patience?

### HOW CAN I APPLY PATIENCE IN MY LIFE?

- II. **Application#1:** Having patience enables us to \_\_\_\_\_

---

- III. Why is it important for us to be patient in this way? How does having this type of patience benefit us? What would occur if we did not possess this type of patience?

---



---



---

- Are you exhibiting this form of patience in your personal life?

IV. **Application#2:** Having patience enables us to \_\_\_\_\_

V. Why is it important for us to be patient in this way? How does having this type of patience benefit us? What would occur if we did not possess this type of patience?

➤ Are you exhibiting this form of patience in your personal life?

VI. **Application#3:** Having patience enables us to \_\_\_\_\_

VII. Why is it important for us to be patient in this way? How does having this type of patience benefit us? What would occur if we did not possess this type of patience?

➤ Are you exhibiting this form of patience in your personal life?

VIII. **Application#4:** Having patience enables us to \_\_\_\_\_

IX. Why is it important for us to be patient in this way? How does having this type of patience benefit us? What would occur if we did not possess this type of patience?

➤ Are you exhibiting this form of patience in your personal life?

X. **Application#5:** Having patience enables us to \_\_\_\_\_

- XI. Why is it important for us to be patient in this way? How does having this type of patience benefit us? What would occur if we did not possess this type of patience?

---



---



---



---



---

➤ Are you exhibiting this form of patience in your personal life?

- XII. **Application#6:** Having patience enables us to \_\_\_\_\_

---

- XIII. Why is it important for us to be patient in this way? How does having this type of patience benefit us? What would occur if we did not possess this type of patience?

---



---



---



---



---

➤ Are you exhibiting this form of patience in your personal life?

### **HOW DO WE DEVELOP PATIENCE?**

- XIV. What does GOD provide us with in order to enable us to become patient?  
What types of circumstances and situations does GOD use to cause us to develop patience?

---



---



---



---

➤ Have you experienced a situation that has caused you to develop patience? If so, how has it caused you to develop patience?

- XV. Patience is not a quality or characteristic that appears \_\_\_\_\_ rather, it is a \_\_\_\_\_ that we undertake in order to develop the amount of patience that GOD desires for us to have.

➤ Are you patient with yourself during the time you are developing patience?

**ARE THERE CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT I WILL NEED TO BE PARTICULARLY PATIENT IN?**

XVI. **Circumstance #1:** We must particularly be patient in \_\_\_\_\_

XVII. Why is it important for us to be particularly patient in this area?  
What can happen if we are not patient in this area?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

➤ Do you exhibit patience in this area of your life?

XVIII. **Circumstance #2:** We must particularly be patient in \_\_\_\_\_

XIX. Why is it important that we be particularly patient in this area?  
What can happen if we are not patient in this area?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

➤ Do you exhibit patience in this area of your life?

XX. **Circumstance #3:** We must particularly be patient in \_\_\_\_\_

XXI. Why is it important that we be particularly patient in this area?  
What can happen if we are not patient in this area?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

➤ Do you exhibit patience in this area of your life?

## HOW HAS GOD DISPLAYED HIS PATIENCE TOWARDS US?

- XXII. One way that GOD demonstrates His patience with us is by forgiving our sins and our mistakes instead of \_\_\_\_\_
- XXIII. By continuing to be patient with us when we acted in ignorance to His commands and to His teachings, GOD provided us with an opportunity to do what?
- 
- Are you taking advantage of this opportunity that GOD is giving you, or are you wasting it?

## CONCLUSION

I pray that the information in this chapter was a blessing to you, and that you begin to apply what you have read by demonstrating patience in every area of your personal life. By doing so, you will truly be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship as you continue to grow and mature spiritually, accomplish your goals and dreams, overcome negative emotions such as worry and depression, resist temptations, and establish a closer connection and relationship with GOD as He uses you to fulfill His purpose for your life. Amen!!!

### *PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---



---



---



---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---



---



---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---



---



---



---

## CHAPTER 16 STUDY GUIDE

### HUMILITY 101

I have to admit that as a man, coming to Christ and learning that I would have to become humble was a difficult pill for me to swallow. For years I had built my reputation and my ego by being proud and arrogant, whether it is in sports or anything else that I was involved in. Humility wasn't exactly something that I immediately prayed and asked for, but as I've grown closer to GOD and developed a deeper understanding of His word, I've come to realize that humility and being humble is not what I thought it was originally.

\*We often associate being humble with weakness, but with humility comes great strength.

\*We often associate being humble with being afraid and suffering from fear, but with humility comes great boldness and confidence.

\*We often associate being humble with being walked on, stepped on, and trampled over, but with humility comes great respect and honor.

\*We often associate being humble with allowing yourself to be taken advantage of or to be made a fool, but with humility comes great wisdom and discernment.

\*We often associate being humble with being poor and poverty, but with humility comes great wealth and prosperity.

\*We often associate being humble with being degraded and suffering disgrace, but with humility comes great dignity.

I believe the reason why many people shun a life of humility is because there is a lot of negative stigma attached to it, but when you get an accurate understanding of what being humble truly is, you will begin to desire this characteristic and quality that enables us to grow and mature spiritually. The purpose of this chapter is to help you understand what humility is, how to apply it in your life, and the benefits associated with being humble.

### What is Humility?

I. What is the definition of humility? Describe what it means to be a humble person.

---



---



---



---

II. Humility teaches us that our success, our accomplishments, and our victories in life are because of \_\_\_\_\_, and for this reason we should \_\_\_\_\_ for what He has done in our life.

➤ Do you do this as a result of achieving success or victories in your life?

III. Whenever we encounter problems in our life, what does humility teach us that we should do?

---

➤ Whenever you encounter problems in your life, is this what you do?

IV. What did Jesus mean in Matthew 18:3-5 when He teaches us to be humble like a “little child?”

---



---

➤ Do you rely on GOD in your personal life, or are you self-reliant and self-righteous?

### **HOW DO WE LIVE IN HUMILITY?**

V. Whose example must we follow in order to live a life of humility?  
What type of example did He set for us to reflect and to imitate?

---



---

➤ Are you following the example set for you by imitating His life? If so, how?

VI. What are some examples of how we can apply humility in our life?

---



---



---



---



---



---

➤ Are you falling short of displaying humility in any of these areas?

➤ If so, what are you going to change so that you begin to apply humility in that area of your life?

VII. What are some additional scriptures that teach us about living a life of humility?

---



---



---

### **HOW DO WE BECOME HUMBLE?**

VIII. How does GOD help us to become humble? What does it mean to be “broken?”

---



---



---



---



---

➤ Have you gone through an experience that has caused you to be broken?

➤ Did it help you to become humble?

## **HOW DOES GOD REWARD US FOR BEING HUMBLE?**

- IX. What are some of the benefits and rewards that we receive for being humble and living in humility?

---



---



---



---

## **WHY IS HUMILITY NEEDED WHEN YOU BEGIN TO SERVE GOD?**

- X. What can occur if we are not humble when we begin to serve GOD in ministry?  
How does GOD respond to us if we remain humble in ministry?

---



---



---



---



---



---

- Are you willing to serve GOD in ways that will go unrecognized and unappreciated by others?

## **WHAT IS FALSE HUMILITY?**

- XI. What is the definition of false humility? Describe what happens when a person exhibits this characteristic trait. How does Satan use false humility to negatively impact our Christian life?

---



---



---



---



---



---

- Have you ever found yourself displaying false humility?

## **CONCLUSION**

I pray that the information in this page provides you with a better understanding of what humility is, and how you should live your life being humble. By applying this teaching in your personal life; you will continue to mature spiritually, grow in your relationship with GOD, successfully accomplish your goals and dreams, and fulfill His purpose for your life, causing you to truly be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship. Amen!!!

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 17 STUDY GUIDE

### PRAISE AND WORSHIP 101

When I first starting dating my wife, I had an opportunity to get to know her for who she really is. It was during this time that I found out that she had numerous qualities and characteristics that were admirable. On top of that, I also discovered that she had a heart that was kind, compassionate, and loving, along with a sweet and gentle spirit. The more that I received a revelation of who she was, and the more that she continued to do little things for me that I enjoyed tremendously as a sign of her love for me, the more I began to admire her, adore her, and appreciate her for who she is. Because I admired and adored my wife, I began to praise her in many different ways on a very frequent basis. I would tell her how much I appreciated her, I would let her know how good she made me feel, and I would express to her how much I enjoyed being with her and around her. I would let her know that I was thankful for the things that she did for me, and I would even sing to her from time to time (even though she hated the way my voice sounded). As a result of praising my wife on a regular basis (which I am proud to say that I still do to this day), my wife and I entered into a deeper relationship, and we have gotten to know each other more intimately.

As Christians, when you really get to know GOD for He truly is, and as you begin to get a revelation and an understanding of the things that your Heavenly Father has done for you in the past, what He is doing for you in the present, and what He will do for you in the future, it causes you to begin to adore Him, admire Him, and to appreciate Him for who He is and the things that He has done in your life (if you can't think of anything He has done for you, just remember that He woke you up this morning so that you could live another day). As a result, we begin to express our adoration, admiration, and appreciation of our Heavenly Father by praising Him and worshipping Him. When we praise and worship GOD, it allows us to enter into an intimate relationship with Him, and we are able to establish a stronger and deeper connection with Him as well. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT GOD GREATLY DESIRES YOUR PRAISE AND WORSHIP OF HIM (I cannot stress this point enough.) Praise and Worship are both a vital part of your spiritual growth and maturity. The purpose of this chapter is to provide you with knowledge about what praise and worship is, the difference between praise and worship, and what both praise and worship consist of. I pray that you apply this information in your personal life and begin to praise and worship GOD in your own personal and heart-felt way.

### WHAT IS PRAISE? HOW DO WE PRAISE GOD?

I. What is the definition of "praise?"

---



---

II. List the 7 Hebrew words mentioned that describe how we can praise GOD? What do they mean?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

➤ Which way do you enjoy praising GOD? Do you praise GOD in all of the ways mentioned?

III. Our praise that we give to GOD must come from our \_\_\_\_\_. What does this mean?

---

---

---

➤ Do you praise and worship GOD this way?

**WHAT IS WORSHIP? HOW DO WE WORSHIP GOD?**

IV. What is the definition of worship? What does worship consist of?

---

---

---

V. What are some of the various ways that we worship GOD?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

➤ Do you fall short of worshipping GOD in any of these areas?

➤ What are you going to change so that your life reflects that you are worshipping GOD in that area?

VI. What do we express and show to GOD when we praise and worship Him?

---

---

➤ Does your praise and worship accurately reflect how you feel towards your Heavenly Father?

**WHEN SHOULD YOU PRAISE AND WORSHIP GOD?**

VII. Rather than praising and worshipping GOD for only a few minutes in church, how often should we praise and worship our Heavenly Father?

---

---

➤ How often do you praise and worship GOD outside of church?

VIII. What are some specific circumstances in our life that can motivate us to praise and worship GOD?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

➤ Have any of these circumstances caused you to begin to worship GOD? If so, which ones?

- Do you begin to praise and worship GOD during difficult times, or do you choose to separate yourself from Him whenever you encounter trials and tribulations?

**WARNINGS AGAINST PRAISING AND WORSHIPPING IDOLS OR OTHER FALSE gODS**

- IX. What occurs when we choose to give other people, other things, and other idols our praise and our worship instead of our Heavenly Father?

---



---



---



---

- Are you praising and worshipping other people, things, or idols in place of GOD?

**OTHER INSIGHTS CONCERNING PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

- X. What does it mean to worship GOD in “spirit” and in “truth?”

---



---



---



---

- XI. What methods and strategies does Satan use to try to prevent us from worshipping GOD?

---



---



---



---

- Have you allowed any of Satan’s strategies to cause you to stop worshipping GOD?

**CONCLUSION**

I pray that you have found the information on this chapter to be useful, and that begin to apply this knowledge in your personal life as you praise and worship GOD in a way that pleases Him, which is in spirit, in truth, and from your heart. By praising and worshipping your Heavenly Father, you will continue to draw closer into a deeper and more intimate relationship with Him, causing you to truly be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship. Amen!!!

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 18 STUDY GUIDE

### COMPASSION 101

Imagine that on your way home from work or school, you see a man being robbed on the street by a group of thieves. The man is absolutely helpless and defenseless as he lies there brutally beaten, injured, and unconscious. The thieves then take all of the man's possessions; his car keys, his wallet, his money, his jewelry, his clothes, his identification, and they leave the man with absolutely nothing left. After the thieves flee the scene of the crime, you see a man wearing a doctor's coat arrive. You begin to think to yourself "surely the doctor will help the victim and provide the man with the medical attention that he needs." The doctor looks at the victim, sees that he's been robbed and beaten, and then decides that he is too preoccupied with other things that require his attention. So he leaves the man unattended without assisting him at all. A few minutes after the doctor leaves, you see a person wearing a religious robe and collar arrive. You begin to think to yourself, "surely the preacher will help the victim and make sure that the man receives the care that he needs to get back to health." The preacher looks at the victim, sees that he is injured and has been robbed of all of his possessions, and then decides that it would be too inconvenient for him to help because he is too busy doing other things. So he leaves the man hanging on to his life by a thin thread without assisting him in any way.

You've now seen two people pass by this victim, and the man's condition is getting worse as each minute passes. You look around, and you decide that since these two people did not assist the victim, that nobody else would help him either. At this point you have an important decision to make. Do you turn your back on the victim like the others did? Do you act as if you didn't see anything happen at all? Do you choose not to get involved by making up an excuse? Do you dismiss the suffering that you see the victim is experiencing? Or do you decide to actively help the man by getting him the medical attention he needs, providing him with something to eat so that he can regain his strength, and do whatever else is necessary to help him get back on his feet?

This example is similar to the parable that Jesus told to His disciples to explain to them what compassion truly is in Luke chapter 10. In this story, two different religious people come across a man who was robbed and beaten, but did not display compassion by stopping and offering any assistance. Yet it was an unreligious person (a Samaritan) who was the one that displayed GOD's love by being compassionate towards the victim and attending to his needs. The next time that you encounter someone who is in need or who is suffering, are you going to pass by them without offering them any assistance, or are you going to display the love of GOD by being compassionate and helpful towards those who are in need? Compassion plays a crucial role in our spiritual walk as believers, and GOD desires for us to display this characteristic frequently. The purpose of this chapter is to explain what compassion is, how we apply it in our life, the benefits we receive by being compassionate towards others, and the ways that GOD is compassionate towards us.

### WHAT IS COMPASSION?

- I. What is the definition of compassion? Describe what compassion is. What examples of compassion did Jesus provide for us to follow?

---



---



---



---



---

- Do you follow the example set by Jesus by being compassionate towards others?



- How have you personally experienced GOD’s love and compassion in your life?
- VIII. Based on Psalm 103, how does GOD display His compassion towards us?

---



---



---

**ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES ON THE SUBJECT OF COMPASSION**

- IX. What are some additional scriptures that address the subject of compassion? What do these scriptures teach us about being compassionate?

---



---



---

**CONCLUSION**

I pray that this chapter provided you with a better understanding of what compassion is, and our responsibility as Christians to demonstrate it to others. I pray also that you begin to apply this information concerning compassion into your personal life, and by doing so, you will continue to mature spiritually, grow in your relationship with your Heavenly Father, fulfill His purpose for your life, and successfully accomplish the dreams and the goals that He has placed on your heart for you to achieve, causing you to truly be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship. Amen!!!

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---



---



---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---



---



---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---



---



---

---

---

## CHAPTER 19 STUDY GUIDE

### GENEROSITY 101

I enjoy watching my two young children interact with each other. They both like to get into things, they like to make each other laugh, and they both enjoy participating in games. However, there is one circumstance that causes my children to not play well together. This situation causes my children to begin to scream at one another, and to start to fight. This circumstance occurs whenever it comes time for them to share something. Because of their immaturity at this young age, my children are only able to focus on themselves, they are only interested in taking things and holding on to them so that no one can take it away from them, and so that nobody else can benefit or enjoy what they have worked hard to obtain. I realize that this mindset and philosophy is not only present in young children, but in teenagers and grown adults as well. Because of our immaturity, we want to hold on to the money and the resources that we have earned so that nobody else can benefit from what we have worked so hard to obtain. As a result, we become stingy, tightfisted, and miserly. Even worse, we choose to willingly spend what we have earned on material possessions that fade, become worn, and break down within a year or two, but we refuse to willingly spend what we have earned to help someone in need, and to make a positive impact in their life that will last forever.

I want you to know that our Heavenly Father doesn't desire for us to go through life being unwilling to share what we have. Instead, GOD desires for us to mature and to put away this childish mindset by loving one another in an unselfish manner, which we do by supporting and serving others in any way that we can through our generosity. For this reason, Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:11; "When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things." Some of the worst people to ever be around are those who are stingy and unwilling to share what they have, but some of the best people to be around are those who are generous with their time, their money, and their resources to assist others and to make them comfortable. It is these people who possess the characteristic of generosity that effectively witness to others and display the love of Christ, which in turn encourages others to establish a relationship with GOD.

Imagine how effective Jesus would have been in witnessing and ministering to others if He was not generous. What if Jesus choose to be stingy by not feeding those 4,000 plus people who hadn't eaten for a long time because they chose rather to listen to Him speak; a miracle would have never occurred. What if Jesus chose to be stingy with His healing power and withheld it from those who traveled great distances to be cured from their diseases; people would have lost faith in Him. Imagine if Jesus was stingy with His time and was unwilling to teach His disciples about the Kingdom of GOD; the church would have never grown and the gospel would have never spread. Jesus was abundantly generous with all that He possessed, and He desires for us to be generous towards others as well. The purpose of this chapter is to help you understand what generosity is, how we can display generosity in our personal life, the benefits that we receive because we are generous, and how GOD displays His generosity in our life.

### WHAT IS GENEROSITY?

- I. How is generosity defined? What happens when we are generous towards others?
- 
-

---



---

➤ Are you generous towards others with your time, your talents, and your resources?

**HOW DO WE APPLY GENEROSITY IN OUR PERSONAL LIFE?**

II. The most important thing to keep in mind concerning generosity is that it must be done out of what?

---

III. What occurs when we develop a love for money that causes us to be emotionally attached to it?

---



---

➤ Are you so emotionally attached to your money that you are unwilling to be generous?

IV. Before we give generously to anybody in need, what must we ensure and check for first?

---

V. GOD is the source of our \_\_\_\_\_. What does this mean? Why is this significant?

---



---



---

VI. What often causes us to hesitate when we have the opportunity to be generous towards others?  
How does GOD remove the barrier that prevents us from being generous by causing us to hesitate?

---



---

➤ Do you find yourself hesitating and thinking-twice when you want to be generous to others?

VII. What is a common mistake that we make when GOD blesses us with wealth and prosperity?  
How does GOD want us to use the wealth and the prosperity that He blesses us with?

---



---



---

➤ Are you using the wealth that GOD has blessed you with the way that He desires for you to use it?

VIII. What are some of the feelings that we experience that override our desire to be generous?  
How can we overcome these feelings that stop us from being generous?

---



---



---

➤ Do you allow certain feelings to prevent you from being generous? If so, why?

IX. What occurs as a result of us being generous towards those that are in need?

---

---

---

---

---

**HOW DOES BEING GENEROUS TO OTHERS BENEFIT US?**

X. What are some of the ways listed in Psalms and Proverbs that GOD blesses us for being generous?

---

---

---

---

---

**HOW IS GOD GENEROUS TOWARDS US?**

XI. Psalm 34:10, and Psalm 84:11 both mention that GOD is generous towards us by doing what?

---

---

XII. What are some of the things that GOD gives to us generously?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES ON GENEROSITY**

XIII. What are some additional scriptures that address the subject of generosity? What do these scriptures teach us about being generous?

---

---

---

---

---

**CONCLUSION**

I pray that this chapter provided you with a better understanding of what generosity is, and why you should demonstrate it in your personal life towards others. I pray that you begin to apply this information concerning generosity every day, and by doing so, you will truly be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship as you continue to mature spiritually, grow in your relationship with your Heavenly Father, fulfill His purpose for your life, and successfully accomplish the dreams and the goals that He has placed on your heart for you to achieve. Amen!!!

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 20 STUDY GUIDE

### EVANGELISM 101

When you arrive at your permanent duty station as a soldier in the military, you immediately begin to undergo extensive training to become competent at your technical job. On top of this on-the-job training, you also become involved in war-zone scenarios called “base exercises” in order to become comfortable handling weapons, providing security, and preparing for the threat of chemical attacks. The purpose of this training and these exercises are to prepare you for the times that you will be deployed to a war zone environment, in which would often encounter hostility, and even come under attack from the enemy.

As a Christian, one of the roles of your local church is to prepare you as a soldier in the army of the Lord so that you can be an effective witness outside of the church; in the streets, in the prisons, in the malls, at your job, in your school, in your home, and even in foreign countries. For some reason, many church members after receiving training and knowledge from the word of GOD choose to only use what they have learned in the local church. This is not what GOD intended for us to do. Rather, GOD wants us to take the training that we have received, the information and the wisdom that we have learned, and the love that we have developed in our heart out into our community, and even to the entire world, so that we can reach out to those who do not know GOD and introduce them to our Heavenly Father. This is what we call “evangelism,” and it is the term that is used to describe the process of sharing your faith other people. The purpose of this chapter is to explain what evangelism is, and to give you some tips and some suggestions as to how to reach out to others and introduce them to GOD.

### WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

- I. What is the definition of evangelism? Describe what evangelism is.

---



---



---

### HOW CAN WE SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS?

- II. **Method#1:** We can share our faith with others through \_\_\_\_\_.
- III. How do we do this? In what ways is this accomplished?

---



---



---



---

➤ Do you effectively share your faith with others in this way? If so, how?

- IV. **Method#2:** We can share our faith with others through \_\_\_\_\_.
- V. How do we do this? In what ways is this accomplished?

---



---



---



---

➤ Do you effectively share your faith with others in this way? If so, how?

VI. **Method#3:** We can share our faith with others through \_\_\_\_\_.  
 VII. How do we do this? In what ways is this accomplished?

---



---



---



---

➤ Do you effectively share your faith with others in this way? If so, how?

VIII. **Method#4:** We can share our faith with others through \_\_\_\_\_.  
 IX. How do we do this? In what ways is this accomplished?

---



---



---



---

➤ Do you effectively share your faith with others in this way? If so, how?

X. **Method#5:** We can share our faith with others through \_\_\_\_\_.  
 XI. How do we do this? In what ways is this accomplished?

---



---



---



---

➤ Do you effectively share your faith with others in this way? If so, how?

### CONCLUSION

I pray that this information was useful to you, and that you begin to apply it in your personal life by evangelizing through the example that you set, through your testimony, through your prayers for someone, through your compassion, and through your generosity. By doing so, you will truly be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship as you carry out The Great Commission given to us by Jesus, and continue to advance and build the Kingdom of GOD here on Earth.

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 21 STUDY GUIDE

### FASTING 101

Have you ever earnestly sought GOD’s guidance and wisdom when faced with a difficult decision that you had to make? Have you ever truly desired deliverance from a tough situation or a challenging circumstance and hardship? Have you ever been extremely determined to hear GOD’s answer to you in response to one of your prayers? Have you ever had a strong desire to intercede for another person so that GOD would help that person that was in need of support in only a way that He could help them? Have you ever had a longing and a craving to draw closer to GOD through worship, prayer, study of His word, and by crucifying your flesh so that you could truly live by the spirit and be able to resist sinful temptations? Have you ever wanted GOD to reveal to you the meaning of a particular scripture in the Bible, and to show you how it applies to your life? Have you ever had a yearning for GOD to be with you as you ministered to others, whether it was through preaching, teaching, singing, evangelism, etc?

If you have ever wanted any of these things to happen in your life as a follower of Christ, then I would like to introduce you to the biblical principle of fasting. Fasting plays a vital role in your spiritual growth and development. However, despite its immense level of importance, fasting is often an overlooked and neglected aspect in the lives of many Christians. I believe that there are two reasons why many Christians choose not to fast. The first reason why I believe many Christians choose not to fast is because we as believers lack “spiritual hunger,” which is a craving for righteousness and for the things of GOD, and therefore we are never satisfied and fulfilled in our spiritual journey and walk. (Matthew 5:6). The second reason I believe many Christians choose not to fast is because they have never been taught about it, nor have they had anyone ever explain to them what the spiritual principle of fasting exactly is. For this reason I wrote this chapter, and I hope that it will answer many of your questions regarding fasting, and also encourage you to begin to apply it in your personal life as you continue to grow and mature as a Christian.

### WHAT IS FASTING?

- I. What is the definition of a fast? Describe what a fast is. Describe what a fast is not.

---



---



---



---



---



---



---

### WHY SHOULD WE FAST?

- II. What are some of the benefits that we obtain in our spiritual walk by fasting?

---



---



---



---



---

- Has your desire to experience any of these benefits persuaded you to begin to fast?

**HOW DO I FAST THE CORRECT WAY?**

III. What are some examples of various fasts that we can embark on? What does each fast consist of?

---

---

---

---

---

**WHEN SHOULD WE FAST?**

IV. What are some of the circumstances and situations that we encounter that motivate us to fast?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

➤ Have you ever experienced a time your life that motivated you to fast? If so, what was it?

**ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES CONCERNING FASTING**

V. What must we do in order to experience the benefits and the results of fasting?

---

---

---

VI. What occurs when we fast for the wrong reasons, such as to seek praise from others?

---

---

---

**CONCLUSION**

As your brother in Christ, I pray that this chapter was successful in explaining the spiritual discipline of fasting, and that you will begin to apply this knowledge in your personal life so that you can grow in your relationship with GOD, and receive His divine assistance in every area of your life. By applying the principle of fasting in your Christian walk, it will empower you to truly A.L.I.V.E in your discipleship. Amen!!!

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 22 STUDY GUIDE

### TITHING 101

I want you to imagine how you would feel if you found out that someone whom you were close to was stealing from you? Imagine finding out that someone you loved tremendously is taking from you what belongs to you? Imagine the pain that you would feel if you knew that the people that you would be willing die for were robbing you, but at the same time professing that they loved you. This is the scenario that is taking place in the book of Malachi between GOD and His people, and this is what GOD says to them:

"I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?' 'Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you? "In tithes and offerings.'" You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty." *Malachi 3:6-12*

The purpose of this chapter is to explain to you exactly what tithing is, where it occurs in the Bible, and how it is beneficial to us in our process of spiritual growth.

- I. The Bible says in Malachi chapter 3, that when we rob GOD by withholding our tithes from Him, that were are placed under a \_\_\_\_\_. What does this mean? How does this affect us?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- With this in mind, does this apply to you because you are not tithing?
- II. If we begin to tithe, there are two promises that GOD makes to us.....
- III. **PROMISE#1:** If we begin to tithe, GOD promises to \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- IV. What does this mean to us? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us as Christians?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- V. **PROMISE#2:** If we begin to tithe, GOD promises to \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- VI. What does this mean to us? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us as Christians?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## **WHAT IS TITHING?**

VII. What is the definition of tithing? Describe what tithing is. Why does GOD instruct us to tithe?

---



---



---



---

## **WHERE IS THE PRINCIPLE OF TITHING FOUND IN THE BIBLE?**

VIII. In Genesis 14: 17-20, why did Abraham give a tenth of what he gained to the priest?

---



---



---

IX. In Luke 11:42, what does Jesus instruct us to do along with tithing?

---



---

X. What does GOD do in response to us “leaving His house in ruin?” What does it mean to do this?

---



---



---

➤ Are you leaving GOD’s house in ruins by not being faithful and committed to your church?

## **CONCLUSION**

By applying the principle of tithing in your personal life, it will help you become successful in doing what GOD has called you to do, it will help you accomplish the goals and the dreams that GOD has placed on your heart for you to accomplish, and it will help you to continue to grow spiritually, allowing you to truly be A.L.I.V.E. in your discipleship.

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 23 STUDY GUIDE

### BAPTISM 101

In today's society, we perform numerous ceremonies, rituals, events, and functions that are designed to celebrate and publicly acknowledge an individual's decision to make an important choice in their life. For example, we throw lavish weddings where we invite all of our friends and our family to celebrate our life-long commitment to our soon to be spouse. In the military, we frequently hold enlistment ceremonies to publicly acknowledge a soldier's decision to continue to honorably serve their country.

A baptism, similar to wedding ceremonies that we attend and the enlistment ceremonies that we organize, is an opportunity to celebrate and to publicly display to others our decision to accept GOD into our life, to live for Him, and to receive the gift of salvation. This chapter is dedicated to increasing your understanding of what Baptism is, and to possibly answer any questions that you may have about this subject.

#### WHAT IS BAPTISM?

- I. What is the definition of baptism? Describe what baptism is. Is it required in order to go to Heaven?

---



---



---

- II. What does it mean to be baptized into the *name* of "The Father, The Son, and of the Holy Spirit?"

---



---



---

#### STEPS TO BAPTISM

- III. **STEP #1:** The first step leading up to water baptism is \_\_\_\_\_.

- IV. What does it mean to repent? Why does God require for us to repent before we receive salvation?

---



---



---

- XI. **STEP #2:** The second step leading up to water baptism is \_\_\_\_\_.

- XII. What does it mean to confess Jesus as "Lord?" Why is it important for us to confess Jesus as "Lord" over our life?

---



---



---

#### WHAT IS THE BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT? HOW DOES IT BENEFIT US?

- V. **Benefit#1:** By being baptized into the Spirit, \_\_\_\_\_

VI. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

---

VII. **Benefit#2:** By being baptized into the Spirit, \_\_\_\_\_

VIII. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

---

IX. **Benefit#3:** By being baptized into the Spirit, \_\_\_\_\_

X. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

---

XI. **Benefit#4:** By being baptized into the Spirit, \_\_\_\_\_

XII. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

---

XIII. **Benefit#5:** By being baptized into the Spirit, \_\_\_\_\_

XIV. What does this mean? Why is this significant? How does this benefit us as believers?

---

---

---

---

XV. **STEP #3:** After completing the first two steps, we are ready to undergo a \_\_\_\_\_.

XVI. A water baptism is an expression of what?

---

---

---

---

**WHEN SHOULD I GET BAPTIZED?**

XVII. At what point should you seek to be baptized?

---

---

---

---

**WHAT DOES BAPTISM SYMBOLIZE?**

XVIII. What does our immersion *into* water represent? What does our emergence *from* the water represent?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**CONCLUSION**

I pray that this information has greatly increased your understanding of baptism, and if you have never been baptized, I want to encourage you to publicly distinguish yourself as belonging to GOD, and to publically identify that you are setting yourself apart for GOD, and that you have made the decision to begin to live for Him.

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 24 STUDY GUIDE

### COMMUNION 101

While attending college you are presented with the opportunity to join and participate in various clubs and organizations. The purpose of each of these clubs and organizations is to unite and connect people with mutual interests, common goals, and similar beliefs, views, and values. As a result of joining these clubs and fellowshiping with the members within the association, you would begin to develop life-long relationships in which you could expect to receive the help, the support, and the assistance of the other members, just as you would help, support, and assist them because of the bond that you now share. This is an illustrating of what communion is.

When we take communion with GOD, we are acknowledging that we have mutual interests, common goals, and similar beliefs, views, and values with our Heavenly Father. Through communion, we also receive GOD's help, support, and assistance as a result of our relationship and connection to Him. For this reason, communion is a very important part of our spiritual life. However, many Christians neglect taking communion because they are not aware of what it is, or because they misunderstand it all together. This chapter is dedicated to giving you an overview of what communion is, and to answer some general questions about this subject. I pray that you find this information to be useful, and that you will begin to apply it in your personal life.

#### WHAT IS COMMUNION?

- I. What is the definition of communion? Describe what communion is.

---



---



---

#### WHY DO WE TAKE COMMUNION?

- II. When Jesus participated in communion with His followers, He was establishing a New Covenant and agreement between GOD and mankind. What are the characteristics of this New Covenant that Jesus established?

---



---



---



---



---

- III. In order to never lose sight of certain facts and truths regarding our Christian walk, how often should we take communion to remind ourselves of these things? What are some of the truths that we need to constantly remind ourselves of?

---



---



---



---

---



---

**HOW DO WE TAKE COMMUNION THE CORRECT WAY?**

IV. Before we take communion, what must we do first? How do we do this?

---



---



---

V. What does the bread or the cracker symbolize? What does the wine or the grape juice symbolize?

---



---



---

**WHAT ARE SOME MISPERCEPTIONS ABOUT COMMUNION?**

VI. How often did Jesus intend for communion to be taken? Is it more often than you take it in church?

---



---



---

**WHAT ARE SOME ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES CONCERNING COMMUNION?**

VII. What are we able to experience, overcome, and achieve by receiving GOD's power that comes when we invite GOD to dwell inside of us when we take communion?

---



---



---



---

**CONCLUSION**

Communion is an important component in our spiritual walk that enables us to truly be A.L.I.V.E. in our discipleship. By having communion with our Heavenly Father on a frequent basis, we can continue to mature spiritually as we grow in our relationship and connection with GOD, as we reach our full potential, as we fulfill His purpose for our life, and as we successfully accomplish the goals and the dreams that GOD has placed on our heart for us to accomplish. Amen!!!

*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*

What information in this chapter did you find beneficial to you in your Christian walk:

---

---

---

---

Did you learn anything new that you had never thought about? Did you discover something that you were not previously aware of? If so, what was it?

---

---

---

How can you apply what you have learned in this chapter to help you grow spiritually so that you can become A.L.I.V.E. (Always Living In Victorious Experiences):

---

---

---

---

---

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACCEPT JESUS INTO YOUR LIFE?

This question might be something that you've heard over the course of your life, and after you've heard it you've responded by repeatedly rejecting the offer. Or this might be the first time that you've heard this question ever in your life. Either way, I would like to personally offer you the opportunity to accept Jesus Christ into your life as your personal Lord and Savior. Accepting Him into your life is a pre-requisite and a condition that must be met in order to truly become A.L.I.V.E.

I want you to know that GOD is not interested in simply placing rules and regulations on you to follow, nor is He interested in stopping you from enjoying your life. Rather, GOD wants to take your life; your gifts, your talents, and your abilities, and use them to do something exciting, significant, and meaningful that will have a tremendous impact on other people. If this journey sounds interesting to you, if the idea of making a positive impact on the lives of others appeals to you, and if you absolutely do not want to miss the opportunity to live a life that actually means something and that counts for something as supposed to just wasting your time as you pass through life, I would like to invite you to accept GOD's gift of salvation. Here's how:

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” *Romans 10:9*

You don't have to perform a religious ritual in order to accept Jesus into your life; giving your life to GOD is not like joining a club where you have to pay dues first in order to become a member, neither do you have to get your life right before you come to GOD. Instead, all you have to do to accept Jesus Christ into your life is repent for your sins by turning away from them, confess that Jesus is Lord, and also believe that GOD raised Him from the dead by living your life in a way that reflects your belief in Jesus, and your obedience to His teachings. Just by doing this you will be saved, which enables you to possess eternal life. From then on GOD will begin to prepare you for the journey that you are about to start on, and then walk with you side by side as you overcome the obstacles and the challenges that you face on the road towards fulfilling your purpose, accomplishing your goals, and reaching your destiny. The choice is yours to make... Why don't you give GOD a chance to show you who He truly is, and to express to you how much He loves you and cares about you?

